

**University of Connecticut
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Committee on Curricula and Courses**

Proposal to Change an existing Major

Last revised: Tuesday, April 8, 2003

See "[Instructions for completing CLAS CC&C forms](#)" for general instructions and specific notes.

1. Date: 2/19/14

2. Department requesting this change: Urban and Community Studies

3. Title of Major: Urban and Community Studies

4. Nature of Change:

1) Add a course as another option for fulfilling Group 3 (Methods) requirement: With its growth into a field of study in and of itself, UCS has also developed methods unique to the types of issues studied. Last year we added a quantitative-focused URBN designated methods course. This year, we would like to expand the options available to include a qualitative-focused course, *URBN 2302. Qualitative Methods in Urban and Community Studies*. Given the capacity of our very limited faculty, we will continue to allow students to take methods courses in other disciplines (see #3 in "Requirements of the major" below), but we will encourage students to enroll in one of the two URBN methods courses whenever possible.

4) Add a course to options in Group 4 ("Supporting") category. We would like to add *URBN 3991. Internship in Urban Studies: Field Study* to the choices available for fulfilling the category requirement. Students must co-enroll in *URBN 3981: Internship in Urban Studies: Seminar* when taking the field study course, but currently they can use only the credits earned in URBN 3981 to fulfill a major requirement. The majority of UCS majors take the two internship courses for a total of three credits (1 credit URBN 3981, 2 credits URBN 3991), but can use only the one credit hour of URBN 3981 toward the major. We would like to allow students to use up to three credit hours for URBN 3981/3991 combined.

5. Existing catalog Description of the Major (as of Fall 2014):

Urban and Community Studies

The undergraduate major in Urban and Community Studies is an interdisciplinary program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a focus on educating citizens on the multiple dimensions of urban and community life and preparing students for careers in public and community service as well as graduate study in social work, public administration, law, planning, public health, or other related areas.

The major has three parts. First, students receive a broad education in the study of cities, suburbs, neighborhoods and communities through core courses in three fields drawn from Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Public Policy, Sociology, and Urban and Community Studies. Second, students acquire a solid foundation in analytical techniques such as statistical analysis, survey research, geographic information systems, qualitative methods, or archival research. Finally, students take additional electives in order to broaden their academic training or to develop a deeper specialization in selected areas.

Requirements of the major.

1. URBN 2000 and URBN 4000
2. Three of the following with no more than one per department (cross-listed courses count towards the non-URBN department): ECON 2439, 2456; GEOG/URBN 3200; GEOG 4210; HIST/URBN 3541; HIST 3554; HIST/AFAM 3564; HIST 3674/PRLS 3220; POLS 3842 or PP 3031; POLS/URBN 3632W; PP 4034; SOCI 3901/URBN 3275, SOCI 3425, 3911; URBN 3000.
3. One of the following: ECON 2327; GEOG 3500Q, 4500, POLS 2072Q; PP/URBN 2100; PP 3010; SOCI 3201; STAT 2215Q; URBN 2301Q
4. Two additional courses selected from group 2, group 3, or the following list: ECON 2328, 2431, 3431; ECON/URBN 3439; EKIN 3547; ENGL 3235W; GEOG 4200W; HIST 3102, 3520; HIST 3530/AASI 3578; HIST/AFAM/HRTS 3563; HIST/AFAM 3568; HDFS 2001, 3110, 3510, 3530, 3540; INTD 3584; POLS 2622; POLS/HRTS 3212; POLS 3617; POLS/AFAM 3642; POLS 3662/PRLS 3270; POLS 3847; PP 3001, 3020, 3033, 4033; SOCI 2301; SOCI/HRTS 3429; SOCI 3459/HDFS 3240; SOCI 3501, 3521, 3601; SOCI/AFAM/HRTS 3825; SOCI 3903/URBN 3276; SOCI 3907; URBN 3981 or INTD 3594; URBN 3993, 3995, 3998, 4000, 4499W, 4999.

In order to assure a breadth of experience, students are encouraged to take courses which include content in each of the following areas: change over time, structural and spatial dimensions, diversity, power and decision-making, and political and social processes. One unique option for students is to enroll in the 15 credit Urban Semester Program, which provides major credit for two courses INTD 3584 and 3594.

6. Proposed catalog Description of the Major: (see highlighted changes)

Urban and Community Studies

The undergraduate major in Urban and Community Studies is an interdisciplinary program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a focus on educating citizens on the multiple dimensions of urban and community life and preparing students for careers in public and community service as well as graduate study in social work, public administration, law, planning, public health, or other related areas.

The major has three parts. First, students receive a broad education in the study of cities, suburbs, neighborhoods and communities through core courses in three fields drawn from Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Public Policy, Sociology, and Urban and Community Studies. Second, students acquire a solid foundation in analytical techniques such as statistical analysis, survey research, geographic information systems, qualitative methods, or archival research. Finally, students take additional electives in order to broaden their academic training or to develop a deeper specialization in selected areas.

Requirements of the major.

1. URBN 2000 and URBN 4000
2. Three of the following with no more than one per department (cross-listed courses count towards the non-URBN department): ECON 2439, 2456; GEOG/URBN 3200; GEOG 4210; HIST/URBN 3541; HIST 3554; HIST/AFAM 3564; HIST 3674/PRLS 3220; POLS 3842 or PP 3031; POLS/URBN 3632W; PP 4034; SOCI 3901/URBN 3275, SOCI 3425, 3911; URBN 3000.
3. One of the following: ECON 2327; GEOG 3500Q, 4500, POLS 2072Q; PP/URBN 2100; PP 3010; SOCI 3201; STAT 2215Q; URBN 2301Q; **URBN 2302**
4. Two additional courses selected from group 2, group 3, or the following list: ECON 2328, 2431, 3431; ECON/URBN 3439; EKin 3547; ENGL 3235W; GEOG 4200W; HIST 3102, 3520; HIST 3530/AASI 3578; HIST/AFAM/HRTS 3563; HIST/AFAM 3568; HDFS 2001, 3110, 3510, 3530, 3540; INTD 3584; POLS 2622; POLS/HRTS 3212; POLS 3617; POLS/AFAM 3642; POLS 3662/PRLS 3270; POLS 3847; PP 3001, 3020, 3033, 4033; SOCI 2301; SOCI/HRTS 3429; SOCI 3459/HDFS 3240; SOCI 3501, 3521, 3601; SOCI/AFAM/HRTS 3825; SOCI 3903/URBN 3276; SOCI 3907; URBN 3981/**URBN 3991 (3 CREDITS COMBINED)** or INTD 3594; URBN 3993, 3995, 3998, 4000, 4499W, 4999.

In order to assure a breadth of experience, students are encouraged to take courses which include content in each of the following areas: change over time, structural and spatial dimensions, diversity, power and decision-making, and political and social processes. One unique option for students is to enroll in the 15 credit Urban Semester Program, which provides major credit for two courses INTD 3584 and 3594.

7. Effective Date (semester, year -- see Note R): NA (Note that changes will be effective immediately unless a specific date is requested.)

Justification

1. **Why is a change required?** As mentioned earlier, we desire to have two uniquely urban and community studies method courses to introduce students to the specific methods of the field. We are add the internship course to the list of supporting course electives because we believe a well-directed and thought-out internship experience can be an integral part of a student's learning experience, and we want those students who do an internship to be allowed major credit for the course.

2. **What is the impact on students?** Because the qualitative methods course has already been available as a variable topics course, the only impact there will be to having it formally in the curriculum is that students will no longer need to request a substitution when preparing their final plan of study. Adding the internship field course will allow students to count a 3-credit hour internship toward their degree. This should help a fair number of students.

3. **What is the impact on regional campuses?** The UCS program has students actively pursuing the degree on several regional campuses, with significant numbers of students on the Greater Hartford and Waterbury campuses. URBN 2302 will be offered every other year on the Greater Hartford and/or Waterbury campuses. The URBN 3981/3991 internship courses are available to all UCS majors, regardless their home campus.

4. **Dates approved by (see [Note Q](#)):**

Department Curriculum Committee: February 4, 2014

Department Faculty: February 19, 2014

5. **Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person:**

Edith J. Barrett, Director, Urban and Community Studies

860-570-9029

Edith.barrett@uconn.edu