



Urban and Regional Studies

Department of Social Sciences

College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

The Field

Urban and Regional Studies (URST) encompasses the environmental, aesthetic, social, economic, geographic, historical, political, and cultural aspects of cities, suburbs and regions. It advances in-depth study of some of the major challenges facing individuals and groups living and working in major metropolitan regions, such as the Detroit area. These challenges include:

- Economic development
- Urban poverty and income inequality
- Preservation and promotion of culture, architecture and art
- Land use conflicts
- Provision of adequate and sustainable transportation and housing services.

Career Opportunities

Urban and Regional Studies provides students with the knowledge, techniques and critical analytical skills that will enable them to effectively participate in changing cities and regions.

Pursuing a degree in Urban and Regional Studies at UM-Dearborn offers you the opportunity to combine real-world practice and theory. Students can specialize in areas such as urban and regional policy, community development, urban design and the environment.

Graduates of this program may consider careers in urban/ regional planning, law, non-profit management, public policy/ administration, and social services. They may also consider pursuing graduate schools and research in areas such as city and regional planning, geography, sociology, anthropology, environmental studies, public policy and public administration.

The Major

Requirements are subject to change. Degree-seeking students will be subject to the requirements in effect at the time that they are admitted or re-admitted.

The program is interdisciplinary by design, meaning that courses draw upon a variety of traditional academic disciplines – e.g. history, English, geography, economics, sociology and anthropology. Students are encouraged to rigorously and creatively integrate the theory and methods learned in these courses. In addition, a unique feature of the

program is that students gain hands-on experience by working in the community through an internship, academic service learning and/or community-based research.

Requirements

- URS 300 – Urban and Regional Studies: Theory and Practice (3 credit hours)
- 12 credit hours in one of the three tracks
- 12 credit hours from the other two tracks
- 6 credit hours of academic-based community research satisfied through any combination of the following:
 - Internship (students may elect to participate in any CASL Internship program with approval from their faculty advisor and the Internship Program Director)
 - Independent Study (3 credits of which can also be used to satisfy the credit requirements in a single track, with the approval of the program faculty director)
 - Or other approved form of academic-service learning
- URS 450 – Senior Capstone in Community Research (3 credit hours)

Three Specialization Tracks

Track I	Urban Problems and Policy
Track II	Community Development, Culture, History
Track III	Environment, Design and Space

Cognates

6 credit hours of upper-division (300-400 level) coursework in a single discipline, in addition to any courses already elected in that discipline used to satisfy urban and regional studies requirements. Cognate courses will provide supporting skills or contexts for the study of urban issues. Internships in these disciplines will not be used to satisfy the cognate requirement.

Minor/Area of Focus

URST is also available as a minor, or as an area of focus in General Studies or Liberal Studies. The minor/area of focus requires 15 credit hours of upper level coursework including URS 300 and at least one course from each of the three tracks.

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URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES COURSES

TRACK I: URBAN PROBLEMS AND POLICY

SOC 350	Poverty and Inequality
SOC 383	Introduction to Statistics
SOC 403	Minority Groups
SOC 435	Urban Sociology
SOC 441	Sociology of the Auto Industry
SOC 473 / AAAS 473	
/ CRJ 473	Race, Crime and Justice
ECON 305	Economic Statistics
ECON 325	Economics of Poverty and Discrimination
ECON 381	Urban Economics
ECON 382	Regional Economics
POL 313	American State Government
POL 322	Government of Michigan
POL 323	Urban Politics
POL 360	American Policy Process
POL 4605	Science, Tech & Pub Policy
POL 466	Politics & Policies Soc Welfare
POL 489	Seminar in Urban Politics

TRACK II: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE, HISTORY

AAAS 368	Black Exp. in U.S.-1865-Present
AAAS 389	Odyssey of Black Men in America
AMST 300	Comparative American Identities
ANTH 340	Race and Evolution
ANTH 376	Power & Privilege in Southeast Michigan
ANTH 455	
/CRJ 455	Immigrants USA / Immigrant Community in North American Society
SOC 304	Studies in Detroit Culture
SOC 4045	
/ WGST 4045	Dissed: Difference, Power, Discrimination
SOC 423	American Social Classes
SOC 449	
/AAAS 449	Black Family in Contemporary America
SOC 458	Sociology of Education
AH426	City of Ancient Rome
COML355	Urban Voices: France and Italy
ENGL 356	Reading Urban Monstrosity
ECON 361	U S Economic History
HIST 3601	Michigan History
HIST3665	Automobile in American Life
HIST 3695	American City
HIST383	Labor in America

TRACK III: ENVIRONMENT, DESIGN AND SPACE

ANTH 345	Cultural Ecology and Evolution
AH 365	Modern Architecture
ESCI 305 / GEOL 305	
/ GEOG 305	Intro to GIS and Cartography
ENST 301	Concepts of Environmentalism
ENST 325	Environmental Politics
ENST 330	
/ ESCI 330	Land Use Planning and Management
ENST 340	
/ ESCI 340	Remote Sensing
ENST 456	Ecological Economics
GEOG 300	Urban Geography
GEOG 310	Economic Geography
HIST 374	History of Industrial Technology

For More Information

For more information about the Urban and Regional Studies program:
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