

URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES

The program in Urban and Regional Studies (URST) provides opportunities for in-depth study of some of the major challenges facing individuals and groups living and working in major metropolitan regions such as Detroit.

These challenges include economic development; urban poverty and income inequality; preserving and promoting culture, architecture and art; land use conflicts; and the provision of adequate and sustainable transportation and housing services. The focus of the URST program is to provide you with the knowledge, techniques and critical analytical skills that will enable you to effectively participate in changing your city and region.

The URST program is interdisciplinary by design, meaning that courses draw upon a variety of traditional academic disciplines – e.g. Anthropology, Economics, English, Geography, History and Sociology. 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 internship and/or community-engaged courses.

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.

Help change the world (or your corner of it) by pursuing a degree in Urban and Regional Studies at UM-Dearborn!

Dearborn Discovery Core (General Education)

All students must satisfy the University's Dearborn Discovery Core requirements (https://catalog.umd.umich.edu/undergraduate/gen_ed_ddc/), in addition to the requirements for the major. Students must also complete all CASL Degree Requirements. (<https://catalog.umd.umich.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences-letters/>)

Major

The Urban and Regional Studies major requires the completion of 32-36 credits. The majority of these credits are filled through courses in three separate concentrations:

- Concentration I: Urban Problems and Policy
- Concentration II: Community Development, Culture and History
- Concentration III: Environment, Design and Space

Students select one concentration from which they must take a specific number of credits. They take the balance of their concentration-related credits from the other two.

Students must also take a specific number of credits in community-engaged learning through internships, independent studies, or upper-level courses designated as community-engaged (PBL 3). Credit for prior learning/experience may be earned by Portfolio Assessment. See the faculty program director for information.

The course Urban and Regional Studies: Theory and Practice (URS 300) provides an introduction to urban and regional studies, and the Senior Capstone in Community Research (URS 450), or other approved alternative capstones, rounds out the required URST courses. Students are also required to complete an electronic portfolio to compile, preserve, and reflect on important examples of learning from their major.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
URS 300	Urban and Regional Studies	4
Concentration		
Select 3 courses in one of the three concentrations (see below for choices)		11-12
Select any 2 courses from the other two concentrations		7-8
Community-Based Learning		
Select any combination from among the following options (internship, independent study, PBL3 courses):		6-8
URS 301	SiD-Field Internship	
URS 485	Urban and Regional Studies Internship ¹	
URS 499	Independent Study ²	
Practice-Based Learning Level 3 course: Select one of the following (or other PBL 3 courses with the approval of the URST program faculty director by Petition):		
ANTH 376	Power & Privilege in Southeast Michigan	
ANTH 410	Archaeological Field School and Lab Methods	
ARTH 303	Exploring Art in the Community	
HIST 3672	Public History in Arab Detroit	
POL 334	Organizing and Advocacy	
SOC 350	Poverty and Inequality	
SOC 435	Urban Sociology	
Capstone		
Select one of the following:		4
URS 450	Senior Capstone in Community Research	
ANTH 495	Anthropology Capstone: Contemporary Issues in Anthropology	
LIBS 450	Integrative Learning	
SOC 497	Senior Research Seminar	
Portfolio		
Approval required by the Urban and Regional Studies Program Advisor		
Total Credit Hours		32-36

¹ Students may elect to participate in any CASL Internship program with approval from the URST Director and by Petition. Credit for URS 485 may be earned by Portfolio Assessment. See the URS director for information.

² 3-4 credits of which can also be used to satisfy the credit requirements in a single concentration, with the approval of the URST program faculty director by Petition.

Concentrations

Must declare one of the following concentrations:

Concentration I: Urban Problems and Policy (CAUP)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ECON 305	Economic Data Analysis	4
ECON/AAAS 325	Economics of Poverty and Discrimination	4
ECON 351	Environmental Economics	4
ECON 442	Economic Development	4
ECON 482	Regional Economics	3
ECON 483	Urban Economics	3
POL 313	American State Government	4
POL 322	Michigan Government, Politics, & Public Policy	4
POL/CRJ 323	Urban Politics	4
POL 334	Organizing and Advocacy	4
POL 360	American Policy Process	4
POL 466	Politics&Policies Soc Welfare	4
POL 467	Food Politics and Policy	4
POL 484	Revitalizing Cities	4
POL 489	Seminar in Urban Politics	4
SOC/CRJ 350	Poverty and Inequality	4
SOC/AAAS/CRJ 403	Race, Ethnicity and Immigration	4
SOC/CRJ/HHS 410	Quantitative Research and Statistics	4
SOC 413	Qualitative Research	4
SOC/CRJ 435	Urban Sociology	4
SOC/AAAS/CRJ 473	Race, Crime and Justice	3

Concentration II: Community Development, Culture, History (CAUC)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
AAAS/HIST 368	African American History II: 1865-Present	4
AAAS/ENGL 389	Odyssey of Black Men in Amer	3
ANTH 376	Power & Privilege in Southeast Michigan	4
ANTH 410	Archaeological Field School and Lab Methods	4
ANTH/CRJ/ WGST 455	Immigrant Cultures and Gender	4
ARTH 303	Exploring Art in the Community	4
ARTH 426	Ancient Urbanism	4
COML/HUM 355	Urban Voices: France and Italy	3
ECON/HIST 361	U S Economic History	4
HIST 3380	The European City	4
HIST 3601	Michigan History	4
HIST 3665	Automobile in American Life	4
HIST 3695	American City	4
HIST 3672/ AAST 3151	Public History in Arab Detroit	4
SOC/AAAS/HIST/ HUM 304	Studies in Det.Hist. & Culture	3
SOC/CRJ 423	American Social Classes	3
SOC/AAAS 449	Race, Ethnicity and Family	4

SOC 458	Education, Inequality and Equity	4
URS 360	SiD--20th Cent Detroit History	3

Concentration III: Environment, Design and Space (CAUE)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARTH 365	Modern Architecture	4
ARTH 375	Urban Design Perspectives	4
ECON 351	Environmental Economics	4
ESCI 201	Environmentalism	4
ESCI 305	Intro to GIS	4
ESCI 330	Land Use Planning and Mgmt	4
ESCI 340	Remote Sensing	4
ESCI 401	Sustainable Cities	4
GEOG 300	Urban Geography	4
GEOG/GISC 302	Mapping Our World	4
GEOG 310	Economic Geography	3
GEOG 325	Global Cities	3
POL 325	Environmental Politics	4

Cognates: the major does not have any required cognates.

Notes:

1. At least 18 of the minimum 32-36 upper level credit hours required in the major must be elected at UM-Dearborn.
2. In satisfying the academic community-engaged learning requirement, students must obtain approval of the URST faculty program advisor for internships or independent study prior to enrolling in the courses.

Minor or Integrative Studies Concentration Requirements

The minor/concentration requires 12 credit hours of upper-level coursework, including URS 300 and at least two other elective courses from any of the 3 Concentrations.

Concentration: Urban Problems and Policy: Course attribute CAUP

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ECON 305	Economic Data Analysis	4
ECON/AAAS 325	Economics of Poverty and Discrimination	4
ECON 442	Economic Development	4
ECON 351	Environmental Economics	4
ECON 482	Regional Economics	3
ECON 483	Urban Economics	3
POL 313	American State Government	4
POL 322	Michigan Government, Politics, & Public Policy	4
POL/CRJ 323	Urban Politics	4
POL 334	Organizing and Advocacy	4
POL 360	American Policy Process	4
POL 466	Politics&Policies Soc Welfare	4
POL 467	Food Politics and Policy	4
POL 484	Revitalizing Cities	4

POL 489	Seminar in Urban Politics	4
SOC/CRJ 350	Poverty and Inequality	4
SOC/AAAS/CRJ 403	Race, Ethnicity and Immigration	4
SOC/CRJ/HHS 410	Quantitative Research and Statistics	4
SOC 413	Qualitative Research	4
SOC/CRJ 435	Urban Sociology	4
SOC/AAAS/CRJ 473	Race, Crime and Justice	3

Concentration II: Community Development, Culture, and History: Course attribute CAUC

Code	Title	Credit Hours
AAAS/HIST 368	African American History II: 1865-Present	4
AAAS/ENGL 389	Odyssey of Black Men in Amer	3
ANTH 376	Power & Privilege in Southeast Michigan	4
ANTH 410	Archaeological Field School and Lab Methods	4
ANTH/CRJ/WGST 455	Immigrant Cultures and Gender	4
ARTH 426	Ancient Urbanism	4
COML/HUM 355	Urban Voices: France and Italy	3
ECON/HIST 361	U S Economic History	4
HIST 3380	The European City	4
HIST 3601	Michigan History	4
HIST 3665	Automobile in American Life	4
AAST 3151	Public History in Arab Detroit	4
HIST 3672	Public History in Arab Detroit	4
HIST 3695	American City	4
SOC/AAAS/HIST/HUM 304	Studies in Det.Hist. & Culture	3
SOC/CRJ 423	American Social Classes	3
SOC/AAAS 449	Race, Ethnicity and Family	4
SOC 458	Education, Inequality and Equity	4
URS 360	SiD–20th Cent Detroit History	3

Track III: Environment, Design, and Space: Course attribute CAUE

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ARTH 365	Modern Architecture	4
ARTH 375	Urban Design Perspectives	4
ESCI/GEOG 305	Intro to GIS	4
POL 325	Environmental Politics	4
ESCI 330	Land Use Planning and Mgmt	4
ESCI 340	Remote Sensing	4
ESCI 401	Sustainable Cities	4
GEOG 300	Urban Geography	4
GEOG/GISC 302	Mapping Our World	4
GEOG 310	Economic Geography	3
GEOG 325	Global Cities	3

- A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required for the minor/concentration. The GPA is based on all coursework required within the minor (excluding prerequisites).
- The use of transfer credit, field placements, internships, seminars, S/E graded courses, and independent study/research courses is limited to 3 credits in a 12 credit hour minor/concentration and 6 credits in a 15 credit hour and above minor/concentration.
- Courses within a minor/concentration cannot be taken as Pass/Fail (P/F).
- Minors requiring 12 credits may share one course with a major. Minors requiring 15 credits or more may share two courses with a major. This does not apply to concentrations for the Integrative Studies major.

Learning Goals

- Describe the distinctive social, cultural, and spatial features of cities and illustrate their impacts on the urban experience. Explain how the concept or meaning of a city varies in different historical and comparative contexts.
- Explain the major processes of urbanization and features of urban life associated with contemporary Detroit.
- Articulate the basic research questions and agendas associated with a particular discipline contributing to our understanding of urban issues.
- Apply concepts or methods from more than one social science or adjacent discipline to analyze an urban issue or problem.
- Articulate a well-defined research question, conduct independent research using primary sources and a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches, and write a substantive research paper.
- Explain the processes and goals of community-based participation in the development of programs and policies that contribute to the social, economic, political, and environmental improvement of their communities and cities.
- Apply their understanding of urban issues to the development and critical analysis of programs and policies appropriate to addressing contemporary social and economic problems.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and variety of urban forms and governance structures.
- Identify and utilize appropriate primary data, including census materials, for the analysis of urban issues.
- Apply basic skills of empirical reasoning to an urban program or problem.
- Explain the impact of the natural environment and the built environment on patterns of urban growth, development and forms of social interaction.
- Articulate an analysis of the implications of urbanization and urban policy in the context of social justice and sustainable environmental practices.
- Communicate ideas effectively in written or oral form.
- Explain and interpret information contained in maps.
- Collaborate on research projects and presentations.

URS 300 Urban and Regional Studies 4 Credit Hours

In this course we will explore the field of urban and regional studies. The scope of readings is inter-disciplinary, spanning the environmental, aesthetic, social, economic, geographic, historical, political and cultural aspects of cities, suburbs and regions. The interrelationship between the spatial organization of a city, patterns of social and economic inequality, delivery of services, the relationship between culture and public space, as well as the processes of urban and regional change will all be considered. Problems such as race and class inequality will also be examined. Special attention will be given to issues of relevance in the Detroit metropolitan region (e.g. spatial, economic, cultural, political and social impacts of the loss of manufacturing jobs). Students will be introduced to methods of social scientific analysis and will begin to apply those methods to researching urban and regional community groups, enterprises and social movements. (YR).

URS 301 SiD--Field Internship 4 Credit Hours

Full Course Title: Semester in Detroit: Field Internship This course serves as a field internship course for the Semester in Detroit (SiD) program. Students in this course work for 200 hours in an internship with a community-based organization in Detroit over 12 weeks (average of 16 hours per week) while also participating in a reflection seminar. Students must apply to, and be accepted by, UM-Ann Arbor's in Detroit program to enroll in this course. (F, S).

URS 360 SiD--20th Cent Detroit History 3 Credit Hours

This course serves as the core course for the Semester in Detroit (SiD) program. It examines the transformation of Detroit from the late 19th, through the 20th and into the 21st Centuries. Our goal is to identify the main forces and patterns of change in Detroit's past that have shaped the contemporary city you encounter today. Thus, the course is organized chronologically, but we will be exploring the city's history alongside consideration of contemporary social issues, challenges, and debates. Course material will include a range of readings, films, and excursions. Through discussion of this material and in written assignments, the course encourages you to develop your own interpretation of the circumstances, challenges and opportunities currently facing the city. Students must apply to, and be accepted by, UM-Ann Arbor's Semester in Detroit program to enroll in this course. (F,W,S)

URS 380 SiD - Theory and Practice of Visionary Organizing 3 Credit Hours

What is the concept of Visionary Organizing? Where did it come from, and how is it related to Detroit's rich history of Black radical politics and community building? What role does it play in current grassroots activism, organizations, and community-media in Detroit? These are some of the guiding questions for this course. Taking the lives, activism, and intellectual work of James and Grace Lee Boggs as the starting point, the course will guide students through a multifaceted examination of historical and contemporary expressions of radical activism in Detroit. Beginning with the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s and ending with contemporary movements, groups, and organizers, we will explore how thinkers and activists during the last half century have theorized, organized, and created the conditions to bring new visions of a just city into being. Students will learn about and have the opportunity to interact with contemporary expressions of visionary organizing such as Freedom Freedom Growers, Birwood House, Riverwise magazine, Visionary Organizing Lab, Sweetwater Foundation, and the James and Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership. This course serves as an elective course for the Semester in Detroit (SiD) program. (F, W, S).

URS 390 Topics Urban&Regional Studies 1 to 3 Credit Hours

Problems and issues in selected areas of urban and regional studies. Title as listed in Schedule of Classes changes according to content. Course may be repeated for credit when specific topic differs.

URS 450 Senior Capstone in Community Research 4 Credit Hours

The capstone course is a unique exploration of a complex topic in the metropolitan area. The course will guide students in a deep investigation of this topic, including fieldwork in the surrounding community. Directed readings and discussions will provide theoretical background, and students will develop their own research papers in relation to this theme. The goals of the course are for students to synthesize and apply learning from previous courses in urban studies, to investigate a compelling research question using appropriate methods, and to prepare for future careers in related fields.

URS 485 Urban and Regional Studies Internship 1 to 8 Credit Hours

The internship offers students the opportunity to learn and apply concepts learned in Urban and Regional Studies coursework to real world settings in municipal and regional government offices, non-profit and community organizations, or businesses dedicated to design, development, or data. The student has 8-16 hours of work per week under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Primarily for junior or senior URS students or other qualified applicants. Up to 8 credits can be used to fulfill the community-engaged learning requirement, with the approval of the URS director. Credit also may be earned by Portfolio Assessment. See the URS director for information. Note: The standard internship is 4 or 8 credits. However, in special circumstances and upon permission of the URS director, student can register for a different number of credits. (F, W, S).

Prerequisite(s): URS 300

Restriction(s):

Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman

URS 499 Independent Study 1 to 4 Credit Hours

Readings, community-based research and analytical assignments in accordance with the needs and interests of the student and approval of the instructor. Students must submit a written proposal of study for approval. In addition, students electing to take this course in partial fulfillment of their community-based research must get approval from the Director of the Urban and Regional Studies program. (F,W,S)