

# 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/](http://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

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Urban Theory</b>		
Select one of the following: 3		
ECON 320	Urban Economics	

HIST 386	Creation the American Metropolis	
PLSC 334	Urban Policies and Problems	
PLSC 390	Urban Politics	
SOCL 234	City, Suburbs & Beyond	
<b>Research Methods</b>		
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	
<b>Required Electives<sup>1</sup></b>		
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		
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 /	Urban Semester Seminar	3
PLSC 335		

URB 397 / PLSC 397	Urban Studies Research	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>18</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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)