

School of Arts and Sciences

URBAN STUDIES

www.urbanstudies.pitt.edu

In an increasingly urban world, the demand for individuals who love cities and are determined to make them better is high. The Urban Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh allows you to combine several disciplines in an attempt to unravel the complexities of the urban world. The major is interdisciplinary, meaning that students learn about cities as historical, social, cultural, economic, and political phenomena. Urban studies allows you to study a major that is "real world," meaning that you can take what you learn in the classroom with you and apply it directly to the world beyond the classroom. Finally, the major is career oriented, meaning that students attempt to find a role for themselves in the urban environment. To accomplish all of these goals, the Urban Studies Program has designed a curriculum that integrates "knowing" with "doing."

Urban studies prepares you for a variety of fields and careers in the private, for-profit world, and the public and private nonprofit sector. Many graduates of this program work in community development corporations, government and private planning departments, and local and state government offices. You also can pursue careers in planning, community organization, public administration, economic development, housing, education, journalism, and government. In addition, you can continue with your studies in graduate schools of education, planning, public administration, public health, criminal justice, and law.

The Urban Studies Program relies on individualized advising to help students pursue their intellectual and career goals. Students meet regularly with the program coordinator to choose courses, plan a concentration, and select appropriate field placements, making it possible for students to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them in a major University located in the midst of a large metropolitan area.

Requirements for Majors

33 credits, distributed as follows:

- I. URBNST 0080 Introduction to Urban Studies (3 credits)
This course explores the problems and potentials of cities by combining various disciplinary perspectives—economics, Africana studies, history, political science, sociology, and anthropology. You will develop your skills through field trips, debates, group presentations, and journal writing. All students must take this course regardless of concentration.
- II. Concentration (18 credits)
In consultation with the urban studies coordinator, the student will choose a concentration and take six upper-level courses from a list provided by the program. You must complete one of the four concentrations.

The concentrations and their requirements are as follows:

Urban Planning

1. PUBSRV 1130 Planning in the Public Sector (3 credits)
2. Core and Electives (15 credits)

Select two of the following four courses:

ECON 0330 Urban Economics
HIST 1665 American City

PS 1251 Urban Government and Politics
SOC 1476 Urban Policy and Planning



Select three courses as electives; some examples are:

AFRCNA 1038 History of Black Pittsburgh
ANTH 1755 Urban Anthropology
HA&A 1510 Pittsburgh Architecture

GEOL 1445 GIS, GPS, and Computer Methods
URBNST 1200 Urban Field Research Seminar

Urban Policy and Administration

1. PUBSRV 1100 Practices in Public Administration (3 credits)
2. Core and Electives (15 credits)

Select two of the following four courses:

ECON 0230 Public Finance
PUBSRV 1110 Financial Management in the Public Sector

PS 1261 American Public Policy
PS 1251 Urban Government

Select three courses as electives; some examples are:

ENGLIT 0628 Working-Class Literature
PS 1241 Public Administration and Political Systems
PUBSRV 1310 Diversity Issues in Public Service

ECON 0280 Introduction to Money and Banking
HIST 1656 American Workers in the 20th Century

Community Organization

1. SW 1000 Introduction to Social Work (3 credits)
2. Core and Electives (15 credits)

Select two of the following four courses:

AFRCNA 0011 Introduction to the African American Family
PUBSRV 1200 Practices of Nonprofit Management

SOC 0460 Minority Groups
ANTH 1755 Urban Anthropology

Select three courses as electives; some examples are:

AFRCNA 0042 Urban Women
PUBSRV 1410 Housing and Community Development
HIST 1677 Jews in the U.S.

PUBSRV 1400 Organizing Community-Centered Development
SOC 0446 Sociology of Gender

Comparative Urbanism

This concentration, which is self-designed in cooperation with the advisor, is for students interested in an international focus to their program of urban studies.

- I. URBNST 1700 International Urbanism Seminar

- II. Select five electives; some examples are:

AFRCNA 1711 The City in Africa
HA&A 1800 World Cities

ECON 0500 Introduction to International Trade
HIST 0756 Introduction to Islamic Civilization

PS 1543 Globalization and International Politics

- III. URBNST 1300 Urban Studies Research and Presentation Skills Seminar (3 credits)

After declaring the major and as you begin your concentration, you will develop your investigative skills of the urban environment. This seminar teaches you the techniques of doing research—writing executive summaries, grant writing, and data analysis, among other things. You will learn to communicate in professional-quality written reports and oral presentations.

- IV. URBNST 1500 Urban Studies Research Seminar (3 credits) Writing Course

In this seminar, you will bring together the interdisciplinary knowledge you have gained and the research skills you have learned. An urban studies faculty member selects a current topic for the group to investigate. While the topic varies from term to term, all seminars share a method of direct observation, analysis, and reporting.

- V. URBNST 1900 Urban Studies Field Placement (6 credits)

Finally, you will obtain experience in an urban-related profession. The Urban Studies Program can place you in a wide variety of working situations. Although all of these situations bring you face to face with the nature of problem solving in a real world organization, they are as varied as the intellectual and career interests of the students.

Some past field placements have been with:

Boys and Girls Club
CitiParks
Coroner's Office
Commissioner's Office
Department of City Planning

East Side Alliance
Fair Housing Partnership Inc.
Global Links
Habitat for Humanity
Hill District Hill House

Juvenile Court
PA Economy League
Three Rivers Youth
YMCA

Related Area

Students are required by the School of Arts and Sciences to complete a 12-credit related area. Particularly appropriate areas are sociology, economics, political science, anthropology, Africana studies, and history, although students may consult with the advisor about other possibilities.

For more information about the Urban Studies Program, please contact:

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Urban Studies Program
Carolyn Carson, coordinator
3500 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-648-7489
E-mail: cjlc@pitt.edu
www.urbanstudies.pitt.edu

For more information about other majors, please contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
E-mail: oafa@pitt.edu
www.oafa.pitt.edu

Special Programs and Opportunities

Urban Studies Association

Students in the Urban Studies Program have formed an official student organization named the Urban Studies Association (USA). Through USA students have become actively involved in the Pittsburgh region. USA has invited guest speakers to appear on campus, organized field trips, and participated in a number of community projects. Visit USA's Web site at www.pitt.edu/~sorc/urbansa

University Honors College (UHC)

UHC offers many resources for talented, active students—unique courses, special degrees, opportunities to perform independent research or teach, supplemental advising, and a social and academic community of similarly motivated students. UHC courses offer a more in-depth treatment of the material covered in a nonhonors course. Students work more problems, write more, read more, and discuss topics in greater depth. Although UHC does not have a formal membership and does invite all students to participate in honors courses, there are certain qualifications that must be met to be eligible to take UHC courses. Entering freshmen are automatically considered for UHC participation on the basis of their admissions applications. A minimum quality point average of 3.25 is required for current Pitt students.

Certificate Programs

Certificate programs allow students to complete a concentrated area of study in addition to their major. They consist of 18–24 credits of course work and in many cases can be used to fulfill the related area requirement of the Arts and Sciences degree. Certificate programs in Asian studies, Latin American studies, Russian and East European studies, and West European studies are offered through the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) and are designated by the U.S. Department of Education as among the best of their kind for research, teaching, and public service. Other UCIS certificate programs include Africana, European Union, and global studies. Certificate programs are also available in American Sign Language, children's literature, conceptual foundations of medicine, film studies, geographic information systems, German language, historic preservation, history and philosophy of science, international engineering studies, Jewish studies, Medieval and Renaissance studies, professional and public writing, structural engineering for architectural studies majors, photonics, professional translation, and women's studies.

Study Abroad

Studying abroad is an exciting way to add an international perspective to your undergraduate education and strengthen your credentials as a graduate. Since only about 8 percent of American students have studied abroad, this experience distinguishes you when you enter the job market or pursue graduate study. The experience allows you to broaden your personal experience and gain an appreciation of other cultures while earning credits toward your degree. Scholarships are available, and financial aid is applicable.

Some study abroad programs of special interest to urban studies majors are:

Pitt Exchange with the University of Newcastle, Australia

Go Down Under with Pitt to Newcastle, Australia, a breathtaking city located on the Australian coastline and only two hours from Sydney. Newcastle has been voted as the Best Australian City because of its low cost of living and combination of old and new in lifestyle and architecture. You can attend Newcastle for one semester or an academic year. The university offers a broad range of professional, vocational, and general education opportunities, and you are required to enroll in a full course schedule. Pitt students have the option of applying for a dormitory room, finding an apartment/house that the university leases, or arranging independent housing.

International Student Exchange Program in Amsterdam

You will spend this yearlong study abroad program at the University of Amsterdam, a 350-year-old university located in the heart of Amsterdam, a city of canals, museums, theaters, art galleries, pubs, and lively shopping areas. Here you can study human geography/urban development, education, English literature, European history and culture, international relations, and political science. You will live in student apartments, with a stipend for meals, that are scattered all over town as there is no campus.

College Consortium for International Studies in Rome, Italy

The Eternal City awaits you in this study abroad program. You will study at the American University of Rome, the capital city of Italy, and home to the legacies of the past and a host of activities. Rome is also an important center for the study of international relations and international business. You can take up to 16 credits in a variety of disciplines like urban studies, archaeology, arts, civilization/culture, classical studies, film studies, Italian language, music, and political science. No previous knowledge of Italian is required to participate in the program. Your options for housing are double occupancy in studio apartments, or assistance in finding your own housing through an international housing agency. As a complement to the academic program, you will participate in mandatory course-related field visits and additional optional trips to Venice, Pompeii, and Paestum. A limited number of internships for students fluent in Italian can be arranged upon request and are offered at international law firms, multinational companies, and international organizations like the Fulbright Commission.