

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING

The urban studies and planning major offers an interdisciplinary curriculum for students interested in creating more just, inclusive, and equitable cities. Through a curriculum grounded in the social sciences, the Urban Studies program offers an applied, problem-solving focus, training in research methods, and practical hands-on experience in a carefully supervised internship and a practicum (senior seminar). Courses integrate social science, planning, and policy perspectives into the study of cities and develop the research and analytic tools necessary for understanding and addressing the most pressing issues facing cities today, including poverty, access to housing, pollution, climate change, poverty, racial segregation, and social exclusion.

The B.A. in Urban Studies and Planning prepares students for a wide range of careers in urban planning, administration, and community development. It is also recognized as a solid basis for graduate study in city and regional planning and other fields, including law, architecture, social work, and public health.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Subject area student learning objectives

1. Understand the basic evolution and development of cities, the fields of urban studies and planning and the tools and approaches practitioners in these fields use to address urban issues;
2. Be familiar with a range of perspectives and methods used to understand and analyze the dynamics of urban life;
3. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to analyze and critically evaluate urban issues;
4. Understand the interactions between cities, metropolitan regions, and global forces;
5. Be sensitive to and knowledgeable about the importance of equity and ethics in the fields of urban studies and planning.

Research methods/Basic skills student learning objectives

1. Demonstrate competence in writing about the dynamics of cities informed by urban theory and practice; skills - critical thinking, oral presentation, GVAR;
2. Demonstrate research and analytic skills used in urban studies and planning fields, including the ability to think critically, design and execute research, collect, analyze, and interpret relevant evidence, and formulate reasoned conclusions;
3. Be familiar with basic spatial and statistical analyses of urban data

Applied professional learning objectives

1. Apply subject area knowledge and skills in a wide range of professional settings;
2. Have an ethical and proactive stance towards addressing solving urban challenges;
3. Demonstrate critical thinking, research, writing, presentation, and teamwork skills.

## Urban Studies and Planning (B.A.) – 40 units minimum

- Many of the urban studies and planning courses included below in the list of program requirements are cross-listed with other departments.
- All students are required to receive at least a grade of C in all courses in the major or minor.
- All courses in the major or minor (including electives) must be taken for a letter grade.

### Core (22 units)

Code	Title	Units
Select One:		3
USP 370/ SOC 380	Cities in a Global Society	
USP 400/ HIST 489	Dynamics of the American City	
USP 401GW	Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning - GVAR	3
Select One:		4
USP/PLSI 480	Introduction to Urban Policy and Analysis	
USP/GEOG 658	Land-Use Planning	
USP/PLSI 492	Research Methods	3
USP/PLSI 493	Data Analysis	3
USP 603	Public Service Internship	3
Select One:		3
USP 680	Senior Seminar	
USP 681	Senior Thesis	

### Electives (18 units minimum)

In addition to the courses below, students may use any of the "Select One" courses above that were not taken to fulfill core requirements.

Code	Title	Units
AFRS 345	Blacks in Urban America	3
AFRS 678	Urban Issues of Black Children and Youth	3
C J 530	Geographies of Social Control and Urban Diversity	3
GEOG 301	Bay Area Environments	3
GEOG 435	Geography of Global Transportation	4
GEOG 666	Geography of Garbage: Recycling and Waste Reduction	3
GRN 500	Aging and Society	3
HUM 340	Bay Area Culture	3
HUM 370	Biography of a City: Asian Cities	3
HUM 371	Biography of a City: Latin American Cities	3
HUM 373	Biography of a City: European Cities	3
HUM 374	Biography of a City: African and Middle Eastern Cities	3
HUM 375	Biography of a City: United States Cities	3
HUM 376	San Francisco	3
USP/SOC 200	Changing Cities	3
USP 370/ SOC 380	Cities in a Global Society	3

USP 400/ HIST 489	Dynamics of the American City	3
USP 402	Introduction to Planning History and Theory	3
USP/GEOG 432	Urban Geography	4
USP/GEOG 433	Urban Transportation	4
USP/S W 456	Urban Community Organizing and Citizen Action	3
USP 475	Selected Issues in Urban Studies	3
USP/PLSI 480	Introduction to Urban Policy and Analysis	4
USP 485/ PLSI 475	San Francisco Political Issues	4
USP/C J/SOC 511	Critical Analysis of Re-entry and Housing	3
USP/PLSI 512	Urban Politics and Community Power	4
USP/PLSI 513/ GEOG 668	Politics, Law, and the Urban Environment	4
USP 514	Sustainable Development in Cities	4
USP 515/ GEOG 667	Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment	4
USP 530	Alternative Urban Futures	3
USP/ANTH 555	Urban Anthropology	3
USP/ANTH 557	Ethnography of Urban Inequality	4
USP/PLSI 560	Urban Poverty and Policy	4
USP/LABR/PLSI 570	Urban Health Policy	3
USP/PLSI 580	Housing Policy and Planning	3
USP/GEOG 651	San Francisco Bay Area Environmental Issues	4
USP/GEOG 652	Environmental Impact Analysis	4
USP/GEOG 658	Land-Use Planning	4
USP 685	Projects in the Teaching of Urban Studies	1-4
USP 686	Field Work in Urban Studies	1-4
USP 699	Independent Study	1-4

### General Education Requirements

Requirement	Course Level	Units	Area Designation
English Composition	LD	3	1A
Critical Thinking	LD	3	1B
Oral Communication	LD	3	1C
Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning	LD	3	2
Arts	LD	3	3A
Humanities	LD	3	3B
Social and Behavioral Sciences	LD	6	4
Physical Science	LD	3	5A
Biological Science	LD	3	5B
Laboratory	LD	1	5C
Ethnic Studies	LD or UD	3	6

Science or Math/ Quantitative Reasoning	UD	3	5UD or 2UD
Arts or Humanities	UD	3	3UD
Social and Behavioral Sciences	UD	3	4UD

### SF State Studies

Courses certified as meeting the SF State Studies requirements may be upper or lower division in General Education (GE), a major or minor, or an elective.			
American Ethnic and Racial Minorities	LD or UD	3	AERM
Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action	LD or UD	3	ES
Global Perspectives	LD or UD	3	GP
Social Justice	LD or UD	3	SJ

Note: LD = Lower-Division; UD = Upper-Division.

### First-Time Student Roadmap (4 Year)

The roadmaps presented in this Bulletin are intended as suggested plans of study and do not replace meeting with an advisor. For a more personalized roadmap, please use the [Degree Planner \(https://registrar.sfsu.edu/degreeplanner/\)](https://registrar.sfsu.edu/degreeplanner/) tool found in your [Student Center](#).

[First-Time Student Roadmap \(https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/urban-studies-planning/ba-urban-studies-planning/roadmap-i-ii-eng/\)](https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/urban-studies-planning/ba-urban-studies-planning/roadmap-i-ii-eng/)

### SF State Scholars Roadmap

The San Francisco State Scholars program provides undergraduate students with an accelerated pathway to a graduate degree. Students in this program pursue a bachelor's and master's degree simultaneously. This program allows students to earn graduate credit while in their junior and/or senior year, reducing the number of semesters required for completion of a master's degree.

[Urban Studies and Planning BA + MPA SF State Scholars Roadmap \(https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/urban-studies-planning/ba-urban-studies-planning/scholars-ba-mpa-roadmap/\)](https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/urban-studies-planning/ba-urban-studies-planning/scholars-ba-mpa-roadmap/)

### Transfer Student Roadmap (2 Year)

For students with one of the pathways below:  
[Urban Studies and Planning ADT Roadmap \(https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/urban-studies-planning/ba-urban-studies-planning/adt-roadmap/\)](https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/health-social-sciences/urban-studies-planning/ba-urban-studies-planning/adt-roadmap/)

- AA-T Law, Public Policy, and Society
- AA-T Political Science
- AA-T Social Justice Studies
- AS-T Sociology

## General Advising Information for Transfer Students

1. Before transfer, complete as many lower-division requirements or electives for this major as possible.
2. The following courses are not required for admission but are required for graduation. Students are strongly encouraged to complete these units before transfer; doing so will provide more flexibility in course selection after transfer.
  - a course in U.S. History
  - a course in U.S. & California Government

For information about satisfying the requirements described in (1) and (2) above at a California Community College (CCC), please visit <http://www.assist.org> (<http://assist.org>). Check any geographically accessible CCCs; sometimes, options include more than one college. Use ASSIST to determine:

- Which courses at a CCC satisfy any lower-division major requirements for this major;
- Which courses at a CCC satisfy CSU GE, US History, and US & CA Government requirements.

Remedial courses are not transferable and do not apply to the minimum 60 semester units/90 quarter units required for admission.

Additional units for courses that are repeated do not apply to the minimum 60 units required for upper-division transfer (for example, if a course was not passed on the first attempt or was taken to earn a better grade).

Before leaving the last California Community College of attendance, obtain a summary of completion of lower-division General Education units (IGETC or CSU GE Breadth). This is often referred to as a GE certification worksheet. SF State does not require delivery of this certification to Admissions, but students should retain this document for verifying degree progress after transfer.

Credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or College-Level Examination Program courses: AP/IB/CLEP credit is not automatically transferred from the previous institution. Units are transferred only when an official score report is delivered to SF State. Credit is based on the academic year during which exams were taken. Refer to the University Bulletin in effect during the year of AP/IB/CLEP examination(s) for details regarding the award of credit for AP/IB/CLEP.

Students pursuing majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines often defer 6-9 units of lower-division General Education in Areas C and D until after transfer to focus on preparation courses for the major. This advice does not apply to students pursuing associate degree completion before transfer.

## Transferring From Institutions Other Than CCCs or CSUs

Review SF State's lower-division General Education requirements. Note that, as described below, the four basic skills courses required for admission meet GE Areas 1A/A2, 1B/A3, 1C/A1, and 2/B4 in the SF State GE pattern. Courses that fulfill the remaining areas of SF State's lower-division GE pattern are available at most two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Of the four required basic skills courses, a course in critical thinking (1B/A3) may not be widely offered outside the CCC and CSU systems. Students should attempt to identify and take an appropriate course no later than the term of application to the CSU. To review more information about the 1B/A3 requirement, please visit [bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-education/general-education/lower-division/#AAEL](http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-education/general-education/lower-division/#AAEL).

Waiting until after transfer to take a single course at SF State that meets both US and CA/local government requirements may be an appropriate option, particularly if transferring from outside of California.