

# URBAN STUDIES AND SOCIOLOGY (BA)

Department Website (<https://as.nyu.edu/sca.html>)

NYSED: 43979 HEGIS: 2214.00 CIP: 45.1201

## Program Description

Urban studies is an established and interdisciplinary area of inquiry—focusing on cities and their regions, urban social life, cultures, the built and natural environment, economics, politics, and policy—that is strengthened when students are strongly grounded in a traditional academic discipline. Sociology is organized around a series of problems and broad social, political, and economic forces that profoundly affect urbanization and shape the lives of urbanites, including racial and ethnic structures, labor and social class, power and inequality, demography and population mobility, neighborhoods and families, and organizations and institutions. Social theory and sociological methods—especially quantitative analysis and social statistics; demography; and ethnography—provide valuable tools for urban inquiry (many of which were forged by sociologists' engagement with urban life and society). The joint major in Urban Studies and Sociology introduces students to different approaches to the study of cities and metropolitan areas and provides an overview of the diversity of social scientific and humanistic theories that inform much urban research.

The major takes full advantage of NYU's location and builds on the University's long-standing relationships with key urban institutions, both public and private, ranging from planning agencies to urban arts and culture institutions.

This program of study trains students in geographic information systems (GIS), a powerful mapping tool for quantitative analysis that many will find useful in their future careers. The major prepares students for careers in urban policy and planning; community organization and advocacy; civic affairs; immigration policy and social justice; housing and real estate; scholarly research in the social sciences; statistical and data analysis; and careers in teaching and academia.

Students should consult with advisers in both the Department of Sociology and the Program in Urban Studies.

## Honors Program

Students with both a cumulative and major GPA of at least 3.65 (or who have permission of the director of undergraduate studies) may apply to the Department of Sociology's honors program, which (like the non-honors track in Urban Studies and Sociology) requires twelve 4-credit courses (48 credits).

Students may apply for the honors program in the spring of their junior year. Applications are announced via email to all Sociology students and linked on the department's website.

The honors program consists of two semesters (two 4-credit courses) over the span of one year (fall and spring). Each student develops an original research project and writes a thesis based on that research. The honors sequence of SOC-UA 950 Senior Honors Research Seminar (fall) and SOC-UA 951 Senior Honors Research Seminar (spring) counts as two of the three elective courses in sociology for the joint major with

Urban Studies. Students must complete both semesters to be eligible to graduate with honors.

## 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 joint major requires twelve 4-credit courses (48 credits) completed with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count). It comprises six courses in urban studies (24 credits; students must take crosslisted courses under the URBS-UA rubric) and six in sociology (24 credits) as outlined below. All major electives must be chosen from a list of approved courses and/or in consultation with a major adviser.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Expressive Culture		4
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
<i>Urban Studies Requirements</i>		
URBS-UA 101	Social and Cultural Analysis 101	4
URBS-UA 102	The City <sup>2</sup>	4
URBS-UA 201	Geographic Information Systems <sup>3</sup>	4
URBS-UA 301	Urban Lab <sup>4</sup>	4
<i>Urban Studies Major Electives</i>		
Select two designated urban studies electives <sup>5</sup>		8
<i>Sociology Requirements</i>		
SOC-UA 1	Intro to Sociology	4
SOC-UA 111	Sociological Theory	4
SOC-UA 301	Research Methods	4
<i>Sociology Major Electives</i>		
Select three sociology electives		12
<b>Electives</b>		
Other Elective Credits		32
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>128</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Formerly Approaches to Metropolitan Studies (SCA-UA 601).

<sup>3</sup> Identical to UPADM-GP 283.

<sup>4</sup> Prerequisite: URBS-UA 102.

<sup>5</sup> One of the two electives must focus on global (i.e., non-US) content.

## Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
URBS-UA 102	The City	4
Foreign Language I		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Texts and Ideas		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>2nd Semester/Term</b>		
URBS-UA 101	Social and Cultural Analysis 101	4
Foreign Language II		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
First-Year Seminar		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>3rd Semester/Term</b>		
SOC-UA 1	Intro to Sociology	4
SOC-UA 111	Sociological Theory	4
Foreign Language III		4
Expressive Culture		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>4th Semester/Term</b>		
URBS-UA 201	Geographic Information Systems	4
Foreign Language IV		4
Physical Science		4
Degree Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>5th Semester/Term</b>		
SOC-UA 301	Research Methods	4
Urban Studies Major Elective (#1 of 2)		4
Life Science		4
Degree Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>6th Semester/Term</b>		
Sociology Major Elective (#1 of 3)		4
Urban Studies Major Elective (#2 of 2)		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>7th Semester/Term</b>		
URBS-UA 301	Urban Lab	4
Sociology Major Elective (#2 of 3)		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>8th Semester/Term</b>		
Sociology Major Elective (#3 of 3)		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Electives		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>128</b>

## Learning Outcomes

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

1. Broad knowledge of the development of cities and metropolitan areas.
2. Familiarity with the diversity of social scientific and humanistic theories that inform urban ethnographic (and other) research.

3. An understanding of the relationship of urban life to race, stratification, class and social structure, socioeconomic status, and other topics central to both sociology and the study of the city.
4. The ability to conduct research on urban topics using sociological theory and such sociological research methods as urban ethnography, demography, and statistical analysis.

## Policies

### Program Policies

#### Double Counting of Courses

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

#### Restrictions on Declaring Other Majors and Minors

Students majoring in Urban Studies and Sociology cannot declare a second major and/or a minor in Africana Studies, American Studies, Asian/Pacific/American Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Latino Studies, Metropolitan Studies (replaced by the joint Urban Studies majors as of fall 2025), Social and Cultural Analysis, Sociology, or Global Public Health and Sociology.

#### Advanced Standing Credit by Examination

Credits from Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and any other similar examinations cannot count toward the requirements of this major.

#### Transfer Students

In accordance with College of Arts and Science policy, transfer students must complete at least one-half of this major while in residence at New York University. In addition, at least half of the urban studies courses and four of the six sociology courses for this major must be completed at NYU. Transfer students may petition the Department of Sociology and/or the Program in Urban Studies (as appropriate) with syllabi and reading lists to count specific transfer courses toward the major. The total of approved transfer courses from other schools and approved and substituted courses from other NYU social science departments used for sociology requirements shall not exceed two (8 credits).

Note that all transfer students (whether internal or external) must satisfy a residency requirement of 64 credits in College of Arts and Science (-UA) coursework to earn their NYU baccalaureate degree. Although this major may allow (with advisement) some courses in other NYU schools (and at NYU portal campuses) to count as urban studies major electives, transfer students cannot count them toward the 64-credit -UA requirement.

### 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/>).