Urban Studies (URB) takes an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transnational approach to studying all those social, cultural, economic, and political issues that intersect in urban space. It explores the histories of social, economic, and political transformations within urban spaces and within the steady flow of people around the world from rural to urban environments. By examining interpersonal, collective, and structural forms of both peace and conflict that lead to the “urban condition,” urban studies engages with the historical and social dynamics that produce “urban life” through power relationships of race, gender, class, sexuality, nation, religion, and more.

Skills Developed
The URB minor will complement your other studies. Your knowledge of diverse cultural, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds will be valuable across fields, expanding your career opportunities. Choose from classes covering a wide range of topics including:
- the history of cities
- urban politics and economics
- literary representations of cities

Curriculum overview
The URB Minor consists of 18 credits (6 classes) with 9 of the upper division credits (300 or above) not double counting with your major’s requirements. Students will take URB 201: City Life: Introduction to Urban Studies. Elective courses vary by semester and include offerings like:
- ARH 322 - Art of the City
- CJS 321 - Women, Crime, and the Law
- ECO 461 - Urban Economics
- HST 346 - The Color Line in Modern America
- SOA 337 - Comparative Ethnic Relations
- CEN 334 - Traffic Engineering
- CJS 368 - The Politics of Policing
- ENL 226 - Multicultural American Literature
- PSC 315 - Public Policy in America

Top Jobs
- Urban Planners (average salary $62,707)
- Environmental Consultants (average salary $67,822)
- Community Organizers (average salary $40,594)
- Sustainability Coordinators (average salary $49,386)
- Grant Coordinators (average salary $46,936)
- Research Analysts (average salary $56,889)
- Urban Designers (average salary $59,640)
- City Managers (average salary $91,442)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the job outlook for urban and regional planners will grow by 11% through 2029. A minor in Urban Studies is an excellent complement to many majors including Political Science, Sociology, Design, and Crime & Justice Studies - and offers a way of distinguishing yourself from other candidates when entering the job market.

Graduate School Placements
- Public Policy
- Public Health
- Urban and Environmental Planning
- Social Work
- Law School
- Geograph

Internship Sites
- Local Farms
- Nonprofit organizations
- Schools, after-school and mentorship programs
- Research Assistantships
- UMassD Labor Education Center

Career Placements
- Urban Design
- City Planning
- Community Development
- Public Administration
- Housing Administration
- Education

More Info
- Honors College
- Study Abroad
- Internships in urban studies and the social sector in Boston through The College of Social Innovation
- Undergraduate research

umassd.edu/programs/urban-studies/