

Geography and Urban Studies (M.A.)

About The Program:

The Department of Geography and Urban Studies offers graduate work leading to the Master of Arts degree. The program prepares students for further study and for careers in academia, community organizing and social change efforts, economic development, environmental management, geographic systems management, and planning and public administration. Throughout, emphasis is placed on the development of research techniques and analytical skills applicable to problem solving.

Career Options: Graduates have continued their education by pursuing doctoral degrees in some of the nation's most prestigious Ph.D. programs. Graduates also find employment in public sector agencies that deal with environmental planning, land use, and urban problems. In addition, they work for quasi-public social service institutions that address various needs of urban residents, as well as for private sector firms whose business requires an understanding of urban and spatial dynamics.

Prerequisites for Admission: Baccalaureate degree in the social sciences is appropriate. Bachelor's degree in another discipline will be considered.

Areas of Specialization: The graduate program in Geography and Urban Studies emphasizes study and research in the areas of environmental issues, gender and race, geographic methods, international development, social and spatial theory, and urban development. Areas of applied work include cartography, environmental analysis, geographic information science, land-use planning and management, and regional development. The Department offers students a chance to be trained in geographic information science in a research laboratory equipped with the latest technology.

Requirements of Programs:

- **Total Credit Hours:** 36
- **Culminating Events:**

Master's Research Paper:

In a student's final term, s/he develops a high-quality paper on a topic of her/his choice. Students meet as a class to facilitate their projects. The class is graded on a pass/fail basis. The course instructor evaluates the paper and determines whether the student passes the class.

Geographic Inquiry – This course familiarizes students with the theoretical, conceptual, and methodological debates underlying the use of spatial analysis in the social sciences. Students explore how place, space, and scale are conceptualized and utilized to examine urban processes as well as different approaches to spatial representation, including visual, mathematical, digital, and cognitive.

History and Theory of Urban Studies – This course provides students with the foundational knowledge to pursue graduate studies in the interdisciplinary field of Urban Studies. It surveys the

historical and philosophical bases of contemporary urban studies and provides an introduction to contemporary explanatory frameworks and associated critiques in the social sciences.

Public Policy for Urban Regions – This course introduces students to the major policy approaches used to sustain and develop cities and regions in the United States and beyond - i.e., direct government intervention, market models, and third sector institutions. The course examines the changes brought about by globalization in the scope and function of governments, including regulatory regimes and privatization of services and infrastructure. Students analyze the consequences of different policy approaches for social equity, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

Critical Issues in Globalization, Sustainability, and Social Justice – This course explores the theories, facts, and debates related to globalization, sustainability, and social justice, the themes that are critical to understanding contemporary urban conditions and dynamics. It provides students with an overview of a wide range of issues, in a number of U.S. and international settings, and at several spatial scales. The material is foundational for making decisions on research topics.

Master's Research Paper – Students develop a high-quality research paper on a topic of their choice. Students connect the development of their paper to their work within a specific course as a means of facilitating their project. Students also work with an individual advisor to develop the content, implement the project design, and approve the final paper.

Introduction to Statistics course

Two methodology courses selected from a departmental list

Electives (12 Credits Worth)

Courses:

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the courses below.

- Special Topic Seminars
- Special Topics in GUS
- Urban Social Geography
- Land Use Planning
- Health and Environment Seminar
- Economic Development and Planning Cities
- International Urbanization
- GIS Programming
- Sustainable Natural-Human Systems
- Urban Housing
- Hazards Geography
- Political Ecology
- Cartographic Production
- Fundamentals of Geographical Information Systems
- Remote Sensing
- Urban Geographical Information Systems
- Environmental Applications of GIS
- GIS and Location Analysis
- Census Analysis with Geographical Information Systems
- GIS for Health Data Analysis

- Medical Geography
- Advanced Remote Sensing
- Geovisualization
- Regional Development
- Problems in Environmental Quality
- Race, Class, Gender in Cities
- Geographic Inquiry
- Statistics for Urban Spatial Analysis
- Advanced Statistics for Urban Applications
- Qualitative Methods
- Community Based Program Evaluation
- Food Studies
- Transportation and Culture
- Geographic Thought
- Geographic Inquiry
- History and Theory of Urban Studies
- Public Policy for Urban Regions
- Geography of Urban Services
- Critical Issues in Globalization, Sustainability, and Social Justice
- Urban Economic and Spatial Structure
- Seminar on Homelessness in America
- Poverty and Employment
- Comparative Urban History
- Environmental Seminar
- Sustainable Cities
- Cartographic Design
- Application Development for Geographic Information Systems
- Spatial Database Design
- Web Mapping and Map Servers
- GIS Ethics and Professional Practice
- Research Design
- Community-Based Research
- Teaching in Higher Education: Social Sciences
- Independent Study: Geography and Urban Studies
- Readings in Geography
- Internship in Geography and Urban Studies
- Internship Paper
- Mapping Practicum I
- GIS Capstone
- Master's Research Paper
- Masters Research