

Urban And Public Policy Studies

Office of Interdisciplinary Degree Programs

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Overview

Urban and Public Policy Studies is one of six concentration areas in the Social Sciences Interdisciplinary major. It examines urban problems, politics, and the processes of public planning and administration. After a foundation in American society, public policy, and economic structure, students choose from advanced courses dealing with specific public policy issues such as land use, transportation, racial issues, or social inequality. For more information please see the [Social Sciences Interdisciplinary Degree Programs](#).

About our Degrees

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum grade of "C" in [PSC 101](#) and [SOC 101](#).

Acceptance Information

Deadlines: Rolling
Number of accepted majors (2010-2011): 17
Total number of majors currently enrolled: 24

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

Each of the interdisciplinary degree programs offers a curriculum that allows students to combine coursework from three or more departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. There are also options to incorporate courses from other areas of the university allowing students to obtain a broad range of skills and education.

The typical class size for:

Freshman/introductory courses is: 50-200
Sophomore/intermediate courses is: 40-50
Upper level/advanced courses is: 35-40

In the IDP, what do teaching assistants (TAs) do?

Many courses in the social sciences interdisciplinary program's curricula originate in other departments, where teaching assistants may be assigned instructional or grading duties.

Suggested Introductory Courses

- [ECO 181](#) Introduction to Macroeconomics
- [ECO 182](#) Introduction to Microeconomics
- [GEO 103](#) Geography of Economic Systems
- [PD 120](#) Introduction to Urban Environments
- [PSC 101](#) Introduction to American Politics
- [SOC 101](#) Introduction to Sociology

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About our Faculty

The IDP faculty, though limited in number, not only teach courses applicable to the program's degree tracks, but are also involved in advising IDP majors, a function that is vitally important for students selecting courses from a number of different departments.

Extracurricular Activities

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

The IDP's concentrations offer an opportunity to focus studies on a particular topic whose breadth and diversity overlap several departments.

Internships

The program in Urban and Public Policy Studies includes an opportunity for practical fieldwork in an internship experience.

Career Information and Further Study

While the IDP degree tracks were not developed primarily to train students for specific careers, they are intended to provide an academic background relevant to a wide range of occupations and fields of graduate study.

Alumni in Urban & Public Policy Studies reported being employed in the following ways:

- Survey Technician with The Raynor Group P E & L S
- Proof Operator with HSBC Bank
- Compliance Officer with the U.S. Department of Labor

Alumni in Urban & Public Policy Studies reported being accepted into graduate programs in the following fields:

- Law school at University of Miami
- Urban Planning at University at Buffalo

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: BA in Social Sciences Interdisciplinary

Concentrations: Urban and Public Policy Studies

See [Social Sciences Interdisciplinary](#) for degree requirements

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate School](#)
- [Office of Interdisciplinary Degree Programs](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)