

# Bachelor of Arts in Urban & Community Studies

## A Major that Changes Lives



The Urban and Community Studies (UCS) major at the University of Connecticut is offered by the Department of Geography, Sustainability, Community and Urban Studies. It is a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The UCS major integrates the study of cities, suburbs, neighborhoods, and communities through core courses drawn from the fields of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Public Policy, Sociology and Urban Studies. It offers a solid foundation in analytical techniques, including quantitative and qualitative methods, survey research, geographic information systems and archival research.

### The UCS major provides students with...

- a comprehensive education on the forces that transform communities and urban areas
- a flexible and interdisciplinary curriculum
- opportunities for service learning and community-based internships
- a solid foundation for many rewarding careers
- first-rate preparation for graduate school

UCS is an interdisciplinary major for students who seek meaningful career opportunities in public service, human services, urban and social change, as well as many other rewarding fields. Our flexible curriculum offers students the ability to take courses within the major based on their own personal career or graduate school aspirations. The major offers emphasis areas in Criminal Justice and Law, Nonprofit and Public Management, Public Health, Public Policy and Social Service and Community Organizing as well as a Fast Track to the Master of Public Administration or coursework information for those interested in pursuing a Pre-Med concentration. Students are welcome also to personalize their degree plan based on their academic interests.

### UCS is a perfect major for those who are interested in pursuing a career in fields such as or graduate studies in...

Social Work  
Counseling  
Criminal Justice  
Public Policy

Public Administration  
Community Organizing  
Public and Nonprofit Management  
Urban & Regional Planning  
Business Administration  
&  
many more rewarding fields

Law  
Education  
Public Health  
Survey Research

Students may earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban and Community Studies at the Hartford, Storrs and Waterbury campuses. For the greatest variety, students are welcome to enroll in courses across campuses.

### For more information please contact our faculty advisors:

#### Hartford Campus

Prof. Phil Birge-Liberman  
phil.birge-Liberman@uconn.edu

#### Storrs Campus

Prof. Mary Donegan  
mary.donegan@uconn.edu

#### Waterbury Campus

Prof. Melisa Argañaraz Gomez  
arganaraz@uconn.edu

Prof. Stacy Maddern  
stacy.maddern@uconn.edu

Visit [urban.uconn.edu](http://urban.uconn.edu) or [geography-sustainability-community-urban.uconn.edu](http://geography-sustainability-community-urban.uconn.edu)

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# Urban & Community Studies Degree Plan - 2024/2025

## Degree Requirements

UCS MAJORS COMPLETE A TOTAL OF 36 COURSE CREDITS, 24 WITHIN THE MAJOR PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 12 RELATED, TOWARD THE MINIMUM 120 CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

### ➤ GROUP I: REQUIRED CORE COURSE

**Two required core courses = 6 credits**

1. Introduction to Urban & Community Studies	URBN 2000 (W)	2. Understanding Your Community or Urban Semester: Seminar or Senior Thesis	URBN 4000 or INTD 3594 or URBN 4497W <sup>†</sup>
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### ➤ GROUP II: CORE

**Select three courses from three different departments = 9 credits** (Cross-listed courses count towards the non-URBN department)

Urban Development & Policy	ECON 2439	History of Latino/as in the US	HIST 3674/LLAS 3220
Economics of Poverty	ECON 2456	Urban Politics	POLS/URBN 3632 (W)
Globalization	GEOG 2000	Public Admin. or Public Admin. in Theory & Practice	POLS 3842 or PP 3031
Introduction to Sustainable Cities	GEOG 2400E	Social Policy	PP 4034
Urban Geography	GEOG/URBN 3200 (W)	Sociological Perspectives on Poverty	SOCI/HRTS 2820 (W) <i>formerly 3429</i>
Urban & Regional Planning	GEOG 4210	Urban Sociology	SOCI/URBN 2901 (W) <i>formerly 3901/3275</i>
The History of Urban America	HIST/URBN 2541 (W) <i>formerly 3541</i>	Social Welfare & Social Work	SOCI 3425
Immigrants & the Shaping of American History	HIST 3554	Work and Economic Justice	URBN 2600
African American History Since 1865	HIST/AFRA 3564	Urban Parks and Sustainability	URBN 3400E

### ➤ GROUP III: METHODS

**Select one of the following courses = 3 credits**

Information Technology for Economics	ECON 2327	Methods of Social Research	SOCI 3201
Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	GEOG/CE 2500 <i>formerly GEOG 4500</i>	Introduction to Statistics II	STAT 2215Q
Geographic Data Analysis	GEOG 3500Q	Research Methods & (Quantitative) Analysis in UCS	URBN 2301Q
Quantitative Analysis in Political Science	POLS 2072Q	Qualitative Analysis of UCS	URBN 2302 (W)
Survey Research Methods	PP/URBN 2100		

### ➤ GROUP IV: SUPPORTING

**Select two additional courses from group II, group III or from the list below = 6 credits**

Migration	ANTH 3150 (W)	American Political Economy	POLS 3617
Applied Regional Analysis: The CT Economy	ECON 2328 (W)	African American Politics	POLS/AFRA 3642
Economics of Taxation & Government Spending	ECON 2431	Latino Political Behavior	POLS 3662/LLAS 3270
Public Economics	ECON 3431 (W)	The Policy-making Process	POLS 3847
Urban & Regional Economics	ECON 3439 (W) or URBN 3439	Cases in Public Policy	PP 3020 (W)
Introduction to Sport Based Youth Development	EDLR 3547 (W)	Race & Policy	PP 3033/AFRA 3033P or POLS 3633
Reading the American City	ENGL 3235W	Criminology	SOCI 2301 (W)
Race, Sex, Space and Place	GEOG 3000	Ethnicity & Race	SOCI 2510 (W) /AFRA 2510 <i>formerly 3501</i>
Geographical Analysis of Urban Social Issues	GEOG 4200W	African Americans & Social Protest	SOCI/AFRA/HRTS 2530 <i>formerly 3825</i>
Asian American Experience Since 1850	HIST/AAAS 2530 <i>formerly HIST 3530/AAAS 3578</i>	Sociology of the Family	SOCI 2651 (W)
Crime, Policing, & Punishment in the US	HIST/AMST 2550 <i>formerly HIST 2810</i>	Sociology of Carework	SOCI 2655 (W)
History of Urban Latin America	HIST/URBN 2650 <i>formerly 3650</i>	Sociology of Religion	SOCI 2670 (W) <i>formerly 3521</i>
Topics in Public History	HIST 3102	Sociology of Sexuality	SOCI/ WGS 2680 (W) <i>formerly 3621</i>
Social & Cultural History of CT & New England	HIST 3520	Sociology of Food	SOCI 2705E
African American History to 1865	HIST/AFRA/HRTS 3563	Society and Climate Change	SOCI 2709WE
Hip-Hop, Politics & Youth Culture in America	HIST/AFRA/AMST/MUSI 3568	City Life	SOCI 2907 (W) <i>formerly 3907</i>
Diversity Issues in Human Dev. & Family Studies	HDFS 2001	Aging in Society, or Aging American Society	SOCI 3459/W or HDFS 3245 (W)
Social & Community Influence on Children in the US	HDFS 3110	Sociology of Gender	SOCI 3601 (W)
Planning & Managing Human Service Programs	HDFS 3510	Urban Problems	SOCI 3903 (W) or URBN 3276 (W)
Public Policy & the Family	HDFS 3530	City & Community in Film	URBN/AMST 2400
Child Welfare, Law & Social Policy	HDFS 3540	Variable Topics	URBN 2998
Semester in Urban Problems (Urban Semester)	INTD 3584	Internship in UCS or Urban Semester: Seminar	URBN 3981/3991* or INTD 3594 (W)
Sustainable Urban Ecosystems	NRE 3265	Foreign Study	URBN 3993
State & Local Government	POLS 2622	Special Topics	URBN 3995
Comparative Perspectives on Human Rights	POLS/HRTS 3212	Senior Thesis	URBN 4497W <sup>†</sup>
Environmental and Climate Justice	POLS 3240E	Independent Study (With instructor consent)	URBN 4999
Globalization & Political Change	POLS 3406 (W)		

\* = These courses are taken concurrently. Students may take up to 6 credits combined, but only 3 credits can be used toward the major.  
<sup>†</sup> = INTD 3594 and URBN 4497W can be counted only once to meet the requirements of the major. No double dipping.  
(W) = These courses may be offered by the university with or without a Writing Competency component.

### ➤ RELATED COURSES (2000 OR ABOVE):

**Select four courses related to the major = 12 credits**

Students may take courses listed within the major as long as they are not URBN or cross-listed with URBN. Courses to be counted towards the related requirement must be pre-approved by the student's UCS advisor.

### ➤ GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES:

We offer several General Education courses which meet Content Area requirements. These offerings are recommended for students interested in pursuing the UCS major or minor.

**URBN/GEOG 1200 - Global Urbanization**

Meets Content Area 1 General Education requirement.

**URBN 1300 (W) - Exploring Your Community**

Meets Content Area 2 and 4 General Education requirements.

**URBN 1400 (W) - Site & Stound: Understanding Cities Through Popular Music**

Meets Content Area 2 and 4 General Education requirements.

**URBN 1600 - Cities of Imagination**

Meets Content Area 2 General Education requirements.