

THE URBAN STUDIES MAJOR

**DEPARTMENT OF
CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

URBAN STUDIES AT BERKELEY

The study of cities is a vital part of a liberal arts curriculum. During this moment of global change, such forms of knowledge are of critical importance. The world is more urban than in any other era in human history, and with this rapid urbanization has come the crucial role of cities as sites of economic development, crucibles of civic citizenship, and spaces of cultural imagination. It is in this context that the Urban Studies major was launched at the University of California at Berkeley in Fall 2002.

The Urban Studies major is housed in the Department of City and Regional Planning (DCRP) of the College of Environmental Design. The major seeks to introduce students to the following bodies of knowledge:

- a) Historical and contemporary analysis of American and global urbanization, urbanism, urban societies, and urban political economies.
- b) Conceptual tools, analytical methods, and theoretical frameworks to understand urban environments, such as economic analysis, social science theory, and visualization technologies.
- c) Forms, functions, and practices of urban planning and design, metropolitan governance, and social movements and social justice, including issues such as transportation planning, community development, and housing.
- d) Ways of providing more humane, equitable, environmentally sensitive, and efficient settlements and to lead change for better urban futures.

The major trains undergraduates for a variety of future careers and fields of graduate study that are related to urban studies and planning. These include practice-oriented fields such as urban planning, law, non-profit management, and public policy as well as research-oriented fields such as geography, sociology, and anthropology. Above all, the intent of the major is to produce urban citizens and global leaders.

Currently, there are over 50 students enrolled in the Urban Studies major. In addition, DCRP's undergraduate program offers a City and Regional Planning minor. Over 80 students in CED, Letters & Science, and Natural Resources complete the minor each year. DCRP's undergraduate courses are also highly popular and serve over 600 students each semester.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Urban Studies, as conceptualized at Berkeley, exists at the intersection between knowledge and action. The strength of the field lies in its interdisciplinary nature. Vibrant interdisciplinary work in turn requires strong connections to robust disciplinary research — “infusions” from the social sciences, humanities, and professions. The major thus has core requirements in Urban Studies and Planning; a grounding in the field of Environmental Design including an Urban History requirement; and an interdisciplinary study of cities with international dimensions. The flexibility of the program makes it possible for students to pursue individual interests under the guidance of an advisor.

Summary of Degree Requirements

- A. University/Campus Requirements
- B. CED College Requirements (ENV DES, Essential Skills, Breadths)
- C. CED College Requirements (Urban Studies Electives — Outside the Department)
- D. Major Requirements (Urban Studies Core — Inside CED)
- E. Major Requirements (Interdisciplinary Urban Studies — Outside CED)
- F. General Electives

A. University/Campus Requirements

The Urban Studies major maintains University and campus requirements that include:

- Entry-Level Writing
- American History
- American Institutions
- American Cultures

B. CED College Requirements (ENV DES, Essential Skills, Breadths)

1. The major requires three lower-division Environmental Design courses:

- ENV DES 1 People and Environmental Design (3) (F, SP, SU) *or*
- ENV DES 11A Introduction to Visual Representation and Drawing (4) (F, SP, SU)
- ENV DES 11B Introduction to Design (5) (F, SP, SU)

Students transferring to CED from other colleges on campus (e.g. L&S or CNR) and Simultaneous Degrees students can substitute courses for ENV DES 11A and ENV DES 11B. Students transferring from community colleges or other 4-year institutions and students starting as freshmen in CED may petition to substitute an alternative course for ENV DES 11B. The approved alternative courses are listed on the petition form.

The Urban Studies major maintains the skills and breadth requirements of the College of Environmental Design.

2. Essential Skills

- Two courses in Reading & Composition (8)
- Math and Statistics: Math 16A (3) and Statistics 2 (4)

3. College Breadth Requirements

The Social & Behavioral Sciences requirement has to be met by taking any one of three specified Economics courses: ECON 1, ECON 2, or ECON C3.

- ECON 1 or 2 Intro to Economics (4) *or*
ECON C3 Intro to Environmental Economics & Policy (4)
- One course in Physical Science (2)*
- One course in Biological Science (2)*
- One course in International Studies (2)*
- One course in Arts and Literature (2)*
- One course in Historical Studies (2)*
- One course in Philosophy and Values (2)*

* May be taken on a Passed/Not Passed basis (maximum of one requirement). The ECON course must be met with a minimum grade of C-, and taken as a letter grade. The college requires at least 2 units for each breadth.

C. CED College Requirements (Urban Studies Electives — Outside the Department), 3 courses including one with emphasis in the field of History

This requirement ensures that students gain a strong grounding in environmental design and related fields. At least one of the courses listed below must be in the field of Urban History, marked with an *. At the discretion of advisors, students transferring to the major from other colleges on campus (such as L&S) can substitute one course from outside CED (i.e. from List E) to meet this requirement. Such substitutions cannot exceed more than one course. These courses must be taken for a letter grade:

- ENV DES 101A Writing about Environmental Design: Short Compositions (2-4) (F)
- ENV DES 101B Writing about Environmental Design: Longer Composition (2-4) (SP)
- ENV DES 169A American Cultural Landscapes, 1600–1900 * (4) (F)
- ENV DES 169B American Cultural Landscapes, 1900–Present * (4) (SP)
- ENV DES 170 The Social Art of Architecture (3) (F)
- ENV DES 195 Senior Thesis (4) (F, SP)
- ARCH 110AC Social and Cultural Factors in Design (4) (F)
- ARCH 111 Housing: An International Survey (3) (S) ⁽¹⁾
- ARCH 139X Design Theories and Methods (only when taught by Crysler) (3) (F, SP)
- ARCH 140 Introduction to Energy & Environmental Mgt (4) (Physics prereq) (SP)
- ARCH 170A A Historical Survey of Architecture & Urbanism * (4) (F, SP)
- ARCH 170B A Historical Survey of Architecture & Urbanism * (4) (F, SP)
- LD ARCH 110 Ecological Analysis (4) (F)
- LD ARCH 130 Sustainable Landscapes and Cities (3) (F, SP)
- LD ARCH 140 Social and Psychological Factors in Open Space Design (3) (SP)
- LD ARCH 170 History and Literature of Landscape Architecture * (3) (F)
- LD ARCH 171 The American Designed Landscape * (3) (SP)
- LD ARCH C188 Geographic Information Systems (4) (F) (w/ GEOG C188)

⁽¹⁾ When co-listed as CY PLAN 111, this course can meet one of the four CY PLAN course requirements or the Inside CED Requirement for the major but not both.

D. Major Requirements (Urban Studies Core — Inside CED)

The Urban Studies major has two required core courses:

- ENV DES 100 The City: Theories and Methods of Urban Studies (4) (SP)
- CY PLAN 110 Introduction to City Planning (4) (FA, SP, SU)

In addition to the two core courses above, students have to take four additional City Planning courses from the list below. These courses train students in the study of urbanization, key substantive fields such as housing, analytical techniques such as economic analysis, and urban transformations such as community development. All major courses must be taken for a letter grade.

Choose four from the following:

- CY PLAN 111 Introduction to Housing: An International Survey (3) (SP)
- CY PLAN 112A The Idea of Planning (3) (F, SP)
- CY PLAN 113A Economic Analysis for Planning (3) (F)
- CY PLAN 113B Community and Economic Development (3) (SP)
- CY PLAN 114 Introduction to Urban and Regional Transportation (3) (SP)
- CY PLAN 115 Urbanization in Developing Countries (4) (F)
- CY PLAN 116 Urban Planning Process: Undergraduate Planning Studio (4) (SP)
- CY PLAN 118AC The Urban Community (4) (F, SP)
- CY PLAN 119 Planning for Sustainability (3) (F)
- CY PLAN 120 Community Planning and Public Policy for Disability (3) (F)
- CY PLAN 140 Urban Design: City-Building and Place-Making (3) (F)
- CY PLAN 190 Advanced Topics in Urban Studies (1-4) (Topics vary by semester)

E. Major Requirements (Interdisciplinary Urban Studies — Outside CED), 3 courses, including one with International content

Students must also take three Urban Studies related courses outside CED from the following list of courses. At least one of the three courses must have international content, marked with an *. Students can also petition to have other urban studies related courses to count for this requirement. These courses must be taken for a letter grade:

- AFRICAM 107 Race and Public Policy (3)
- AMERSTD 102 Examining U.S. Cultures in Place (4) (F, SP)
- ANTHRO 139 Controlling Processes * (4) (SP)
- ANTHRO 145 Urban Anthropology * (4) (F,SP)
- ANTHRO 148 Anthropology of the Environment (4) (F, SP)
- ANTHRO 157 Anthropology of Law (4) (F)
- ANTHRO 189 Special Topics in Social/Cultural Anthropology (4) (F, SP)
- ASAMST150 Gender and Generation in Asian American Families (4) (SP)
- CIV ENG 167 Engineering Project Management (3) (F, SP)
- DEMOG C126 Social Consequences of Population Dynamics (4) (w/Sociology C126)
- DEMOG 145AC The American Immigrant Experience (4) (SP) (w/ HISTORY C139B)
- DEV STD 100 Histories of Development & Underdevelopment * (4) (SP)
- ECON C102 Natural Resource Economics (4) (F) (w/ ENV ECON C102)
- ECON 115 The World Economy in the 20th Century (4) * (equiv to HISTORY 160)
- ECON 121 Industrial Organization and Public Policy (4)
- ECON C125 Environmental Economics (4) (SP) (w/ ENV ECON C101)

- ECON 131 Public Economics (4) (F, SP)
- ECON C171 Economic Development (4) (F) (w/ ENV ECON C151)
- EDUC 186AC The Southern Border * (4) (w/ ETH STD 159AC and GEOG 159AC)
- ENE, RES 100 Energy and Society (4) (F)
- ENE, RES 101 Ecology and Society (3) (F)
- ENE, RES 151 Politics of Energy and Environmental Policy (4) (F)
- ENE, RES 170 Environmental Classics (3) (F)
- ENV ECON C101 Environmental Economics (4) (SP) (w/ ECON C125)
- ENV ECON 151 Economic Development (4) (F) (w/ Econ C171)
- ESPM 102D Resource and Environmental Policy (4) (SP)
- ESPM 155 Sociology of Natural Resources (4) (F)
- ESPM 160AC American Environmental and Cultural History (4) (F)
- ESPM 161 Environmental Philosophy and Ethics (3) (F)
- ESPM 163AC Environmental Justice: Race, Class, Equity and the Environment (4) (F)
- ESPM 165 International Rural Development Policy * (4) (SP)
- ESPM 168 Political Ecology (4) (SP)
- ESPM 169 International Environmental Politics * (4) (F)
- ETH STD 159AC The Southern Border * (4) (w/ EDUC 186AC and GEOG 159AC)
- GEOG 110 Economics Geography of the Industrial World * (4) (F, SP)
- GEOG 111 Local and Regional Transformation * (4)
- GEOG 123 Postcolonial Geographies * (4) (F)
- GEOG 125 The American City (4) (when cross-listed with AMERSTD 102)
- GEOG 130 Natural Resources and Population * (4) (F, SP)
- GEOG C152 Multicultural Europe * (4) (w/ HISTORY C176 and IAS C145)
- GEOG 159AC The Southern Border * (4) (w/ EDUC 186AC and ETH STD 159AC)
- GEOG 164 The Geography of Economic Development in China * (4)
- HISTORY 120AC American Environmental and Cultural History (4) (F) (w/ ESPM 160AC)
- HISTORY 134/134A/134B The Age of the City * (4) (F, SP)
- HISTORY C139B The American Immigrant Experience (4) (SP) (w/ DEMOG 145AC)
- HISTORY 160 The International Economy of the 20th Century * (3) (equiv to ECON 115)
- HISTORY C176 Multicultural Europe * (4) (w/ GEOG C152 and IAS C145)
- IAS 115 Urbanization in Developing Countries * (4) (F) (co-listed w/ CY PLAN 115)
- IAS C145 Multicultural Europe * (4) (w/ GEOG C152 and HISTORY C176)
- LGL STDS 182 Law, Politics, and Society (4) (FA, SP)
- NUSCTX 166 Nutrition in the Community (3) (FA)
- PACS 127 Human Rights and Global Politics * (4) (F, SP)
- PACS 149 Global Change and World Order * (3) (F, SP)
- POL SCI 114A Theories of Governance: Late 20th Century (4) (F, SP)
- POL SCI 138F Immigrants, Citizenship, and the State (4) (F, SP)
- POL SCI 181 Public Organization and Administration (4)
- POLECIS 100 Classical Theories of Political Economy * (4) (F, SP)
- POLECIS 101 Contemporary Theories of Political Economy * (4) (F, SP)
- PUB HLTH 131AC Race, Ethnicity, and Health (3) (SP)
- PUB HLTH 150B Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences (3) (F)
- PUB POL 103 Wealth & Poverty (4) (SP)
- PUB POL 156 Program and Policy Design (4) (SP)
- PUB POL 184 The Economics of Public Problem Solving (4) (F)
- SOCIOL 124 Sociology and Poverty (4) (F, SP)
- SOCIOL 125 Urban Sociology (4) (F, SP)
- SOCIOL 128AC Environmental Justice: Race, Class, Equity, & the Environment (4) (F) (w/ ESPM 163AC)

- SOCIOL 130 Social Stratification (4)
- SOCIOL 170AC Social Change (4)
- SOCIOL 172 Development and Globalization * (4)
- SOCIOL 180 American Society (4) (F,SP)
- UGBA 105 Introduction to Organizational Behavior (3) (F, SP)
- UGBA 180 Introduction to Real Estate & Urban Land Economics (3) (F, SP)
- UGBA 192P Strategic Corporate Social Responsibility & Consulting Projects(3) (F, SP)

F. General Electives, 32-35 units

The University requires 120 units minimum for graduation. No more than 48 units total in the student's major department will be credited towards the 120 minimum for graduation, so only 16 units beyond the required courses may be courses in Urban Studies. 13-15 must be taken in other departments.

TRACKS

While the Urban Studies major does not specify particular concentrations or specializations, students may design such "tracks" in consultation with faculty advisors. Possible tracks include community development; global and comparative urban studies; housing; environmental sustainability and planning; and urban design. These tracks are well represented in the various classes that constitute the Urban Studies core. Lists C and E also include classes that speak to these tracks.

CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

Students are encouraged to undertake a capstone experience, which can take one of three forms:

- Thesis: This option should be pursued with a faculty advisor. ENV DES 195, the Senior Thesis course, also provides important training in research design and analysis.
- Studio: CY PLAN 116 is available to majors as an advanced synthetic educational experience
- Field experience/internship with a written planning report: Students can sign up for CY PLAN 197 with a faculty advisor and submit a written report that analyzes fieldwork and internship experience.