Urban Studies Sustainability 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** (https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-studies-minors/urban-studies-minor/#curriculumtext): 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** (p. 1): 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

#### Sustainability Track Requirements

**Overview**

A minor in the urban studies sustainability track requires 18 credits after prerequisites are met. Requirements are as follows:

- One Urban Theory Course (3 Hours)
- One Research Methods Course (3 Hours)
- One Course from the Group A Electives: Sustainability and the Social World (3 Hours)
- One Course from the Group B Electives: Sustainability and the Physical World (3 Hours)
- Two Capstone Courses (6 Hours)

Prerequisites: Students should have completed their two Core Scientific Literacy courses, including the Foundational Core Scientific Literacy course, which is environmentally based. Information about the CAS core science requirements can be found here. (http://www.luc.edu/core/scillecturecourseshub-first.shtml/)

### Course Requirements

#### Urban Theory

Select one of the following:

<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>
<tr>
<td>HIST 386</td>
<td>Creation the American Metropolis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSC 334</td>
<td>Urban Policies and Problems</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 390</td>
<td>Urban Politics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCL 234</td>
<td>City, Suburbs &amp; Beyond</td>
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#### Research Methods

Select one of the following:

- ANTH 317 Ethnographic Methods
- CJC 205 Research Methods
- COMM 365 Naturalistic Methods Communication Research
- COMM 366 Observing/Measuring Community 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

#### Group A: Sustainability and the Social World

Select one of the following:

- ANTH 104 The Human Ecological Footprint
- COMM 306 Environmental Advocacy
- COMM 371 Special Topics Communication Studies
- PLSC 392 Environmental Politics
- SOCL 265 Globalization & Society
- SOCL 272 Environmental Sociology
- SOCL 275 The Sociology of Consumption
- SOCL 276 The Sociology and Politics of Food
- SOCL 280 Topics in Contemporary Sociology
- SOWK 361 Special Topics

#### Group B: Sustainability and the Physical World

Select one of the following:

- ENVS 207 Plants and Civilization
- ENVS 218 Biodiversity & Biogeography
- ENVS 223 Soil Ecology
- ENVS 224 Climate & Climate Change
- ENVS 283 Environmental Sustainability
- ENVS 380 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems

#### Capstone Courses

Courses taken concurrently.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCL 335 / PLSC 335</td>
<td>Urban Semester Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URB 397 / PLSC 397</td>
<td>Urban Studies Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours** 18

1 Other elective courses may be added on a semester by semester basis. Please confer with department if questions.

2 Variable topics course that may be approved by the Program Director of the Urban Studies Interdisciplinary Program.

3 Open to seniors (subject to approval by instructor)
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

What will I get out of the Urban Studies Minor?

With more than 8 million people, the Chicago Metropolitan area reflects the many complexities of urban life. Problems and solutions in the realm of politics, social life, education, and economics present themselves in a variety of subtle and not-so-subtle ways. 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)