

URBAN STUDIES (BA)

Director: Kevin R. Hardwick, PhD

Introduction

The urban studies major at Canisius provides students with a variety of approaches and tools that enable them to effectively analyze the 21st century urban center. The coursework examines the social, legal, economic, ethnic and political forces that affect cities and towns, from the challenges of the public education system to housing and real estate development, crime, health issues, human services and transportation. The specialized program helps students understand economic growth and decline, racial and ethnic issues, community development, and other factors that influence the growth and prosperity of a city.

The program offers a solid preparation for graduate programs in public administration, community development and planning, social work, public policy, criminal justice and urban affairs. It is also a recommended choice for pre-law students and for those aspiring to careers in journalism, communications, teaching, government service, social work, law enforcement, community organization and land-use planning, as well as in those industries that are increasingly conscious of the influence of urban society upon them and their impact on urban society. Extensive internship and professional research experiences are an integral component of the urban studies program. Such activities are a vital aspect of preparation for graduate school and/or a professional career. Because the program is designed to be one half of a dual major, students who choose urban studies must also select a second major in another discipline such as criminal justice, economics, political science, history, sociology or anthropology. For a more detailed description of the program, faculty, facilities, academic and co-curricular opportunities please go to the Urban Studies website (<https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/urban-studies>).

Qualifications

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in their major and a 2.0 overall average to graduate with a degree in Urban Studies. Students must also have a second major.

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

Dual Majors

Because the Urban Studies Major is designed to be one half of a dual major, students who choose urban studies must also select a second major in another discipline such as criminal justice, economics, political science, history, sociology or anthropology. The decision to complete a dual major may be based on career goals or planned graduate studies. Before a student declares a dual major it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. Some dual major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. In order to declare a dual major, the student must complete the appropriate dual major

request form and get the signature of each department chairperson and the appropriate associate dean.

Minors in Other Disciplines

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. The minors page (<http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/minors>) provides a complete list of minors and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.

Curriculum

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All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (<http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/core-curriculum>) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (<http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/all-college-honors-program>). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as "general education" requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes; they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives

Students may graduate with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Core Curriculum or Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum of 120 credit hours required for graduation.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
PSC 104	American Political Process	3
ECO 102	Principles of Microeconomics	3
PSC 237	State and Local Politics	3
PSC 334	Public Administration	3
PSC 336	Urban Government and Politics	3
Select one of the following:		3
HIS 382	New York State History	
HIS 396	Politics and Society in American Film	
HIS 460	The Life and Times of Theodore Roosevelt	
HON 217	Cities, Suburbs, and Spaces	
Select one of the following:		3
ECO 310	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	
ECO 311	Metropolitan Economic Development and GIS	
ECO 411	State and Local Finance	
URS 400	The Urban Challenge	1
Urban Studies Electives (Choose 3 from the list below)		9
Total Credits		31

Major Electives

Urban Studies Electives: three courses to be chosen from the following

Code	Title	Credits
CRJ 227	Criminal Justice I	3
ECO 101	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
ECO 310	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3
ECO 311	Metropolitan Economic Development and GIS	3
ECO 411	State and Local Finance	3
FAH 109	History of Architecture	3
HIS 382	New York State History	3
HIS 396	Politics and Society in American Film	3
HIS 460	The Life and Times of Theodore Roosevelt	3
HSV 303	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	3
PSC 103	The American Constitution	3
PSC 104	American Political Process	3
PSC 215	National Issues and Public Policy	3
PSC 225	U.S. Presidency	3
SOC 111	Contemporary Social Problems	3
SOC 340	Sociology of the City	3
URS 498	Urban Internship	3

Roadmap

Recommended Semester Schedule for Major Course Requirements

Freshman

Fall	Spring
PSC 104	ECO 102

Sophomore

Fall	Spring
PSC 237	PSC 336

Junior

Fall	Spring
Select one of the following:	PSC 334
HIS 382	URS Elective
HIS 396	
HIS 460	

Senior

Fall	Spring
Select one of the following:	URS 400
ECO 310	URS Elective
ECO 311	
ECO 411	

Learning Goals & Objectives

Student Learning Goal 1

Urban Studies majors will develop knowledge of urban history, economics and politics.

Students will:

- **Objective A:** Demonstrate competency with the conceptual frameworks of urban history;
- **Objective B:** Demonstrate competency with conceptual frameworks of urban economics;
- **Objective C:** Demonstrate competency with conceptual frameworks of urban politics.

Student Learning Goal 2

Urban Studies majors will be able to communicate and work effectively with others.

Students will:

- **Objective A:** Successfully complete a project in concert with others;
- **Objective B:** Communicate effectively in writing both reports and memos;
- **Objective C:** Communicate effectively in speaking.

Courses

URS 400 The Urban Challenge 1 Credit

The culmination of the Urban Studies Program. This course is normally taken during a student's final semester and serves to reinforce connections among various disciplines.

Offered: spring.

URS 498 Urban Internship 3 Credits

Participant observation and evaluation of an urban program or agency.

Students devote 10 hours per week to significant activities related to their skills and interests. Internships are by application only and must be approved by the associate dean.

Prerequisite: permission of the chair & associate dean. **Restriction:** placement by urban studies director.

Offered: fall & spring.