

What about a major in...?

Urban Studies (B.A.)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CLA COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

What is Urban Studies?

This cross-disciplinary major involves Urban Studies coursework, fieldwork experiences, internships, and coursework in disciplines that offer useful perspectives on contemporary urban and postindustrial society.

The program focuses on the conceptual and analytical frameworks and specialized skills needed for professions focused on urban change or development. Students completing the program work in public agencies or private business or pursue graduate study in urban planning, law, social welfare, public affairs, or the social and environmental sciences.

Students are also encouraged to incorporate field study into the major or minor. Options include Urban Studies programs sponsored by the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA) in South America, Norway, and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select “Undergraduate majors.”

How do I declare an Urban Studies major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon an Urban Studies major, meet with the urban studies undergraduate advisor to complete a Major Program form.
3. Bring a copy of the form or plan to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn more about your new major’s declaration process.

What can I do with a major in Urban Studies?

Skills

Urban studies majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers.

These skills include:

- Critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning, and responding skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups
- Independent, self-motivated work ethic

Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Government—planning departments, public administration, research, campaigns

For more information:

About the Urban Studies major:

Undergraduate Advising
348 Social Science
(612) 626-1626
<http://urbanstudies.cla.umn.edu/>

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Social Sciences Student Community
575 Heller Hall
(612) 626-7714
<http://socsci.class.umn.edu/>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu/
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division
20 Nicholson
(612) 624-5522
www.honors.class.umn.edu/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu

- Nonprofit—community development corporations, fundraising, programming, management
- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, consulting
- Public Relations and Advertising—corporate public affairs, lobbying
- Education—teaching, research, student affairs

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!