

URBAN STUDIES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

GOVERNMENT

Demography
Social Statistics
Public Administration
Policy Analysis
Research
Program Development
Human Services
City Planning
Law Enforcement
Politics

Federal departments and agencies such as:
Departments of Agriculture, Education,
Interior, Commerce, Defense
Health and Human Services
Drug Enforcement Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
Housing and Urban Development
Veteran's Administration
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Aging
Peace Corps
State and local government
Planning and development commissions
National, state, or local parks or recreation
departments
Housing authorities
Social service agencies
Transportation departments

Supplement curriculum with coursework in statistics and
social research.
Develop exceptional computer, communication, and
research skills.
Gain work experience via government internships, part-time
jobs, or summer work.
Develop a specialty such as aging, family, criminal justice,
or healthcare.
Learn the federal job application process.
Obtain a graduate degree for advanced positions.
Consider obtaining a minor in political science, public
administration, or other relevant fields.

REGIONAL AND URBAN PLANNING

Transportation
Demography
Housing
Historic Preservation
Urban Design
Urban Renewal
Environmental/Regulatory Issues
Economic Development
Land Use
Research Design
Program Development

Architecture firms
Engineering firms
Local planning agencies
Real estate and development contractors
Investment companies
Transportation agencies
Zoning administration
Federal, state, and local government
Utility companies
Non-profit organizations
Historical restoration or preservation agencies
Neighborhood revitalization initiatives
International development organizations

Enhance curriculum with courses in business, social
sciences, and statistics.
Earn a graduate degree in urban or regional planning from
an accredited planning program.
Find a related internship, part-time, or summer job.
Develop strong computer skills.
Learn another language to communicate with diverse
community members or to work abroad.
Plan to work collaboratively with a wide array of
professionals and local citizens.
Understand that most planners work for local governments.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

HUMAN SERVICES

Counseling
Case Management
Advocacy
Rehabilitation Counseling
Mental Health Services
Programming
Administration

Community service agencies
Advocacy groups
Federal, state, and local government
United Way agencies
Local branches of national non-profit organizations
Religiously-affiliated service organizations
Private foundations
Adoption and child care agencies
Nursing homes and retirement communities
Hospitals and wellness centers
Halfway houses
Vocational services
Educational information services

Gain experience and develop helping skills through volunteer positions.
Spend summers working at camps, YMCA's, or other social service agencies.
Gain experience working with diverse populations.
Develop excellent communication skills.
Concentrate course work in an area of interest such as youth, gerontology, or poverty.
Learn a second language in order to interact with non-English speakers and increase marketability.
Serve as a peer mentor, resident assistant, or other student leader.
Earn a master's degree in social work, counseling, or other related field to increase employment opportunities.
Most states require licensure or certification for positions involving the direct provision of therapeutic services to clients.

BUSINESS

Real Estate
Construction Management
Development
Sales
Leasing
Management
Human Resources
Sales

Real estate firms
Rental properties
Construction and development companies
Insurance firms
Retail stores
Banks
Staffing agencies
Manufacturing companies
Credit management companies and organizations
Service industries
Healthcare organizations

Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with courses in general business, accounting, and finance.
Gain business experience through part-time jobs, summer work, and internships.
Develop excellent computer skills.
Learn to use software applications such as spreadsheets, databases, and word processing.
Hone written and oral communication skills.
Join related professional associations.
Seek leadership roles in student organizations.

EDUCATION

Teaching
Research

Colleges and universities
Adult education providers

Earn a graduate degree for post-secondary teaching.
Assist a professor with research.
Take extra courses in research and statistics.
Develop exceptional written and oral communication skills.
Secure strong personal recommendations, particularly from professors.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Data Analysis
Demography
Market Research
Information Sourcing

Universities
Government agencies
Research institutes
Non-profit organizations
Private industries
Advertising and marketing firms
Consulting organizations
Information brokers
Newspapers, magazines, news agencies
Public opinion research polls

Develop exceptional quantitative, statistical, and writing skills.
Learn to use statistics software packages as well as database, spreadsheet, and desktop publishing programs.
Volunteer to help a professor with a research project.
Obtain an advanced degree for research administration positions.
Network with professionals working in areas of interest.
Gain experience working on teams.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Many transferable skills such as analytical, organizational, research, interpersonal, computer, leadership, teamwork, and oral/written communication are associated with the urban studies degree.
- Internships, part-time jobs, summer jobs, and/or volunteer experiences are critical for gaining experience and developing a career path.
- An undergraduate degree is sufficient for many entry-level positions in business, industry, and government; however, a graduate degree is likely to be more desirable in a competitive market.
- An undergraduate degree in urban studies is good preparation for graduate or professional education in law, business, and other related fields. Research pre-requisites for graduate or professional programs of interest.
- To enhance graduate or professional school opportunities, maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, join student or professional organizations, and gain relevant experience outside of the classroom through work, internship, volunteer, and research opportunities.
- A Ph.D. is required for teaching at the four-year university level.
- For human or social service positions, gain experience with a population of interest (i.e., children, college students, elderly adults) and develop multicultural sensitivity and understanding. Plan to earn a graduate degree in counseling, social work or related field.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals working in areas of interest.