Urban Studies Minor

Seeking Solutions to Pressing Urban Issues in Partnership with Chicago Communities

The Urban Studies minor provides students with a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of how a city works. An interdisciplinary program of the College of Arts and Sciences, Urban Studies combines coursework in fields like sociology, psychology, history, philosophy, criminal justice, economy, environmental studies, and political science. Not only do students study social, political, economic, and cultural institutions in Chicago (and beyond), but they also get involved in research projects with community organizations seeking solutions to pressing urban issues.

The distinctive capstone of the minor consists of two courses: Urban Studies Seminar and Urban Studies Research. In the seminar, students learn about contemporary urban policy from readings, discussions, guest speakers, and neighborhood tours. In the research course, students contribute to a community-based, collaborative research project (housed at the Center for Urban Research and Learning – CURL www.luc.edu/curl) where they work with graduate students, faculty, community organizations, and government agencies.

The minor consists of two tracks:

• General Track (p. 1): Receive a broad introduction to themes and issues such as urban politics and community life, as well as racial, ethnic, and economic inequality.

• Environmental Sustainability Track (https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-studies-minors/urban-studies-sustainability-minor/#curriculumtext): Focus on both sustainability in the social world (e.g. health, housing, education, jobs, and community) and in the physical environment (e.g. water, air, and soil).

Curriculum

General Track Requirements

The General track gives students a broad introduction into themes and issues within the broader field of Urban Studies. As an interdisciplinary minor, students in the General track are able to select from several disciplinary lenses to better understand urban areas and the issues they face. In addition, students will – in the capstone research course – contribute to active solutions to many of the issues facing local communities.

Overview

A minor in urban studies requires 18 hours of credit as follows:

• One Urban Theory Course (3 Hours)
• One Research Methods Course (3 Hours)
• Two Electives (6 Hours)
• Two Capstone Courses (6 Hours)

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 320</td>
<td>Urban Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Urban Theory

Select one of the following:

- HIST 386 Creation the American Metropolis
- PLSC 334 Urban Policies and Problems
- PLSC 390 Urban Politics
- SOCL 234 City, Suburbs & Beyond

Research Methods

Select one of the following: 3

- ANTH 317 Ethnographic Methods
- CJC 205 Research Methods
- COMM 365 Naturalistic Methods Communication Research
- COMM 366 Observing/Measuring Cmun Behavior
- COMM 367 Rhetorical Criticism
- PSYC 306 Research Methods in Psychology
- SOCL 206 Principles of Social Research
- SOWK 390 Research and Evaluation in Social Work Practice

Required Electives 1

Select two of the following: 6

- ANTH 309 Urban Anthropology
- CJC 371 Victimology
- CJC 352 Gangs
- CJC 372 Race, Ethnicity, and Criminal Justice
- COMM 296 Themes in Advertising/Public Relations
- COMM 371 Special Topics Communication Studies (Interviewing for Broadcast)
- COMM 371 Special Topics Communication Studies (Politics and the Press)
- COMM 371 Special Topics Communication Studies (Photojournalism)
- ECON 320 Urban Economics
- ELPS 240 Urban Education: Policy and Practice
- ENVS 380 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
- FNAR 203 Chicago: Face of a City
- HIST 300 Topics in History
- HIST 318C London 1550 - 1715
- HIST 385 Chicago in America
- HIST 386 Creation the American Metropolis
- PLSC 224 Chicago Politics
- PLSC 300 Contemporary Political Issues
- PLSC 372 Crime, Race & Violence
- PLSC 390 Urban Politics
- PSYC 374 Community Psychology
- SOCL 125 Chicago: Urban Metropolis
- SOCL 234 City, Suburbs & Beyond
- SOCL 235 Communities in a Global Age
- SOWK 361 Special Topics (Black Men in America)
- SOWK 370 Power, Oppression, Privilege, and Social Justice
- THEO 192 Topics in Moral Problems (Urban Issues)

Capstone Courses

Courses taken concurrently.

- SOCL 335 / PLSC 335 Urban Semester Seminar 3
URB 397 / Urban Studies Research 3
PLSC 397

Total Hours 18

1 Other elective courses may be added on a semester-by-semester basis. Please confer with program director.

Double Dipping Policy
Urban Studies follows the College policy for Double Dipping: Not less than 8 credit hours in the individual student's transcript must be unique to each minor; that is, the courses in question are considered as actually fulfilling requirements of one minor, not of more than one minor or major.

Learning Outcomes
Students in the Urban Studies minor will:

• Understand the major developments, conflicts, and events that have shaped urban life
• Contribute to active solutions to many of the issues facing local communities
• Recognize the roots of urban social problems
• Develop a deeper understanding of the methods researchers use to study urban life
• Appreciate the links among social and physical dimensions of the urban environment (Environmental Sustainability Track)
• Gain an understanding of sustainable policy solutions that bridge social science and natural science approaches (Environmental Sustainability Track)