TO: Dev Venugopalan  
Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

FROM: Rodney A. Swain  
Dean

DATE: February 16, 2016

RE: Recommendation of the L&S Faculty, the L&S Academic Policies and Curriculum Committee, and the Urban Studies Committee Interdisciplinary Major (CIM) Faculty to Authorize the Implementation of an Urban Studies Major

At its meeting of February 5, 2016, the L&S Faculty recommended approval of the authorization to implement an Urban Studies Major, referred by the L&S Academic Policies and Curriculum Committee and the Urban Studies CIM faculty. The Urban Studies CIM has been in existence since 2008 and has demonstrated sufficient need and success to be included as a full major choice for undergraduate students at UWM. Over 35 students have graduated with an Urban Studies CIM submajor since its inception, and the 30 plus majors who currently are in the program will be transferred into the full major upon final approval. Enclosed please find a copy of L&S Fac. Doc. No. 989, which presents the recommendation and the rationale for it. The proposal also may be viewed at the L&S website, [http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/committees/2013/fdn/fdn989.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/committees/2013/fdn/fdn989.cfm).

I endorse the Faculty’s recommendation to implement this new degree program and look forward to further action on this proposal as soon as possible. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Professor Sandra Pucci, Professor Garry Davis, Assistant Dean Mike Darnell or me.

RAS:cr
Enclosure
cc: Associate Vice Chancellor Dev Venugopalan  
Professor James Moyer, Associate Dean  
Professor Garry Davis, Chair, Department of Linguistics  
Professor Sandra Pucci, Department of Linguistics  
Program Assistant Cheryl Andres, Academic Affairs  
Assistant Dean Mike Darnell, L&S
Recommendation of the Urban Studies CIM Faculty and the L&S Academic Policies and Curriculum Committee to Authorize the Implementation of a New Urban Studies Major

Recommendation:

That the L&S Faculty recommend to the Dean approval of authorization to implement a new Urban Studies major, effective Fall 2016.

Rationale:

See section “3.1” below.

Approved: L&S Academic Policies and Curriculum Committee (December 15, 2015)
Approved: L&S Faculty (TBD)

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT A BA OF URBAN STUDIES
at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

1. ABSTRACT

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee requests authorization to implement a BA of Urban Studies, an interdisciplinary undergraduate major designed to prepare students for careers in nonprofit organizations, government, criminal justice and social service fields, and graduate study in many disciplines including the social sciences and professional fields of urban planning, social work, education, and law. The major in Urban Studies is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore scholarship on cities, suburban communities, and metropolitan regions with an interdisciplinary lens. Coursework in the major is drawn from five schools/colleges and eleven departments in the affiliated areas of Africology, Architecture, Criminal Justice, Educational Policy and Community Studies, Geography, History, Political Science, Nonprofit and Public Administration, Public Health, Sociology, and Urban Planning, in addition to Urban Studies. Although interdisciplinary, the field of urban studies encompasses a distinct body of knowledge, one that combines both theoretical and applied approaches to understanding urban processes. The major is designed to be flexible to allow the student to develop a strong foundation from the core courses and then build a set of elective courses that address particular urban issues from different disciplines, depending on student interest and career goals. The Urban Studies major fulfills a critical part of UWM’s mission to connect academic programs with the larger urban community and to engage students in working for positive change with the skills and knowledge they attain at UWM. Because this major has been offered as a formal submajor under the College of Letters and Science Committee Interdisciplinary Major program for a number of years, this proposal is being submitted through the expedited process.
2. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION

2.1 Institution: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
2.2 Title of Proposed Program: Major in Urban Studies
2.3 Degree Designation: BA in Urban Studies
2.4 Mode of Delivery: Combination of coursework, capstone seminar, and internship. All core courses are delivered face to face with some electives offered online. Internship courses are one-on-one conferences throughout semester. Future development may include online required courses.
2.5 Single Institution or Collaboration: Single institution
2.6 Projected Enrollment by Year 5: 50 students (15 new and 35 continuing; currently 25 plus students continuing)
2.7 Tuition Structure: Standard tuition
2.8 Department or Functional Equivalent: Administered by Urban Studies Programs (USP), under the direction of its Director, Associate Director, and Affiliated Faculty.
2.9 College, School, or Functional Equivalent: Degrees conferred by the College of Letters and Science
2.10 Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall 2016: Since the major has been in operation since 2008 as a submajor under the Committee Interdisciplinary Major (CIM) program, courses would continue to be offered as in previous semesters, and current CIM majors would automatically become majors in the new program, once approved.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Reason for the Program
UWM has long been recognized as a center of urban scholarship. More than 50 years ago the Ford Foundation awarded UWM a million dollar grant to develop an urban research and graduate program, a program that later became identified as one of the “four peaks of excellence” at UWM. An urban research focus represented an area of specialization that differentiated the UWM doctoral campus from UW-Madison. More recently, the Urban Affairs Association (UAA), the international professional association of urbanists, relocated to UWM in 2010. “Having the major organization of urban scholars and professionals housed on the UWM campus speaks effectively about UWM’s excellent reputation among urbanists in the United States,” said Amanda Seligman, associate professor of history and director of the UWM Urban Studies Program at the time of the move, “and it offers our students an exciting opportunity to connect with professionals, scholars, and future employers while they still are working toward their degree.” (See Appendix 1 for letter from the UAA.)

The implementation of a Baccalaureate of Arts degree with a major in Urban Studies is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore scholarship on cities, suburban communities, and metropolitan regions with an interdisciplinary lens; it arises from: 1) the recognition that there is a demonstrated interest by students to pursue an interdisciplinary major in Urban Studies through its current CIM submajor, either singly or as a double major option (50+ have graduated and 25+ are current students); 2) a growing interest and support for interdisciplinary programs in teaching and research at UWM and throughout the UW System; 3) the need for an undergraduate major wholly focused on addressing urban problems and engaging in urban and regional development and policy initiatives grounded in historical, social science, and professional approaches; 4) the potential development of accelerated BA-Master’s programs (two currently in development) that would provide the student with a strong liberal arts foundation in urban studies linked to graduate and professional programs in nonprofit administration, public administration, urban studies, urban planning, and public health.

3.2 Institutional Fit
The Urban Studies major fits well within the current and past thrust of UWM’s strategic initiatives and thinking and more generally with UWM’s mission and relationship to the surrounding city and metropolitan region.

“UWM’s classification as a Carnegie Community Engagement institution will have impact far beyond the walls of UWM. This is about mutually building success in academics and life preparedness for our students. The classification also is about creating vibrant, collaborative partnerships with economic and social impacts throughout our larger communities locally, regionally, nationally and globally.”
-Mark Mone, UWM Chancellor.
There are several tenets that emerged from UWM’s two-year strategic planning process, found in the **UW-Milwaukee Strategic Plan 2020** document (Nov 2, 2014), that are noteworthy and align well with Urban Studies Programs and the Urban Studies major. The excerpt below is taken from the introduction of that document:

[The] relationship between UWM and Milwaukee has been a defining feature in the University’s past success and in defining its future goals. The 1986 community-based report *UWM & the Future of Metropolitan Milwaukee* articulated and strongly endorsed the need for “a major, doctoral research university as a powerful and necessary resource” for the people of the region to take charge of their future. The report argued that only a commitment to excellence would inspire and support the University’s high-impact research, its mission to provide access to high quality education, and its deep engagement with Milwaukee’s metropolitan communities.

The combination of our urban location and research excellence allows us to build collaborations and partnerships that are unique in Wisconsin. Our engagement with Milwaukee attracts top faculty members and students who conduct research on social and organizational issues, environmental quality, K-12 education, and health care/public health; make direct contributions to the cultural vitality and well-being of their communities through the arts; and share their expertise by working with community and governmental organizations.

Our graduates provide the community with the talented workforce that will attract new innovative businesses and retain existing firms in the region and connect the city to global networks and perspectives. We prepare graduates for productive careers by incorporating the research and entrepreneurial activities made possible by our urban setting into academic programs. Our location positions us to provide opportunities and access to a broad spectrum of students, including historically underrepresented and first-generation students. However, the region faces major challenges that provide an opportunity for UWM to play a key role in transforming the region (p.3-4).

Further, there are additional elements of the UWM strategic plan that are of note and align with the major. For example, in defining UWM’s *role, vision, and strategic goals*, UWM’s position as an urban, public, research university is highlighted frequently, and UWM’s relationship to the larger community through “engagement” and “collaborative partnerships” is referenced repeatedly. Community engagement, one of UWM’s five strategic goals, is described as a way to “deepen our positive impact in the city and region.” As an urban, public, research university, UWM seeks to promote engagement with the larger community and to make a positive impact on the City of Milwaukee and the overall metropolitan region. By joining the Urban Studies undergraduate major with two well-established Urban Studies graduate programs that have a long-established history of community engagement and research oriented toward addressing pressing urban issues, the Urban Studies major actively contributes to UWM’s role and vision and furthers these important strategic goals of the university.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Mission Statement includes the following academic goals that this program will address: “(a) To develop and maintain high quality undergraduate, graduate and continuing education programs appropriate to a major urban doctoral university; (b) To attract highly qualified students who demonstrate the potential for intellectual development, innovation, and leadership for their communities; (c) To establish and maintain productive relationships with appropriate public and private organizations at the local, regional, state, national, and international levels; (d) To provide educational leadership in meeting future social, cultural, and technological challenges; (e) To promote public service and research efforts directed toward meeting the social, economic and cultural needs of the state of Wisconsin and its metropolitan areas.”

Specifically, it is expected that creation of this program will have the following impacts:

1. Expand the offering of interdisciplinary, urban-focused L&S degrees that align closely with the larger goals and mission of an engaged urban university;
2. Serve as a potential source of graduate students to the urban studies MS program as well as other graduate programs at UWM that closely align with urban studies;
3. Prepare students for professional work in a variety of nonprofit, community, governmental, educational, and
business settings, and graduate work in a variety of social science and professional programs;
4. Engage students to address urban problems, examine urban initiatives, and develop regional solutions for pressing issues of the 21st century in metro Milwaukee and globally.

Additionally, UWM has been engaged in a comprehensive planning process that involves a strong emphasis on cross-disciplinary cooperation. As an interdisciplinary curriculum across five schools/colleges and eleven departments, this major clearly aligns with this larger orientation.

The Urban Studies major also aligns more generally with the UW System’s mission: “to develop human resources, to discover and disseminate knowledge, to extend knowledge and its application beyond the boundaries of its campuses, and to serve and stimulate society by developing in students heightened intellectual, cultural, and humane sensitivities; scientific, professional, and technological expertise; and a sense of purpose (2012).” In addition, the major will motivate and prepare students to make meaningful changes in cities and urban and suburban communities. Further, the service learning and capstone project components of the curriculum, as well as internship and study abroad opportunities, will expose students firsthand to urban communities and urban development and policy needs and challenges.

3.3 Student Demand for the Program
The Urban Studies submajor administered as a CIM has been in existence since it was approved in 2008 and in that time has demonstrated sufficient demand to be included as a full major choice for undergraduate students at UWM. Students from a variety of interests and backgrounds gravitate to Urban Studies and see it as either an important stand-alone major or as a complement to a major in a traditional discipline. A number of students have transferred into L&S from other colleges/schools (as well as some who transferred to UWM from other universities) to pursue the Urban Studies major. The number of yearly declarations between 2008 and 2015 has averaged 13 over that period, with more than 50 students having graduated with an Urban Studies CIM submajor during its six years of operation. Currently there are more than 25 active majors who will be transferred into the full major upon final approval. Given the fact that there is somewhat less visibility with CIM majors, it is predicted that the major will continue to grow as a full major.

3.4 Need for the Program
The 21st century has been called the urban century. Demographers point to 2007 as the year that half the world’s population was urbanized, and the global urbanization rate is projected to reach more than 70% by 2050. In China alone, it is projected that 300 million rural residents will move to cities between 2010 and 2025, and cities like Delhi, India may exceed a population of 40 million inhabitants by 2025. The unprecedented rates of urbanization in developing countries have led to the rise of megacities, which often include massive slums. The UN estimates that currently 800 million people worldwide live in substandard urban settlement areas without access to water or sanitation and other common infrastructure. A rapidly urbanizing world in developing countries like China, India, Brazil, Southeast Asia, and across Africa, poses a number of serious challenges for urban planners and policy-makers, international development agencies, the commercial and nonprofit sectors of the economy, public health agencies, and education institutions, to name just a few. And rapid urbanization in which rampant poverty and limited opportunities exist raise important ramifications for global security, conflict, and war. But cities also offer numerous opportunities and advantages, and there is evidence of growing wealth creation and prosperity in many cities across the developing world from Korea to Latin American countries (United Nations, 2014; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2012).

Across the countries of Europe, Japan, and the U.S., a different set of challenges and opportunities exist. In the U.S., many large cities, particularly Midwestern and Northeastern rust-belt cities, have encountered population loss, de-industrialization and job exodus, concentrated poverty, and residential segregation. Detroit’s decline, which culminated in the United States’ largest municipal bankruptcy, points to an extreme case of a major American city on the brink of collapse. And although Detroit is an extreme example, many cities and metropolitan regions face similar pressures and challenges as those that Detroit has experienced. However, at the same time, many cities are experiencing a renaissance of sorts with major new investment, population gains or leveling off, and greater overall vibrancy in downtowns and other select areas, but this revival often masks growing inequality.
within cities and metropolitan regions with some urban areas falling further behind. And across the U.S., sprawling-out and increasingly-fragmented metropolitan areas pose a unique set of challenges and policy questions to address regional workforce needs and job growth, transit, and environmental problems.

Given that Milwaukee and the metropolitan region face substantial challenges, and also that a large number of our Urban Studies graduates (both undergraduate and graduate) continue to reside in metropolitan Milwaukee, the Urban Studies major can play an important role in meeting the urban professional work demands as well as contributing positively to addressing community problems. As the urban century ushers in a new set of challenges and opportunities, students schooled in Urban Studies, with both a global and local orientation, can be well-positioned to tackle these issues and contribute positively to urban change and development on a global scale and across Milwaukee and the metropolitan region. To that end, at the graduate level, hundreds of Master’s theses and PhD dissertations have focused on urban Milwaukee, and current Urban Studies faculty members have conducted and published research into a variety of local areas and initiatives, such as urban economic development in Milwaukee, brownfield redevelopment and the creation of the Brownfield Research Consortium, community organization and neighborhood access to GIS mapping in neighborhood planning, segregation patterns in metropolitan Milwaukee, ethnic enclaves and immigrant communities in Milwaukee, and nonprofits and community-based organizations throughout the Metropolitan region. Urban Studies distinguished professor Margo Anderson and professor Amanda Seligman were awarded a $250,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the Encyclopedia of Milwaukee project, an online and print form history of Milwaukee.

The major in Urban Studies has several features that make it unique among undergraduate majors, fulfilling a distinct niche at UWM. The Urban Studies major is designed to provide the student with multidisciplinary lenses and methods of inquiry; a subject-based focus on cities and urban change; and a mix of basic, applied, and policy-oriented content designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge-base to move into entry-level and higher positions within community organizations, governmental agencies, as well as educational, health, and social service sector positions in the Milwaukee area and beyond.

Graduates of the current CIM submajor in Urban Studies have gone on to work professionally in a variety of fields such as a Community Organizer for the Northwest Community Development Corporation in Milwaukee; Special Projects Coordinator in the City of St. Francis Planning Office; Community Outreach Manager for Layton Blvd West Neighbors in Milwaukee (see student testimonial below); Assistant Planner for the Milwaukee County Transit System; Housing Rehabilitation Specialist at the City of Milwaukee Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation to name just a few. In addition, many graduates of the Urban Studies CIM submajor have gone on to graduate studies in a variety of fields, from urban studies to urban planning to education to traditional social sciences programs, and have found positions outside the metropolitan Milwaukee area, such as one graduate who works as a Data Visualization Developer in Austin, TX (see student testimonial below).

In addition, the curriculum of the major is closely aligned with the Master of Science in Urban Studies and will serve to enhance that graduate program (one former major graduated from the MS program, one current graduate student is a graduate of the major, and one current major has just applied to the graduate program) as well as the potential for implementing accelerated BA-Master’s programs in the future.

3.5 Innovativeness of the Program
The interdisciplinary Master’s and PhD in Urban Studies at UWM were developed in the 1960s and 1970s from the premise that in order to understand and address complex urban problems, students need to be literate in a variety of urban-focused disciplines. This same logic applies to the major. Rather than a single disciplinary focus as part of student’s undergraduate experience, the Urban Studies major enables students to understand and communicate across an array of disciplines and to see how different disciplines provide unique lenses and methods of inquiry that allow the student to develop more complex understandings of the city and region. The curriculum of the Urban Studies major promotes a perspective that is holistic, historical, and global in its approach to urban development and change.

Students take required and elective courses in Urban Studies and across different departments, culminating in the
senior capstone course. This final-year course is a critical part of the major curriculum. The course is designed to ensure students have a clear understanding of urban studies as an interdisciplinary field with its distinct foci and subject areas, theoretical frameworks, and methodologies for conducting research—in short, what it means to be an urbanist. As a capstone course, the class draws on students’ past work in the major to hone their critical assessment of scholarship in the field. Students are exposed to different methodologies and methods in the field, and they develop the skills necessary to evaluate, plan, and conduct research. Students use this exposure to formulate a research project proposal, which they present during a poster session at the annual Urban Studies Student Research Forum. In addition to these curricular features, the focus of the class turns near the end of the semester to working in the field after graduation and continuing on in graduate studies.

The major in Urban Studies has been designed to ensure that students in the major are integrated with other Urban Studies programs and events, from taking part in USP’s active public programming and speaker events, participating in e.polis, the student-directed ejournal (one of the top three papers from the capstone are included in each issue), to attending alumni events that draw on our many local alumni that work in distinguished careers across the region. Each year, students from the required Urb Std 150 course attend the annual Urban Studies Programs’ Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit, a public event that includes a panel of community leaders and scholars who focus on pressing issues facing Milwaukee and the region. Previous Summits have included a wide variety of topics including “Can Urban Agriculture Save our Neighborhoods?,” “Public Education in Milwaukee at a Crossroads,” “The Future of Transit,” and “Water Security and Urban Development.” In the lead-up to this event, students read relevant articles from panelists and background on the topic so they are able to engage with panelists during the question and answer session. In addition to providing students with a connection to local issues and important civic actors as well as linkages between course content and real work problems, student participation in the Summit has the added benefit of engaging students in civic leadership and citizenship.

An important highlight of the major is the opportunity to participate in the spring Student Research Forum. The rationale behind this event is to give majors an opportunity to present their research project proposals in a poster session format, to participate in a professional, scholarly setting, and to interact with other undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members, and alumni. During each Student Research Forum, an undergraduate participating in the poster session from the capstone class is selected for a “best poster” as part of the Scott Greer Awards. In addition to a small monetary prize, the winner also receives free registration at next year’s Urban Affairs Association conference. Students have presented posters on a variety of topics and important urban themes such as A Comparison of Traditional Public Housing and Hope VI: Milwaukee, Chicago, and Seattle; Supplemental Nutrition Access Program’s (SNAP) Impact on Food Deserts in Milwaukee; Abandoned Housing - Demolition or Renovation? A Comparison of Three Cities; Racial and Class Segregation Patterns in the U.S: A Comparison of Chicago and Atlanta.

An interdisciplinary and holistic approach to the city provides an important foundation for students who later seek practical solutions in their careers. That understanding is predicated on an ability to recognize the significance of urban social institutions and how political and economic forces as well as community and political actors reshape the urban environment. In addition, service learning and internships in the major (see listings below), and study abroad opportunities, such as the newly developed exchange program between Urban Studies and University College Dublin’s School of Geography, Planning, and Environmental Policy, or the Understanding Cuban Urbanism in Havana course (see below), provide additional avenues to connect the major curriculum to real world issues, but also serve to expand students’ awareness of cultural and socioeconomic differences within urban society, as well as the patchwork of neighborhoods and communities and the networks of community organizations and agencies that exist in metropolitan areas.
Students in the Urban Studies CIM submajor have had a variety of community placements:

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<tr>
<th>Urban Studies 150</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Service Learning Placements</strong></td>
<td><strong>Completed Internships</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>30th St Industrial Corridor</td>
<td>City of Milwaukee Mayor’s Office</td>
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<td>Alice’s Garden</td>
<td>City of Elgin Planning Office</td>
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<td>Bublr Bikes</td>
<td>City of Milwaukee Dept. of Business Administration</td>
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<td>Burleigh Street Community Development Corporation</td>
<td>Center for Urban Initiatives and Research</td>
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<td>City of Milwaukee Dept. of City Development</td>
<td>Greater Milwaukee Foundation</td>
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<td>City of Milwaukee Housing Authority</td>
<td>Rep. Jonathan Brostof's Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Escuela Verde (charter school)</td>
<td>Layton Blvd. West Neighbors</td>
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<td>Growing Power</td>
<td>Le Luz De Mundo Family Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hmong American Friendship Association</td>
<td>Milwaukee County Urban Affairs Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson Park Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Milwaukee Urban Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Casa de Esperanza</td>
<td>NAI MLG Commercial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino Community Center</td>
<td>City of Milwaukee Public Health Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Layton Boulevard Neighbors West</td>
<td>Riverwest Investment Cooperative (RIC)</td>
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<td>Milwaukee Urban Gardens</td>
<td>Running Rebels</td>
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<td>Silver Spring Neighborhood Center</td>
<td>Sierra Club</td>
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<td>The Gathering</td>
<td>Sweet Water Organic</td>
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<td>Urban Ecology Center</td>
<td>Turnbridge</td>
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<td>Victory Garden Initiative</td>
<td>Wisconsin Bike Federation</td>
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The remainder of this section offers some recent student testimonials as evidence of curricular innovation and post-degree professional relevance.
Study Abroad and Understanding New Urban Contexts

Last year’s Cuba trip included one urban studies certificate student and two majors. The course, Understanding Cuban Urbanism in Havana, is taught by an Urban Studies MS and PhD Alumnus, Michael Martin, who regularly teaches in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) and the Department of Urban Planning, and whose day job is as a Senior Community Planning and Development Representative with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dr. Martin oversees $75 million dollars of Community Planning and Development funds that include the City of Milwaukee, and he has been a very active and committed alumnus, regularly participating in USP events and mentorship activities. Lloyd Brown, a current major, describes his experience during the trip to Cuba:

Having the ability to travel to Cuba while the embargo is still in place was an enlightening and eye-opening experience on a number of levels. As an urban studies major, it was interesting to see how the absence of capitalism has influenced patterns of development and sustainability in Cuba, and how Cuba as a nation has done without some of the largest trade partners and financial influences in the world. Seeing a part of the world simply suspended in time was perhaps the most shocking part of the entire trip, a past time made practical in a present world. As with most, if not all cultural experiences, the best part is being able to talk to the people who call a place home, and find out what a place is actually like. The Cuban people were more than willing to talk with us, occasionally even in English. Learning about sustainability and urban society in a non-capitalist format was truly a blessing, even more so than the Caribbean during January.

Community Development in Milwaukee
Jonatan Zuñiga, CIM Urban Studies BA ’15

The Urban Studies Program changed the way I viewed urban life. I grew up in the South Side of Milwaukee and I know what it is to live through poverty, segregation, unsafe areas and disinvestment in public services, just like many people in Milwaukee. But the multidisciplinary approach of the Urban Studies Program gave me the tools to better understand the core of these issues. It is at the core of these issues where we will find the solutions, which is the most important thing for me.

At times it was hard for me to understand why the topics of Urban Studies 250 and 377 were so broad. Every topic was so interesting that I wished we had spent more time on every single one. By the time I took Urban Studies 600 [capstone] and did my capstone on local economic development, I understood that all of the urban topics we had reviewed were connected and I knew that if I wanted to help solve urban problems then it was necessary for me to understand the historic, economic, political and social aspects of these issues.

Now as the [recently hired] Community Outreach Manager at Layton Boulevard West Neighbors I will share my knowledge with the residents of the neighborhood to solve issues, but most importantly to work on the assets of the neighborhood and to help them achieve their potential. My future plans involve enrolling in the Urban Planning Master’s program at UWM and keep working to make every neighborhood of Milwaukee a place where people can live, work and play.

Working in New Ways to Improve Urban Life
Nic Moe, CIM Urban Studies BA ’12

Since I graduated in 2012 I’ve been active with different community projects focusing on urban design, public safety, and open data. I’ve been on the City of Austin’s Pedestrian Advisory Council for about a year now, and have led a group to create a city task force to develop a policy making roads and streets safer from severe traffic crashes. Fortunately, my job as a Data Visualization Developer (I was lucky enough to make up my own title) allows me to be active with these efforts and work on data projects related to these issues.
4. DESCRIPTION
4.1 Background
The Urban Studies major provides the opportunity for students to explore scholarship on cities, suburban communities, and metropolitan regions with an interdisciplinary lens. Coursework in the major is drawn from the affiliated areas of Africology, Architecture, Criminal Justice, Educational Policy and Community Studies, Geography, History, Political Science, Nonprofit and Public Administration, Public Health, Sociology, and Urban Planning, in addition to Urban Studies. Although interdisciplinary, the field of urban studies encompasses a distinct body of knowledge, one that combines both theoretical and applied approaches to understand urban processes (Bowen, Dunn, & Kasdan, 2010). The major is designed to be flexible to allow the student to develop a strong foundation from the core courses and then build a set of elective courses that address particular urban histories and problems from different disciplines, depending on student interest and future goals. The Urban Studies major fulfills a critical part of UWM’s mission to connect academic programs with the larger urban community and to engage students to work for positive change with the skills and knowledge they attain at UWM.

The decision to formalize the CIM major came about from students within and outside the Undergraduate Certificate program who were interested in majoring in Urban Studies. Initially, the first four students majored in Urban Studies through the CIM program on an ad hoc basis, following the CIM structure. When it appeared there was sufficient interest, the curriculum committee and administration in Urban Studies Programs determined that pursuing a formal submajor under CIM made sense. In 2008, the faculty of Urban Studies Programs approved formalizing the major as a submajor under CIM, and this proposal was approved through the campus governance bodies. The creation of a formal CIM submajor allowed for greater visibility for the major and greater consistency for students to ensure their success in the major. After several years of successful administration of the submajor in Urban Studies, both the curriculum committee and faculty in May of 2014 approved the “Notice of Intent” document requesting that Urban Studies become a full major. Over the next academic year, the “Notice of Intent” was approved by the faculty of L&S and the various College and Campus committees. This approval stage was completed in the spring of 2015 and Urban Studies was given the green light to submit the larger “Implementation Plan” document from Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dev Venugopalan, in July of 2015.

4.2 General Program Structure
The Urban Studies major will be housed in Urban Studies Programs (USP), which is located in the College of Letters and Science and administered under the leadership of the USP Faculty Director, Associate Director/Undergraduate Studies Coordinator, and an advisory committee made up of affiliated faculty and staff members (see Appendix 2 for current list). USP is a unit that operates two recently-created undergraduate programs and two graduate programs dating back to the early 1960s and 1970s with more than 700 graduates, many of whom work and reside in metro Milwaukee. The Urban Studies major will involve faculty members and courses from several departments, schools, and colleges across UWM, though the majority of courses are in Letters and Science. The major will be interdisciplinary, drawing on eleven departments across five schools and colleges, and consists of 30-31 credits drawn from Urban Studies courses and courses in the eleven other departments. The major in Urban Studies currently is a formal submajor of the Committee Interdisciplinary Major (CIM) program, approved in 2008. Available courses include five required courses and over 70 elective courses, which offer the student a broad array of regularly-offered electives from which to choose each semester. In completing major requirements, no more than nine credits in any one department outside of urban studies can be taken, which ensures an interdisciplinary mix of course work.

4.3 Collaborations
Because of the integrated and interdisciplinary nature of the proposed program, the major in Urban Studies is inherently collaborative, drawing on its strengths as a well-established set of interdisciplinary graduate programs and the 32 affiliated faculty members across the UWM campus. Like students in its Master’s and PhD programs, urban studies major students take courses both in urban studies and other departments and schools. The current curriculum committee that oversees the major consist of faculty members from geography, political science, public and nonprofit administration, and history in the College of Letters and Science and from educational policy and community studies in the School of Education.
The major promotes existing, and welcomes further, collaborations with other programs and units on campus. Students in the CIM major have received awards supported by the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) that is located adjacent to USP, as well as collaborations with the Center for Economic Development, and other urban-focused programs on campus.

4.4 Comparable Programs in the University of Wisconsin System
Across the UW system, the only other urban-focused major is the UW-GB Urban and Regional Studies major. However, the program at UW-GB is significantly smaller with approximately five faculty members drawn from geography (2), sociology (1), and economics (2); is narrower in its scope; and does not have a graduate program to complement its undergraduate program. As the urban research campus within the UW system located in the state’s largest city, UWM is uniquely positioned to host an undergraduate major in Urban Studies. In addition, at UWM, there are a number of other urban-focused programs (architecture, urban planning, urban education, public and nonprofit administration, school of public health, etc.), centers (Center for Economic Development, Center for 21st Century Studies), and professional organizations (Urban Affairs Association) that provide additional intellectual support and opportunities for students.

4.5 Diversity
Students who are attracted to the Urban Studies CIM submajor are drawn from diverse backgrounds, as has been true for our graduate programs, and we expect that will continue to be true for a full major. Urban Studies Programs welcomes and encourages students from diverse backgrounds, especially those who historically have been under-represented in college.

The holistic, multidisciplinary focus of the Urban Studies major teaches students to examine urban, suburban, and regional development from multiple lenses, considering the historical, geographic, sociological, political, and economic processes that shape urban policy and that can help to address urban problems.

As the City of Milwaukee and the surrounding metro region face significant challenges in terms of residential segregation, racial inequality, crime, disinvestment, job loss, economic polarization, urban sprawl, limited regional cooperation, etc., the Urban Studies major curriculum encourages students to ask questions and critically examine these features of the urban landscape in their backyard, as well as in cities and regions on a global scale. Students can tap a variety of electives and core courses, from Africology to Urban Planning, that address many facets of city-building, community organization, and neighborhood composition. One of the core courses in the major is part of the Cultures and Communities program (Urb Std 150, Multicultural America), which very consciously makes the examination of race and ethnicity a central focus of its course content. In this required course, students participate in service learning, which places students in various community settings. These community settings and their service learning work form the basis of a project examining how community organizations are addressing urban problems, linking that to scholarship on cities and urban development.

4.6 Admission to the Program
Students will declare the major in Urban Studies with the Associate Director. The College of Letters and Science requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 and completion of at least 15 credits in order to declare a major. Students both within and outside the College of Letters and Science may choose Urban Studies as a second major.

4.7 Program Goals, Student Learning Outcomes, and Assessment
There are three general program goals of the Urban Studies major, achieved through six student learning outcomes (SLO). The Urban Studies major is designed to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to indicate familiarity with the field of Urban Studies and be able to identify important aspects of urban, suburban, and regional development within the U.S. as well as globally, with a particular emphasis on the Milwaukee metro region; provide holistic and interdisciplinary explanations for urban change and development that draw on urban history and culture, urban social structure and institutions, and urban politics and economic forces; be capable of critical analysis and problem-solving and able to identify and assess different theoretical frameworks for explaining urban change and relationships between urban actors, institutions, and the built environment, as well as provide
evidence-based solutions to pressing urban issues.

The Urban Studies major has six (6) Student Learning Outcomes.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

1. **Holistic Analysis and Interdisciplinarity:** Urban studies majors can explain and employ interdisciplinary approaches and scholarship and their holistic application to the field of urban studies.

2. **Critical Thinking and Assessment of Scholarship:** Urban studies majors can evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and assumptions of urban scholarship and apply previous research and findings to a current research problem or question.

3. **Methodology and Evaluation of Research:** Urban studies majors can identify the different qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry available for conducting urban research and evaluate their strengths and limitations for examining urban issues.

4. **Posing Critical Questions and Preparation for Research:** Urban studies majors can develop meaningful and interesting questions to address urban issues and conduct urban research.

5. **Communication and Presentation Skills:** Urban studies majors can present their knowledge and findings in clear and engaging ways.

6. **Knowledge of Urban Issues:** Urban studies majors can explain major theories and empirical findings about important urban issues, the nature of contemporary urban society, patterns of development and change, as well as evidence-based solutions and best practices to address urban issues.

Rubrics will be used to gauge how well students are meeting the learning outcomes. Evaluation tools will consist of exams and papers, oral presentations, supervisor evaluations, exit surveys, and a capstone research project proposal (see assessment plan in Appendix 3).

**4.8 Curriculum**

The full major will continue to require the current set of core courses that have been in effect as part of the CIM submajor. The five core courses are (1) Urb Std 150: Multicultural America, which includes a service learning component; (2) a choice between Urb Std 250: Exploring the Urban Environment or Urb Std 360: Perspectives on the Urban Scene (topics course); (3) Urb Std 377: Urbanism and Urbanization, a theory course; (4) a statistics course that can be taken in one of several disciplines; and (5) a senior capstone seminar, Urb Std 600. Students in the capstone present their research projects in a poster session at the annual Urban Studies Student Forum. The remaining 5 courses (15 credits) come from approved courses in Africology, Architecture, Criminal Justice, Educational Policy and Community Studies, Geography, History, Political Science, Public Health, Public and Nonprofit Administration, Sociology, Urban Planning, and Urban Studies. Students are strongly encouraged to take internships (Urb Std 489); to date, 25 of our majors have completed one internship course. Students also are encouraged to take part in our active public programming throughout the year, such as the annual State of Milwaukee Summit, Student Research Forum, Speaker Series, and our ejournal, *e.polis* (see Appendix 4 for current Undergraduate Catalog copy).

**4.9 Advising**

The Urban Studies Associate Director serves in the dual role as the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator and will continue to provide advising to undergraduates in the major. Students are encouraged to declare early and stay in close contact with their advisor as they make progress in the major. Each semester students receive an email prior to registration suggesting a meeting with the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator to review their progress in the major, complete a major audit, and consider next semester course offerings. Students also have access to...
professional advisors in the L&S Office of Student Academic Service who can assist them in integrating their major requirements with the College’s degree requirements.

4.10 Program Review Process

The Urban Studies Major Assessment Plan will guide the major review. The Assessment Plan outlines the major’s goals and associated learning outcomes and provides a plan to measure if and how well the learning outcomes are being met. Assessment results will determine if and which changes are made to the program so that the program meets and exceeds Higher Learning Commission standards.

In addition to student learning outcomes, the program will review its success in meeting the needs and expectations of students; its effectiveness at contributing intellectually to the field; and its integration of diversity across the program and throughout cohorts of students. Enrollment statistics, student grades, course evaluations, Advisory Committee critique, internship site consultations, and surveys of employers of Urban Studies major graduates will provide data to guide program evaluation and inform program adjustments. Courses, internships, and seminars as well as recruitment and advising techniques will be adjusted to further the success of the program and its students.

Core Urban Studies courses will be evaluated each semester by current major students, and courses will be adjusted according to feedback and in consultation with the Advisory Committee. Urban Studies majors, in their final year, will participate in an exit survey and/or interview, which will ask them to evaluate the program overall in regard to knowledge and skills gained (learning outcomes and additional knowledge and skills); satisfaction with courses and internships; satisfaction with faculty and staff members; recommendations for program improvement; overall preparedness for a career; and plans following graduation, including whether or not they have secured a job (and job details, if applicable). The Urban Studies Undergraduate Studies Coordinator/Associate Director will distribute and collect assessments to/from students, internship site contacts, and employers, and will compile and analyze the data, sharing results with the Advisory Committee at an annual Review meeting, at which time recommendations will be made for any changes to the program.

5. BUDGET

5.1 Current Resources

- Faculty and Academic Staff Members Committed to the Program
  - Already existing USP Director, (Acad yr = 0.5 FTE; 1/9 summer) – three year director rotation
  - Already existing USP Assoc. Director (Acad yr 0.5 FTE, 1/9 summer) – indefinite, permanent position

- Classified Support Staff Available
  - Already existing classified staff: USP Program Associate (1 FTE 12 month) – indefinite

- Available Space
  - Already existing office space for staff committed to the program in Bolton Hall (702a,b,c, 796)

- Other Resources (S&E, Capital Equipment, etc.)
Already existing S&E from Urban Studies budget
already existing student worker help
Maier Endowment Fund

5.2 Additional Resources Needed

- Faculty Positions
  NONE
- Academic Staff Positions
  NONE
- S&E
  NONE

5.3 Funding Sources for Additional and On-Going Needs

- Resources from Campus Units other than L&S – Some programming and travel can come out of Maier fund; teaching support from affiliated faculty members/departments outside of L&S
- Service fees – The program will not provide any particular services for which fees can be collected. Standard student tuition will support the program as currently is the case.
- External sources of funding – None.
- Funding requested from L&S – No additional funding is requested beyond the current level of support.
- Resources that ensure long-term viability of the program – The level of interest exhibited by students to this point suggests that there will continue to be tuition revenues that will support the program. A 3 + 2 baccalaureate/master's program is under development, and this option is expected to attract to UWM students who otherwise might not enroll.
Appendix 1

November 17, 2015

TO: College of Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

FROM: Dr. Margaret Wilder, Executive Director, Urban Affairs Association

RE: Proposal to Create an Undergraduate Major in Urban Studies

The Urban Affairs Association (UAA) is the international organization of urban researchers. Since the 1960s, UAA has been committed to the development and application of interdisciplinary research aimed at illuminating and resolving urban problems. Given the emergence of the majority of world population in urban areas, the challenges facing urban centers are of global concern. Since the earliest days of UAA’s existence, scholars at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee have been nationally recognized for urban scholarship. This history of engagement in urban research was a primary factor in the decision made in 2011 to relocate the UAA headquarters to the University. Our partnership with UWM has resulted in a higher profile for the University’s Urban Studies Program (USP). The Director of USP has become active in UAA national conferences as a convener of national discussions on urban studies academic initiatives. USP students are actively participating as presenters in the annual UAA national research conference. UAA has provided both waivers and reduced registration fees to support the involvement of UWM students. In every respect the UAA-UWM partnership has been very positive.

The proposal to create a new undergraduate major in urban studies is an important strategy in two important respects: 1) it shows a consistent commitment by UWM to engaged scholarship and public service in support of urban communities, and 2) it provides a major in an area of study that is experiencing growth in many academic institutions. A simple online search of urban studies academic programs shows that they are found at a significant majority of research and liberal arts institutions across the U.S. (e.g., Rutgers, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Portland State University). The appeal of these programs has grown as institutions recognize the connections
between urban studies and university/college initiatives in public service/public engagement. Moreover, institutions committed to increasing the matriculation of students from underrepresented population groups, have found that urban studies programs are very attractive majors, and can be used to effectively recruit under-represented students who frequently come from urban communities.

UAA is increasing its commitment to supporting the development of undergraduate urban studies programs. We are launching a new Urban Studies National Honor Society. Individual branches will be established within undergraduate urban studies programs like that being proposed at UWM. The Urban Studies Honor Society will be another student recruitment strategy. UAA will seek funding to give additional support for student awards and conference scholarships to encourage Honor Society membership.

As urban growth proceeds, employment in urbanized areas is more common. Students in many different fields of studies (e.g., business, political science, sociology, planning, law, social work, health) need to understand urban contexts. This reality provides an additional opportunity to promote urban studies as a viable minor as well as a major.

As a former tenured faculty member at Cornell, Delaware, and SUNY-Albany, I have participated in the development and management of urban studies programs. These programs are seen as ideal interdisciplinary initiatives that can strengthen connections between academic departments, support institutional efforts in public engagement in urban communities, and promote efforts to diversify student populations.

UAA strongly supports the proposal being put forth by the UWM Urban Studies Program for a new undergraduate major. We will work to support this initiative through our ongoing efforts to promote urban studies globally.

Respectfully,

Margaret Wilder

Margaret Wilder, PhD
Executive Director, UAA
Appendix 2 – Faculty and Staff

Distinguished Professors

Anderson, Margo, Ph.D., Rutgers University (History)

Professors

Ghose, Rina, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Geography)
Ihrke, Douglas, Ph.D., Northern Illinois University (Public & Nonprofit Administration)
Jordan, Jennifer, Ph.D., University of California - San Diego (Sociology)
Levine, Marc, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania (History)
McBride, Genevieve G., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison (History)
Oliker, Stacey, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley (Sociology)
Rodriguez, Joseph A., Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley (History)
Seligman, Amanda, Ph.D., Northwestern University (History)
Shultz, Aaron, Ph.D., University of Michigan (Educational Policy & Community Studies)
Velez, William, Ph.D., Yale University (Sociology)

Associate Professors

Alinder, Jasmine, Ph.D., University of Michigan (History)
Britton, Marcus, Ph.D., Northwestern University (Sociology)
Freiburger, Tina, Ph.D., Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Criminal Justice)
Holifield, Ryan, Ph.D., University of Minnesota (Geography)
Green, Donald, Ph.D., University of Minnesota (Sociology)
Hu, Lingqian (Ivy), Ph.D., University of Southern California (Architecture & Urban Planning)
McCarthy, Linda, Ph.D., University of Minnesota (Geography)
Rast, Joel, Ph.D., University of Oregon (Political Science)
Renda, Lex, Ph.D., University of Virginia (History)
Roberts, Aki, Ph.D., University of New Mexico (Sociology)
Sen, Arijit, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley (Architecture & Urban Planning)
Shah, Paru, Ph.D., Rice University (Political Science)
Smith, Robert S., Ph.D., Bowling Green State University (History)
Szarto, Kristin, Ph.D., University of Minnesota (Geography)
Winkler, Erin, Ph. D., University of California, Berkeley (Africology)

Assistant Professors

Andersson, Fredrik O., Ph.D. University of Missouri-Kansas City (Public & Nonprofit Administration)
Bonds, Anne, Ph.D., University of Washington (Geography)
Loyd, Jenna, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley (Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health)
McClure, Daniel, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst (Africology)
Robert Schneider, Ph.D. University of California-Berkeley (Architecture & Urban Planning)

Senior Lecturer

Harris, James, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Urban Studies)
Appendix 3 – Assessment Plan for Urban Studies Major

Mission/Goals

This evaluation design will assess to what extent students in the major have met several defined learning goals. This assessment employs a set of direct and indirect measures to determine whether the proposed learning goals are being met. There are three general program goals (G) of the Urban Studies major, achieved through six student learning outcomes (SLO). The Urban Studies major is designed to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to: G1) identify important aspects of urban, suburban, and regional development within the U.S. as well as globally, with a particular emphasis on the Milwaukee metro region; G2) provide holistic and interdisciplinary explanations for urban change and development that draw on urban history and culture, urban social structure and institutions, and urban politics and economic forces; G3) Critical analysis and problem-solving in which students can identify and assess different theoretical frameworks for explaining urban change, examine relationships between urban actors, institutions, and the built environment, and provide evidence-based solutions to pressing urban issues. Rubrics will be used to gauge how well students are meeting the learning outcomes. Evaluation tools will consist of an urban theory exam, several written assignments, oral presentations, supervisor evaluations, two exit surveys, and a capstone research project proposal and poster presentation.

Student Learning Outcomes

SLO 1. Holistic Analysis and Interdisciplinarity: Urban studies majors can explain and employ interdisciplinary approaches and scholarship and their holistic application to the field of urban studies.

SLO 2. Critical Thinking and Assessment of Scholarship: Urban studies majors can evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and assumptions of urban scholarship and apply previous research and findings to a current research problem or question.

SLO 3. Methodology and Evaluation of Research: Urban studies majors can identify the different qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry available for conducting urban research, and evaluate their strengths and limitations for examining urban issues.

SLO 4. Posing Critical Questions and Preparation for Research: Urban studies majors can develop meaningful and interesting questions to address urban issues and conduct urban research.

SLO 5. Communication and Presentation Skills: Urban studies majors can present their knowledge and findings in clear and engaging ways.

SLO 6. Knowledge of Urban Issues: Urban studies majors can explain major theories and empirical findings about important urban issues, the nature of contemporary urban society, patterns of development and change, as well as evidence-based solutions and best practices to address urban problems.

Goals and Associated Student Learning Outcomes

G1: Exposure to the Field and Urban Change
Identify important aspects of urban, suburban, and regional development within the U.S. as well as globally, with a particular emphasis on the Milwaukee metro region:

SLO 2. Critical Thinking and Assessment of Scholarship: Urban studies majors can evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and assumptions of urban scholarship and apply previous research and findings to a current research problem or question.

SLO 6. Knowledge of Urban Issues: Urban studies majors can explain major theories and empirical findings about important urban issues, the nature of contemporary urban society, patterns of development and change as well as evidence-based solutions and best practices to address urban problems.

G2: Holistic and Interdisciplinary Approaches
Provide holistic and interdisciplinary explanations for urban change and development that draw on urban history and culture, urban social structure and institutions, and urban politics and economic forces:

SLO 1. **Holistic Analysis and Interdisciplinarity**: Urban studies majors can explain and employ interdisciplinary approaches and scholarship and their holistic application to the field of urban studies.

SLO 3. **Methodology and Evaluation of Research**: Urban studies majors can identify the different qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry available for conducting urban research, and evaluate their strengths and limitations for examining urban issues.

SLO 6. **Knowledge of Urban Issues**: Urban studies majors can identify and summarize major theories and empirical findings about important urban issues, the nature of contemporary urban society, patterns of development and change as well as evidence-based solutions and best practices to address urban problems.

G3: **Critical Analysis and Problem-solving**: Identify and assess different theoretical frameworks for explaining urban change, examine relationships between urban actors, institutions, and the built environment, and provide evidence-based solutions to pressing urban issues.

SLO 1. **Holistic Analysis and Interdisciplinarity**: Urban studies majors can explain and employ interdisciplinary approaches and scholarship and their holistic application to the field of urban studies.

SLO 2. **Critical Thinking and Assessment of Scholarship**: Urban studies majors can evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and assumptions of urban scholarship and apply previous research and findings to a current research problem or question.

SLO 3. **Methodology and Evaluation of Research**: Urban studies majors can identify the different qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry available for conducting urban research, and evaluate their strengths and limitations for examining urban issues.

SLO 4. **Posing Critical Questions and Preparation for Research**: Urban studies majors can develop meaningful and interesting questions to address urban issues and conduct urban research.

SLO 5. **Communication and Presentation Skills**: Urban studies majors can present their knowledge and findings in clear and engaging ways.

SLO 6. **Knowledge of Urban Issues**: Urban studies majors can identify and summarize major theories and empirical findings about important urban issues, the nature of contemporary urban society, patterns of development and change as well as evidence-based solutions and best practices to address urban problems.

**Assessment Tools/Measures**

**SLO 1  Holistic Analysis and Interdisciplinarity**
- Urb Std 600: Capstone Seminar (Supplementary Evaluation)
- Urb Std 600: Capstone Seminar (Research Project Proposal)

**SLO 2  Critical Thinking and Assessment of Scholarship**
- Urb Std 600: Capstone (Research Project - Literature Review)
- Urb Std 377: Urbanism and Urbanization (Written Review of a Scholarly Article)

**SLO 3  Methodology and Evaluation of Research**
- Urb Std 600: Capstone Seminar (Research Project Proposal - Methods Section)

**SLO 4  Posing Critical Questions and Preparation for Research**
- Capstone Research (Project Proposal - Introduction Section)

**SLO 5  Communication and Presentation Skills**
• Urb Std 600: Capstone Seminar (Research Project Poster and Presentation)
• Urb Std 600: Capstone Seminar (Scholarly Article Presentation)

SLO 6  Knowledge of Urban Issues
• Urb Std 377: Urbanism and Urbanization (Urban Theory Exam)
• Urb Std Major Exit Interview
• Internship Paper and Supervisor Evaluation (For Interns)
• Urb Std 150: Multicultural America (Service Learning Project Reflection)

Results:
An annual findings report will summarize each area and provide an overall assessment of the major as well as noting areas that may need improvement. All findings are entered into the WEAVE system.
Appendix 4 – Major in Urban Studies (current copy in L&S undergraduate Catalog)

Joel Rast, Associate Professor of Political Science, Program Director
James Harris, Associate Director
Bolton Hall 702
Phone: (414) 229-4751
Fax: (414) 229-5942

The urban studies program offers both an undergraduate major through the Committee Interdisciplinary Major and an undergraduate certificate in urban studies. For information on the Urban Studies Certificate, see the L&S Certificate Programs section of this catalog.

Urban Studies Major

The urban studies major provides the opportunity for students to explore scholarship on cities, suburban communities, and metropolitan regions with an interdisciplinary lens. Coursework in the major is drawn from the affiliated areas of architecture, africology, criminal justice, geography, educational policy and community studies, history, political science, public and nonprofit administration, public health, sociology, and urban planning, in addition to urban studies. Although interdisciplinary, the field of urban studies encompasses a distinct body of knowledge, one that combines both theoretical and applied approaches to understanding urban processes. The major is designed to be flexible in order to allow the student to develop a strong foundation from the core courses and then build a set of elective courses that address particular urban histories and problems from different disciplines, depending on student interest and future goals.

Four required urban studies courses form the foundation of the major: Urb Std 150 Multicultural America, a core course in which students conduct service learning by working in an urban organization or agency; one of two urban studies survey courses; a theory course on urbanism and urbanization; and a capstone course (Urb Std 600) taken in the senior year. Students also take a statistics course, which is a standard requirement for social science majors. In addition, students complete five elective courses selected from urban studies and approved courses in the affiliated areas. Student internships (Urb Std 289 or 489) are encouraged strongly. Students also are encouraged to participate in and present at various urban studies-sponsored events, such as the annual Urban Studies Student Forum conference and the Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit, and to contribute to the *epolis* ejournal (currently, each issue includes one paper from an undergraduate).

Urban Studies prepares students for careers in non-profit organizations, government, business, education, law, and social work. Students who major in Urban Studies are equipped for graduate study in many fields, including the social sciences and the professional fields of urban planning and law.

To declare a major in Urban Studies, students make an appointment with the Urban Studies Associate Director in order to complete the “declaration of major” form.

Course of Study

The Urban Studies major requires a minimum of 30-31 credits, including at least 18 credits in the College of Letters and Science with coursework from at least two L&S departments. No more than 9 credits in a single curricular area outside of urban studies may count toward the major. Sociol 377, which is jointly offered in the Urb Std curricular area, will count as an Urb Std course for this purpose. Students must complete at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 and above) L&S courses for the major in residence at UWM. In addition, students must attain a minimum GPA of 2.500 in all UWM credits attempted for the major. The College also requires that students attain a 2.500 GPA in all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. The following are required:

**Core Course: 3 cr**
Urb Std 150  Multicultural America, which includes conducting service learning at an urban organization 3

**Survey Course: 3 cr** (one of the following):

Urb Std 250  Exploring the Urban Environment 3
Urb Std 360  Perspectives on the Urban Scene (any topic) 3

**Statistics: 3-4 cr** (one of the following):

Geog 247  Quantitative Analysis in Geography 3
Hist 595  The Quantitative Analysis of Historical Data 3
Pol Sci 390  Political Data Analysis 4
Sociol 261  Introduction to Statistical Thinking in Sociology 3

Or equivalent course approved by the program director.

**Theory: 3 cr**

Sociol/Urb Std 377  Urbanism and Urbanization 3

**Capstone: 3 cr**

Urb Std 600  Capstone Seminar in Urban Studies (satisfies L&S research requirement) 3

**Electives: 15 cr** Selected from the following courses or other appropriate courses approved by the program director. (No more than nine credits from the same department outside of urban studies may apply to the 30- or 31-credit minimum in the major.)

Urb Std  All courses
UrbPlan  All courses
Africol 125  Economics of Black Communities
Africol 300  Urban Violence
Africol 319  History of Blacks in the American City
Africol 417  Race, Injustice, and Change in America
Arch 190  Special Topic: Buildings, Landscapes, Cultures, Field School
Crm Jst 291  Current Issues in Criminal Justice
Crm Jst 295  Crime and Criminal Justice Policy
Crm Jst 370  Criminal Justice Administration
Crm Jst 372  Criminal Justice Policy and Community
Crm Jst 674  History of Criminal Justice
Ed Pol 111  Organizing for Social Action in Urban Communities
Ed Pol 113  The Milwaukee Community
Ed Pol 114  Community Problems
Ed Pol 203  Communities and Neighborhoods in America
Ed Pol 501  Concepts in Community Organizing: Conflicts and Change
Ed Pol 503  Foundations of Community-Based Organizations
Ed Pol 630  Race and Public Policy in Urban America
Geog 114  Geography of Race
Geog 140  Our Urban Environment: Introduction to Urban Geography
Geog 215  Introduction to Geographic Information Sciences
Geog 440  City Systems and Metropolitan Areas
Geog 441  Geography of Cities and Metropolitan Areas
Geog 443  Cities of the World: Comparative Urban Geography
Geog 464  Environmental Problems
Geog 520  Physical Geography of the City
Geog 540  Globalization and the City
Geog 564  Urban Environmental Change and Social Justice
Geog 625  Intermediate Geographic Information Science
Hist 192  Freshman Seminar: “Living in Ancient Rome” and “The Burbs: History of American Suburbs” subtitles
Hist 404  Topics in American History: “Big City Life Viewed Through HBO’s ‘The Wire’” and “A Tale of Two Cities: Milwaukee and Los Angeles” subtitles
Hist 436  Immigrant America Since 1880
Hist 440  History of the American Working Classes
Hist 446  African Americans Since the Civil War
Hist 450  Growth of Metropolitan Milwaukee
Hist 460  History of Poverty
Hist 463  History of the American City
PH 319  Introduction to Health Disparities
Pol Sci 213  Urban Government and Politics
Pol Sci 243  Public Administration
Pol Sci 387  Seminar in American Politics: “Municipal Finance” subtitle
Pol Sci 413  Governing Metropolitan Areas
Pol Sci 444  Politics and Bureaucracy
Pol Sci 450  Urban Political Problems
Pol Sci 452  Administrative Law
Pub Adm 243  Public Administration
Pub Adm 331  Comparative Public Administration
Pub Adm 452  Administrative Law
Pub Adm 462  Public Policy Planning
Sociol 193  Freshman Seminar: “College in the City” subtitle
Sociol 224  American Minority Groups
Sociol 235  Social Change in the Global Economy
Sociol 307  Industrial Sociology
Sociol 323  Perspectives on Latino Communities
Sociol 324  Comparative Race Relations
Sociol 325  Social Change
Sociol 330  Economy and Society
Sociol 423  Immigration and Incorporation: (all topics)
Sociol 450  Environmental Sociology
Sociol 472  Population and Society
Sociol 610  Reproduction of Minority Communities
References


