

METROPOLITAN STUDIES (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/metropolitanstudies/>)

NYSED: 08431 HEGIS: 2214.00 CIP: 45.1201

Program Description

Note: As of February 1, 2025, the major in Metropolitan Studies is not accepting new declarations from students and is slated for formal discontinuation in the near future. We encourage interested students to declare one of the new (as of fall 2025) joint majors in Urban Studies and: Anthropology; History; Social and Cultural Analysis; or Sociology. Students already declared in Metropolitan Studies may switch to one of these new majors or choose instead to complete their current program of study.

The interdisciplinary program in Metropolitan Studies, housed in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis (SCA), studies urban spaces in relation to the rural and suburban contexts that help to define them. With the New York City metropolitan area as their laboratory, students use course work, internships, and research investigations to examine how social institutions and policy initiatives address demographic concerns and matters of infrastructure. Studying with faculty and scholars active in government, community, and nonprofit agencies, students develop a critical understanding of the way cities, suburbs, and rural areas are produced, as well as key problems they experience in tension with each other.

An accelerated BA/MPA and BA/MUP arrangement exists with NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. For more information, see the section on preprofessional, accelerated, and specialized programs in this Bulletin.

Language and Linguistic Competency

The department strongly encourages its students to develop advanced skills in language and linguistics by any of the following means: taking elective courses in sociolinguistics; studying a language other than English beyond the minimum level required by the College of Arts and Science; studying languages especially germane to the department's fields of study; pursuing community-based internship fieldwork necessitating the development and use of specific language skills; or undertaking study or research away in contexts entailing the exercise of key language or linguistic capabilities.

Honors Program

Majors who have completed 48 credits of graded work in CAS and have a 3.65 GPA or higher (both overall and in the major) are encouraged to register for SCA-UA 92 Senior Honors Seminar in the fall semester of their senior year. Upon successful completion of the seminar requirement, students will be eligible to register for SCA-UA 93 Senior Honors Thesis in the spring. Information about the honors program can be found at as.nyu.edu/sca (<http://as.nyu.edu/sca/>).

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The major requires nine 4-credit courses (36 credits) completed with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count) as outlined below.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Expressive Culture		4
Major Requirements		
SCA-UA 101	Social and Cultural Analysis 101	4
URBS-UA 102	The City ²	4
Select six designated metropolitan studies electives, of which four must be taught by SCA faculty		24
SCA-UA 90	Advanced Research Seminar	4
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		44
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

² Formerly Approaches to Metropolitan Studies (SCA-UA 601).

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
URBS-UA 102	The City	4
Foreign Language I		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
SCA-UA 101	Social and Cultural Analysis 101	4
Foreign Language II		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#1 of 6) ¹		4
Foreign Language III		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#2 of 6)		4
Foreign Language IV		4
Expressive Culture		4

Other Elective Credits	4
Credits	16
5th Semester/Term	
Major Elective (#3 of 6)	4
Physical Science	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Credits	16
6th Semester/Term	
Major Elective (#4 of 6)	4
Major Elective (#5 of 6)	4
Life Science	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Credits	16
7th Semester/Term	
Major Elective (#6 of 6)	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Credits	16
8th Semester/Term	
SCA-UA 90 Advanced Research Seminar	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Other Elective Credits	4
Credits	16
Total Credits	128

¹ All chosen from designated Metropolitan Studies Electives; of the six courses, four must be taught by SCA faculty.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have developed:

1. Critical thinking tools for the analysis of social, cultural, and political formations.
2. Familiarity with theories for the study of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, space, and nation.
3. Proficiency in written and oral communication.
4. The ability to produce original research on topics relevant to the major using textual/literary, archival, ethnographic, and/or quantitative research methods.
5. Engagement and familiarity with primary texts in Metropolitan Studies.

Policies

Program Policies

Double Counting of Courses

Majors

Majors may share (double count) two courses with a second major, with permission from the other department/program.

Minors

Minors may share (double count) one course with a major or a second minor, with permission from the other department/program.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).