The Urban Studies & Planning (USP) major in the School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement offers an interdisciplinary curriculum in urban planning and policy and reflects a social science education with an applied, problem-solving focus, training in research methods, and practical hands-on experience in a carefully supervised internship and a practicum (senior seminar). Core courses integrate social science, planning and policy perspectives into the study of cities, develop the research and analytic tools necessary for urban planning and policy analysis, and offer hands-on applied research experience. Elective courses are designed to apply the basic core course content to urban planning and policy areas of interest.

COMPLEMENTARY STUDIES

Students completing a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies & Planning must complete 12 units in complementary courses bearing a prefix other than USP, and not cross listed with USP. The units used to satisfy Complementary Studies may be in a minor (or a partial minor if the minor requires more than 12 units), a foreign language, or a coherent group of courses from the following departments/college: Political Science, Geography, History, Sociology, Environmental Studies, Economics and the departments in the College of Ethnic Studies. All complementary studies units must be approved by an advisor in the major.

Any courses with prefixes other than USP counted toward the major can also count toward the Complementary Studies Requirement.

FOCUS OF INTEREST

Upper division electives chosen by each student with the approval of a faculty advisor. The electives are courses focusing on particular urban planning and policy issue areas in which the theoretical and analytic approaches developed in the core courses are applied to critical contemporary issues. This allows students to develop familiarity and some expertise in a public policy area. Major urban planning and policy areas include housing and community development, land-use planning, transportation, sustainable development and social policy.
SUGGESTED FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR COURSE SEQUENCE

FALL 2021
Area A1 Oral Communication or Area A3 HSS 110 (recommended)
Area A2 Written English Requirement (ENG 114 or ENG 104)
Area D1 Social Sciences
Area C1 Arts
Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective or Minor

SPRING 2022
Area A1 Oral Communication or Area A3 HSS 110 (recommended)
Area A2 Written English Requirement (if took ENG 104 in Fall 2019) or Area E HSS 210 (preferred) (if ENG 114 completed in Fall 2019)
Area B4 Quantitative Reasoning and support class (if needed)
Area C2 Humanities
Area D2 US History

FALL 2022
Area B1 Physical Science and Area B3 Laboratory Science
Area C1 or C2 Arts or Humanities
Area D3 US/CA Government
Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Electives or Minor
Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Electives or Minor

SPRING 2023
Area B2 Life Science and B3 Laboratory Science (if science lab was not completed with B1)
Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective or Minor
Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective or Minor
Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective or Minor

Elective/complementary studies -- please consult with major advisor about appropriate courses

AP and IB exam scores as well as courses taken at community college may impact the suggested course sequencing. If you are not sure how this will affect you, please contact an SRC advisor.

To avoid taking additional units, it is recommended that you meet SF State Studies requirements (AERM, GP, ES, SJ) within your GE or major.

ADDING, DROPPING & WITHDRAWING FROM CLASSES AFTER START OF SEMESTER

Please be aware of all deadlines. You may add courses via your Gateway before the first day of instruction, provided there is space available. Once classes start, you will need a permission number from your instructor to add a course via Gateway.

Dropping courses via your Gateway without it being noted on your academic record must occur within the first three weeks of each semester. After this three-week period, you are no longer allowed to drop courses via your Gateway. At this point, you must have a serious and compelling reason to withdraw from a course and submit a petition that includes supporting documentation and an unofficial transcript. If approved, a “W” will appear on your academic record. Withdrawals that lack serious and compelling reasons and/or viable supporting documentation may be denied within the College of Health & Social Sciences. Be conscientious about withdrawing from classes, as you are only allowed a maximum of 18 units for withdrawal. Please also keep in mind that you are only allowed to repeat a course once after receiving a failing grade.

Lastly, it is ALWAYS students’ responsibility to ensure that they are in the appropriate classes — always check your schedule!

RESOURCES:
URBAN STUDIES & PLANNING PROGRAM
School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement
HSS 133 | pace@sfsu.edu | (415) 405-3483
pace.sfsu.edu/usp

CHSS STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER
HSS 254 | srccenter@sfsu.edu | (415) 405-3740
chss.sfsu.edu/src

ASSIST
assist.org