

URBAN & REGIONAL STUDIES

Urban & Regional Studies

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Urban & Regional Studies Institute

106 Morris Hall • 507-389-1714

Website: www.mnsu.edu/ursi

Institute Director: Miriam H. Porter

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The Urban and Regional Studies Institute is an interdisciplinary degree program oriented toward examining and understanding the broad range of problems and challenges associated with the nation's cities and regional areas. There are many career opportunities in community development, urban/regional planning, local government, and local government management. Also, the major is excellent preparation for graduate work in the professional fields of planning, management, business, etc.

This national award-winning program includes classroom, research and field experience. In addition to formal course work, students are encouraged to undertake independent study, become involved in community service projects, participate in field studies, and accept internships in local agencies. Students should contact the Urban and Regional Studies Institute for further information.

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Minimum university admission requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 ("C").

Contact the department for application procedures.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

P/N Grading Policy. The internship must be taken on a P/N basis. All other courses must be taken for grade.

URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES BS

Degree completion = 120 credits

Required for Major

URBS 100	Introduction to the City (3)
URBS 110	The City: Design and Architecture (3)
URBS 150	Sustainable Communities (3)
URBS 230	Community Leadership (3)
URBS 401	Foundations in Urban Management & Planning (3)
URBS 402	Urban Analysis (3)
URBS 489	Capstone (3)

Required for Major (Electives, 12 credits)

Select 12 credits from URBS upper division courses, or see advisor for approval. The department strongly recommends an internship (URBS 497).

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES MINOR

Minor Core

URBS 150	Sustainable Communities (3)
URBS 230	Community Leadership (3)
URBS 431	Urban Design Principles (3)

Minor Electives

Select 9 credits from URBS upper division courses, or see advisor for approval.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

URBS 100 (3) Introduction to the City

A fresh look at the city, with emphasis on the reasons why cities have grown and how people can make cities livable.

Fall, Spring

GE-5, GE-8

URBS 110 (3) The City: Design and Architecture

Appreciation of the city as the highest cultural achievement in design and architecture.

Fall, Spring

GE-6

URBS 150 (3) Sustainable Communities

This course will identify and analyze global social, economic, political and environmental problems impacting community viability and explore the full range of solutions to these problems. The course will view communities as complex, sustainable organisms and bring together the works of the great minds working on sustainability.

Fall, Spring

GE-5, GE-10

URBS 230 (3) Community Leadership

Introduction to community leadership--elected, professional, or voluntary--and the skills and values which support it.

GE-9, GE-11

URBS 230W (3) Community Leadership

Introduction to community leadership--elected, professional, or voluntary--and the skills and values which support it.

Fall, Spring

WI, GE-9, GE-11

URBS 260 (3) Community Development

Introduction to knowledge, values and skills required to strengthen and maintain the capacity of a local group (neighborhood, city or region) to provide for the resident's needs.

URBS 401 (3) Foundations in Urban Management & Planning

This course is a survey of the local community--the forces which shape it, the significance of a democratic public, and the professional practice of local government service.

Fall, Spring

URBS 402 (3) Urban Analysis

Introduction to skills and techniques used to form questions about urban affairs, to organize and analyze information to answer it, and to present the results of one's analysis in a professional format.

Spring

URBS 411 (3) Urban Policy & Strategic Analysis

Prepares students to analyze problems, identify alternative solutions and utilize techniques of analysis.

URBS 412 (3) Public Information and Involvement

This course, designed for students preparing for a professional career in local government or public service, focuses on media relations and building citizen involvement through public awareness projects.

Fall

URBS 413 (3) Urban Program Evaluation

Reviews processes and techniques related to evaluation of public programs.

URBS 415 (3) Urban Housing Policy

Public policy and programs that address issues of housing supply, quality, costs, and neighborhood revitalization.

URBAN & REGIONAL STUDIES CONTINUED

URBS 417 (3) Urban Law

An overview of local government law and local governing powers. In addition, public issues in the legal context will be examined from a management and operational perspective.

URBS 431 (3) Urban Design Principles

A basic working knowledge and vocabulary of urban design concepts and techniques in an applied problem solving context.

URBS 433 (3) Urban Development

Theory and applications of principles of landscape architecture or urban design.

URBS 435 (3) Downtown Revitalization

Examines the problem of central business district deterioration and explores the changing patterns of economic and social mobility with primary focus upon the trends of downtown revitalization currently being employed by the public and private sectors.

URBS 437 (3) Urban Heritage Preservation

Preservation techniques, principles of structural evaluation, adaptive use potentials and options, economic consideration in preservation and the role of legislation.

URBS 438 (3) Historic Preservation: Policy and Field Methods

Historic Preservation: Policy and Field Methods introduces students to the rules and laws of structural historic preservation. The course will investigate the major policy documents, laws, agencies, survey methods, and examine how they are applied in local government preservation.
Spring

URBS 450 (3) The Urban Context

Advanced course to explore the interactions of space and social institutions in an urban context.

URBS 451 (3) Nonprofit Sector

Nature of the Third Sector, from a variety of perspectives, and implications for managing both internal and external relations of nonprofit organizations.

URBS 453 (3) Grants Administration

Raising resources for public and nonprofit organizations—from needs assessment through obtaining funding to managing the grant after it is awarded.

URBS 455 (3) Regional & County Development

Regional and county planning content and procedures, including basic research, land use planning, and implementation of regulations.

URBS 457 (3) Economic Development

A survey course covering the concepts, processes, tools and strategies of economic development in local communities. Emphasis is on the “why” and “how” of economic development.

URBS 461 (3) Environmental Planning

Examines and applies the fundamental concepts, techniques and mechanisms for environmental planning at the city, county, and sub-state regional levels.
Fall

URBS 471 (3) Urban Transportation

Examines transportation problems of, and solutions for large and medium sized cities. Special emphasis on reducing traffic congestion, improving management of transit systems, and linking transportation and land-use planning.

URBS 481 (1-3) Selected Topics:

Varying topics dealing with emerging trends and contemporary needs facing urban America.

URBS 483 (1-6) Workshop

Varying topics using applied techniques to address community issues.

URBS 485 (1-6) Community-Based Problem Solving

Problem solving in communities and direct involvement into specific areas of study of student interest.

Pre: Consent

Fall, Spring

URBS 489 (3) Capstone Seminar

Assemble and evaluate information and opinions into a coherent position on what makes cities work, and prepare for entry into professional world of work in cities.
Spring

URBS 497 (1-12) Internship

Scheduled work assignments, varying in length and content, under the supervision of selected professional sponsors.

Pre: Consent

Fall, Spring

URBS 499 (1-4) Individual Study

Independent study under supervision of an instructor with a research paper or report to be presented.

Pre: Consent

Fall, Spring