

Knowledge and skill sets for BSUS program

The Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary program, designed to familiarize students with the multidimensional nature of urban life and the governance of urban communities. Students will learn to identify and analyze many urban issues from the perspectives of several disciplines including sociology, history, political science, geography, and economics.

This degree will provide students with a cohesive body of knowledge and prepare them for entry level careers in such diverse areas as public administration, public security, social services, education, real estate development, city planning, policy analysis, economic development, neighborhood and community development, public health, and non-profit management. The program also prepares students for graduate studies in disciplines related to all of these professional fields.

The program provides students with the following skills sets and abilities:

- Critical thinking, analytical, and problem solving tools
- Management, leadership, and organizational development principles and practices
- A basic understanding of public administration and public policy
- Research and data analysis skills, including the ability to apply social science research methodology in framing basic research questions, identifying data sources, collecting, preparing, analyzing and interpreting data on urban issues
- Introduction to sociological, political science, economic and geographical influences on urban phenomena.
- An understanding of the processes associated with urban planning, urban governance, and urban institutions
- Apply knowledge of social science research methodology to the use of statistical and other software applications for land, resource, and urban policy analysis
- Use the tools of sociology, political science, history, economics and geography to identify and critically analyze complex urban phenomenon, such as segregation, unemployment, urban decay, urban renewal & redevelopment
- Identify and critically analyze the interconnections between issues in different urban policy domains and the implications of these issues for people who live and work in the city
- Identify and critically discuss the intended and unintended effects of policy measures designed to address urban problems, and the implications of these effects for future urban policy and planning
- Present ideas and information clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing in describing and critically evaluating contemporary urban issues, theories, and policies
- Foundational leadership and interpersonal skills for urban professionals

The program provides students with the following knowledge sets:

- The history of urbanization in the United States and how this history both affects and is affected by social, economic and political processes
- The general history of urbanization in the world
- An understanding of the political processes at work in the urban world, and how they interact with social, economic, geographic and other factors to affect urban life
- An understanding of the significance and influence of geographic factors in shaping urban life
- An understanding of the common theories used in urban studies to explain such phenomena as urbanization, suburbanization, the experience of urban life, and urban crime
- An understanding of the nature of urban planning, the theories and methodologies of planning, and the different approaches to planning
- The social structures and expressions of urban life and how they interact with economic, political, geographic, and cultural structures to influence life in the city
- A critical understanding urban issues, trends and problems, including theoretical explanations of their sources, and the policy approaches to addressing these problems.
- An understanding of sustainability as a foundational objective for urban planning and community development
- Freedom to explore more technology-based content or specialized fields such as city management, land use, public security, public health, criminal justice, traffic management, mass transit, waste management, public utilities, public financial management and budgeting, and information management, to name a few.

The program is designed to instill the following values in students:

- An appreciation of the value and rewards associated with public service
- An appreciation of the importance of citizen participation in community programs and actions which seek to enhance the quality of urban life
- An understanding of the importance of evaluating urban policies from the perspective of how they enhance contribute to enhancing the quality of urban life and promoting social justice
- A commitment to the principle of sustainability as a standard for urban planning and managing healthy and sustainable cities
- A belief in the essential need for ethical, transparent, responsible, and responsive urban governance