

URBAN STUDIES & PLANNING: POLICY & PLANNING, BA

for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies & Planning, Policy & Planning Concentration

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers a program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning. The aim of urban planning is to sustain and enhance the quality of life in cities and regions. Therefore, in addition to technical skills, students also acquire a broad liberal education that leads to an understanding of the natural and social environments, their problems, and their potential for enriching human life. The urban planning degree emphasizes skills in analysis, problem solving, and communication within complex urban and social contexts. As a result, undergraduate planning education leads to diverse professional careers or graduate study in urban planning or related professions, such as law, business, public policy or public administration. Continuation in the program requires the student to maintain a 2.00 grade point average. The degree is professionally accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board.

Concentrations: Admitted students are not admitted directly to a concentration. Students declare their concentration in the first or second year of study. Electing one of the four concentrations is required for graduation. The concentrations are transcriptable. Students may choose two concentrations, if they complete both gateway courses and distinct concentration courses, with no overlap. No more than two concentrations are permitted.

A transfer student must have completed 30 or more semester hours of acceptable undergraduate college work (including introductory courses in microeconomics, statistics, and sociology; a sequence in English composition is desirable) with an earned grade point average of at least 2.0 (A = 4.0). Transfer applicants not meeting these requirements will be considered in special cases.

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Policy and Planning Concentration

Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

University Requirements

Minimum of 40 hours of upper-division coursework, generally at the 300- or 400-level. These hours can be drawn from all elements of the degree.

Students should consult their academic advisor for additional guidance in fulfilling this requirement.

The university and residency requirements can be found in the Student Code (<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part8/3-801/>) (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

General Education Requirements

Follows the campus General Education (Gen Ed) requirements (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Composition I		4-6
Advanced Composition		3
	fulfilled by UP 312	
Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)		6
Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)		6
Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)		6
	fulfilled by ECON 102 or ACE 100; and AAS 100 or AFRO 100 or GGIS 101 or GGIS 104 or LLS 100 or SOC 100	
Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)		3
Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)		6-10
	fulfilled by UP 116 or STAT 100; and UP 316	
Language Requirement (Completion of the third semester or equivalent of a language other than English is required)		0-15

Foundation Courses

Code	Title	Hours
FAA 101	Arts at Illinois	1
ECON 102	Microeconomic Principles	3
or ACE 100	Introduction to Applied Microeconomics	
UP 116	Urban Informatics I (or equivalent)	3
or STAT 100	Statistics	
3-4 hours selected from:		3-4
AAS 100	Intro Asian American Studies	
AFRO 100	Intro to African American St	
GGIS 101	Global Development & Environment	
GGIS 104	Social and Cultural Geography	
LLS 100	Intro Latina/Latino Studies	
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology	

Urban Studies & Planning Core

Code	Title	Hours
UP 101	Introduction to City Planning	3
UP 201	Planning in Action	3
UP 203	Cities: Planning & Urban Life	3
or UP 204	Chicago: Planning & Urban Life	
UP 211	Local Planning, Gov't and Law	3
UP 312	Communication for Planners	4
UP 316	Urban Informatics II	3
UP 347	Junior Planning Workshop	4
Select one workshop from:		4
UP 447	Land Use Planning Workshop	
UP 455	Economic Development Workshop	
UP 456	Sustainable Planning Workshop	

UP 457	Small Town/Rural Planning Workshop	
UP 478	Community Development Workshop	
UP 401	Professional Development Seminar (Individual portfolio development, networking opportunities, and a culmination event.)	1
Plus 15 hours of UP electives in addition to Foundation, Core, & Concentration		15

Policy & Planning Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
Select 3 courses from:		9
UP 230	Transportation Planning: Fundamentals and Innovations	
UP 317	Introduction to Urban Data Science	
UP 330	The Modern American City	
UP 340	Planning for Healthy Cities	
UP 345	Economic Development Planning	
UP 357	The Land Development Process	
UP 407	State and Local Public Finance	
UP 409	Economics for Planners	
UP 420	Plng for Historic Preservation	
UP 425	Equitable Land Use	
UP 430	Urban Transportation Planning	
UP 431	Urban Transportation Modeling	
UP 434	Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning	
UP 437	Public Transportation Planning	
UP 438	Disasters and Urban Planning	
UP 443	Scenarios, Plans & Future Cities	
UP 460	Transportation/Land Use Policy	
UP 473	Housing & Urban Policy	
UP 475	Real Estate Development Fundamentals	

Summary of Credits for the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning, concentration in Policy & Planning

Code	Title	Hours
General Education		
Foundation Courses		10
Urban Studies & Planning Core		43
Policy & Planning Concentration		9
Free Electives		
A minimum of 40 credits at the 300 or 400 course level are required		
Total Degree Hours		120

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Sample Sequence

This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree completion. All students should work individually with their academic advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 03/2026

programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.

Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a third level of a language other than English. For more information, see the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

First Year

First Semester	Hours
UP 101	3
ECON 102 or ACE 100	3
Composition I or Language Other Than English (3rd level)	4
FAA 101	1
Foundation course	3
Free Elective course	1
Total Hours 15	15

Total Hours 15

First Year

Second Semester	Hours
UP 116 or STAT 100	3
UP 201	3
Language Other Than English (3rd level) or Composition I	4
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Total Hours 16	16

Total Hours 16

Second Year

First Semester	Hours
UP 203 or 204	3
UP Elective	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours 15	15

Total Hours 15

Second Year

Second Semester	Hours
UP 211	3
UP Elective	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Policy & Planning Concentration Elective	3
Total Hours 15	15

Total Hours 15

Third Year

First Semester	Hours
Policy & Planning Concentration	3
Elective	
UP 312	4
UP Elective	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	1
Total Hours	14

Third Year

Second Semester	Hours
Policy & Planning Concentration	3
Elective	
UP 316	3
UP 347	4
UP Elective	3
Free Elective course	2
Total Hours	15

Fourth Year

First Semester	Hours
UP 400-level Workshop	4
UP Elective	3
Free Elective courses	8
Total Hours	15

Fourth Year

Second Semester	Hours
UP 401	1
Free Elective courses	14
Total Hours	15

Total Hours: 120

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- communication, community engagement, and the planning process;
 - research and critical thinking;
 - mapping and data visualization; and
 - data collection and analysis, and data analytics
4. Illustrate professional leadership values including collaborative skills and ethical behavior in research, client representation and decision-making.

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Urban & Regional Planning

Department Head: Marc Doussard

Urban & Regional Planning Department website (<https://urban.illinois.edu/>)

Urban & Regional Planning Department Faculty (<https://urban.illinois.edu/people/meet-our-faculty/>)

111 Temple Buell Hall, 611 Taft Drive, Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 333-3890

urbplan@illinois.edu

College of Fine & Applied Arts

FAA College Website (<https://faa.illinois.edu/>)

Admissions

For admission criteria and process, see Urban & Regional Planning Department website (<https://urban.illinois.edu/>) or contact the department via email (urbplan@illinois.edu).

Students who complete a degree in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning will be able to:

1. Identify and understand the planners' role in:
 - a. Addressing social and economic inequality through plans and policies
 - b. Planning for sustainability
2. Demonstrate planning proficiency in a global context in the areas of:
 - a. History, theory, law and institutions, and their evolution over time
 - b. Urban and regional development
3. Build and put into practice a set of skills that are central to the planning profession, including skills specific to: