URBAN STUDIES (M.A.)

Requirements

Depending on the number of courses taken each semester, the degree is a 3 or 4 semester program for full-time students (for example 3 semesters plus field work in the summer). The Degree requires completion of 36 credits (12 courses) and a formal Master’s Thesis. Three core courses establish a common base of knowledge and research skills, in addition to field work and a research project. Students then complete seven elective courses across a variety of disciplines depending on their individual interests.

Course Title Credits
URST 5000 Issues in Urban Studies 3
URST 5020 Urban Political Processes 3
URST 6200 Research Skills Urban Studies 3
Select nine elective courses 1 27
URST 6080 Urban Studies Fieldwork 2 1 to 6
URST 6999 Urban Studies Research 1 to 6
MA Thesis Completion 3 1

1 Electives can be choose from any graduate-level Urban Studies course or any course with the URSG attribute, listed below.
2 Students complete the field work research for their Master’s Thesis in New York City or in another large-scale city in the United States or foreign country. It may be completed during the academic year or the summer. Before registering for field work, a student must complete the required courses listed above and be in good academic standing. The thesis advisor or the Urban Studies Director must approve and monitor all field work research. The field study must be directly related to the student’s Master’s Thesis.
3 Each thesis project is mentored by a faculty member specializing in the chosen field of study.

Urban Studies Electives offered by other departments

Courses in this group have the URSG attribute.

Course Title Credits
BISC 5511 Conservation Law and Policy 3
CEED 6010 Research Ethics and Soc Justic 3
ECON 5015 Eco Development Policy 3
HIST 6531 Bombay–Shanghai–London 4
HUAF 5031 Community Participation 0-2
PMMA 5106 Race, Gender, & Digital Media 3
POSC 5140 Themes in Urban Public Policy and Power 3
POSC 5500 Comparative Pol Analysis 3-4
POSC 6530 Political Economy of Development 3,4
PSYC 6010 Research Ethics and Social Justice 3
SOCI 5518 Issues in Urban Sociology 3
SOCI 5605 Vulnerable Pop & Migratn 0-2
SOCI 6100 Classical Social Theory 3
VART 5555 Urban Film Video Production 3

Admissions

Admission Requirements

Candidates for the M.A. in Urban Studies are expected to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 from an accredited college or university. Completed applications will include each of the following items:

• Resume/CV
• Statement of intent: up to 500 words
• Three letters of recommendation: from professors or employers, submitted directly by referees
• Writing sample: 5 - 7 pages maximum
• Official degree transcripts: confirming prior degree conferral are required for all applicants, regardless of matriculation status. These should be ordered at least one month prior to the application deadline for your program of interest. You may upload unofficial copies of your transcripts to your application while the Office of Admissions awaits receipt of your official transcripts.
• English Proficiency: International applicants whose native language is not English are required to complete and submit to GSAS prior to matriculation their official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). GSAS will also consider a student’s International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Cambridge English Proficiency Level language testing results.

The GREs are not required, unless you are interested in applying for financial aid.

For more information about admissions to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, please visit their page on the Fordham website.

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