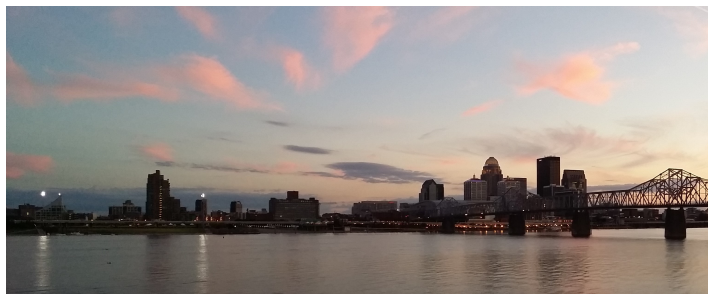


URBAN STUDIES (BS)



This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2025-Spring 2026 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/>)
Department: Urban and Public Affairs (<https://urbanlouisville.org/>)
Academic Plan Code(s): US_ _BS

Program Information

The Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies is designed to educate, train, and prepare students for future careers in municipal and metropolitan# related occupations, through the identification, interpretation, and analysis of historic and contemporary issues facing urban areas. Graduates will carry out research and service work benefitting local or regional communities.

Urban studies graduates often find careers as public administrators, policy analysts, community development specialists, or planning technicians. The program also provides students a strong foundation for future graduate training in affiliated disciplines, including urban planning, public administration, geography, or sociology.

The BS in Urban Studies is housed within the Department of Urban and Public Affairs in partnership with the Department of Geographic and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Sociology.

The Department offers Bachelor of Science degrees in four different tracks:

- **Urban Administration:** designed for students with interests in management, human resources, budgeting, and governance.
- **Urban Geography:** designed for students with interests in place dynamics, human-spatial interactions, and GIS.
- **Urban Planning:** designed for students with interests in land development and related topics, such as housing, design, and real estate.
- **Urban Sociology:** designed for students with interests in human and group interactions within an urban or metropolitan context.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31
	College/School Requirements	13

Program/Major Requirements	27
Track Requirements	15
Supporting Courses	35
Minimum Total Hours	121

¹ Some credit hours from the General Education Requirements may be satisfied by courses defined by the program, in which case additional electives will be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree. See the Degree Requirements tab for specific coursework.

Accelerated BS/MUP in Urban Studies and Urban Planning

Urban Studies majors who are considering pursuing a master's degree (MUP) in Urban Planning can speed up the process by applying some of their undergraduate credit hours toward a master's degree. Students accepted in the accelerated BS/MUP take four graduate courses (12 credit hours) as an undergraduate that apply toward both the bachelor's degree and the eventual master's degree. Applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School.

Undergraduate students interested in participating in an accelerated dual bachelor's/master's degree offered through the university's Soaring Scholar program (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) must first meet with their Academic Advisor and be accepted into the program. Once accepted, students will receive an official admission letter outlining program policies and details. They will then work with their department and academic advisor to register for classes each semester, ensuring they meet the milestones and academic progress requirements of the Soaring Scholar program. A Soaring Scholar student is considered an undergraduate student until their bachelor's degree is conferred. In their final undergraduate semester, they are expected to apply for admission to their respective master's program.

Additional questions on the accelerated BS/MUP program should be directed to the undergraduate program director or the MUP program director.

Admission Requirements to the Urban Studies BS

Students will be selected through the standard University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences admissions process.

The Change Major Request form can be found under the Academic Progress tile on ULink.

Admission to the Accelerated BS/MUP in Urban Studies and Urban Planning

Students interested in pursuing the accelerated BS/MUP degree should speak with their Academic Advisor and the undergraduate program director for Urban Studies as early as possible in their undergraduate career. Application to the Soaring Scholar program (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) may be made once the student has completed 60 undergraduate credit hours.

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹		
The following courses are required by the program and satisfy the respective General Education Requirement(s):		
URBS 201	The Making of Urban Places - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3

All degrees require the completion of the University-wide General Education Program (link provided above). Some General Education requirements may be met in the requirements for the major or supporting coursework, in which case additional electives may be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

College/School Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Arts & Sciences Requirements		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
Foreign Language ²		6-8
Electives in Humanities or Natural Sciences at 300 level or above ³		6
WR-two approved courses at the 300 level or above ⁴		
Minimum Total Hours		13-15

Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Department of Urban & Public Affairs - Required Core Courses		
URBS 201	The Making of Urban Places - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 202	Discover Louisville	3
URBS 301	Planning for Innovative and Equitable Cities and Regions	3
URBS 302	Foundations of Urban Administration	3
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
SOC 305	Urban Sociology	3
GEOG 328	Urban Geography	3
URBS 505	GIS for Planning & Policy	3
URBS 420	Community Engagement - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Minimum Total Hours		27

Code	Title	Hours
Supporting Courses		
Electives in Social Sciences at the 300 level or above ⁵		21
Additional Electives		14
Minimum Total Hours		35

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements (see Track Requirements tab)		15

Code	Title	Hours
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)		
Requirement fulfilled by completing:		
URBS 420	Community Engagement - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

- ¹ Some credit hours from the General Education Requirements may be satisfied by courses defined by the program, in which case additional electives will be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.
- ² Completion of the second semester of a single foreign language; hours will vary depending on the language taken
- ³ May be incorporated into other degree requirements
- ⁴ Fulfills WR requirement.
- ⁵ Students who satisfy General Education Requirements by courses defined by the program will require additional electives to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

Track Requirements

Track in Urban Administration

Academic Plan Code(s): US_BS_ADM

Code	Title	Hours
Select five courses from the following:		
COMM 328	Introduction to Urban Communication	
GEOG 300	Globalization and Diversity - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
PEAC 325	Peace, Justice & Conflict Transformation	
PEAC 350	Mediation & Conflict Transformation	
POLS 306	State Government	
SOC 323	Diversity and Inequality	
SOC 336	Criminology	
URBS 231	Environmental Management	
URBS 232	Behavioral Dimensions of Environmental Decision-Making	
URBS 311	Urban Policy	
URBS 431	Policy and Governance in Sustainability - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 663	Economic Development	

Track in Urban Geography

Academic Plan Code(s): US_BS_GEO

Code	Title	Hours
Select five courses from the following:		15
GEOG 200	Human Geography in a Changing World - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
GEOG 300	Globalization and Diversity - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
GEOG 324	Race and Place	
GEOG 327	Economic Geography	
GEOG 331	Population Geography	
GEOG 340	Environmental Conflict in the United States: Historical Foundations & Contemporary Problems - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SBH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
GEOG 356	Introduction to Spatial Statistics	
GEOG 360	Qualitative Methods for Undergraduates	

Track in Urban Planning

Academic Plan Code(s): US_BS_PLA

Code	Title	Hours
Select five courses from the following:		15
ARTH 394	Twentieth-Century Architecture - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
COMM 328	Introduction to Urban Communication	
GEOG 324	Race and Place	
GEOG 327	Economic Geography	
GEOG 356	Introduction to Spatial Statistics	
PEAC 350	Mediation & Conflict Transformation	
SOC 323	Diversity and Inequality	
SOC 315	Environmental Sociology	
URBS 311	Urban Policy	
URBS 312	Dogs in Society: An Interdisciplinary Examination of the Human-Canine Connection - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 432	Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems	
URBS 602	Urban Economics	

Track in Urban Sociology

Academic Plan Code(s): US_BS_SOC

Code	Title	Hours
Select five courses from the following:		15
SOC 201	Introduction to Sociology - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
SOC 315	Environmental Sociology	
SOC 320	Social Theory - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
SOC 323	Diversity and Inequality	
SOC 327	Sociology of Gender	
SOC 329	Sociology of Families	
SOC 334	Sociology of Deviant Behavior	
SOC 342	Medical Sociology	
SOC 392	Faces of Global Poverty - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
SOC 464	Race and Ethnicity - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
SOC 472	Sociology of Education - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

Accelerated BS/MUP in Urban Studies and Urban Planning

Academic Plan Code(s): URPLMUPACC

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements ¹		6
Accelerated Pathway Courses ¹		9
URBS 601	Planning Theory & History	
URBS 603	Applied Research Methods	
URBS 606	Site Planning	

¹ Soaring Scholar course credits will be used to satisfy 9 of the 15 credit hours that are typically taken as Track Requirements; 6 additional credits will be selected toward a track. Students enrolled as Soaring Scholars should take the graduate section (URBS 605) of the Urban Studies core course of URBS 505. Students pursuing the accelerated BS/MUP degree will have thus completed 12 of the 21 hours of the MUP core courses as an undergraduate.

Flight Plan

Year 1		Hours
Fall		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language		3-4
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - B		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3

General Elective	3
Hours	16
Spring	
Foreign Language	3-4
ENGL 102 Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL	1
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH	3
General Elective	3
Hours	16
Year 2	
Fall	
URBS 201 The Making of Urban Places - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences - SB	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC	3
Social Sciences Elective	3
General Elective	3
Hours	15
Spring	
URBS 202 Discover Louisville	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Historical Perspectives - SBH	3
Social Sciences Elective	3
Natural Science/Humanities Elective (300 level or above)	3
Hours	15
Year 3	
Fall	
URBS 301 Planning for Innovative and Equitable Cities and Regions	3
GEOG 328 Urban Geography	3
URBS 303 Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Social Sciences Elective	3
Natural Science/Humanities Elective (300 level or above)	3
Hours	15
Spring	
URBS 302 Foundations of Urban Administration	3
SOC 305 Urban Sociology	3
URBS 505 GIS for Planning & Policy	3
Social Sciences Elective	3
Natural Science/Humanities Elective (300 level or above)	3
Hours	15
Year 4	
Fall	
URBS: Concentration	3
URBS: Concentration	3
Social Sciences Elective	3
Elective	2
URBS 420 Community Engagement - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Hours	14
Spring	
URBS: Concentration	3
URBS: Concentration	3
URBS: Concentration	3
Social Sciences Elective	3

Social Sciences Elective	3
Hours	15
Minimum Total Hours	121

Flight Plan for Accelerated BS/MUP

The accelerated flight plan is the same as the stand-alone flight plan for the BS listed in the table above for years 1 and 2.

Year 1			
Fall		Hours	
GEN 100 Student Success Center First Year Experience or GEN 101 or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience		1	
ENGL 101 Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		3	
Foreign Language		3-4	
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - B		3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3	
General Elective		3	
Hours		16	
Spring			
Foreign Language		3-4	
ENGL 102 Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL		1	
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3	
General Elective		3	
Hours		16	
Year 2			
Fall			
URBS 201 The Making of Urban Places - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences - SB		3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3	
Social Sciences Elective		3	
General Elective		3	
Hours		15	
Spring			
URBS 202 Discover Louisville		3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Historical Perspectives - SBH		3	
Natural Science/Humanities Elective (300 level or above)		3	
Social Sciences Elective		3	
Hours		15	
Year 3			
Fall			
URBS 301 Planning for Innovative and Equitable Cities and Regions		3	
GEOG 328 Urban Geography		3	
URBS 303 Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		3	
Social Sciences Elective		3	
Natural Science/Humanities Elective (300 level or above)		3	
Hours		15	
Spring			
URBS 302 Foundations of Urban Administration		3	
SOC 305 Urban Sociology		3	
Social Sciences Elective		3	

Social Sciences Elective	3
Natural Science/Humanities Elective (300 level or above)	3
Hours	15
Year 4	
Fall	
URBS 601 Planning Theory & History	3
URBS 603 Applied Research Methods	3
URBS 606 Site Planning	3
URBS 420 Community Engagement - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Elective	2
Hours	14
Spring	
URBS 605 GIS for Planning & Policy	3
URBS Concentration Class	3
URBS Concentration Class	3
Social Sciences Elective	3
Social Sciences Elective	3
Hours	15
Minimum Total Hours	121

The Flight Plan outlined above is intended to demonstrate one possible path to completing the degree within four years. Course selection and placement within the program may vary depending on course offerings and schedule, elective preferences, and other factors (study abroad, internship availability, etc.). Please consult your advisor for additional information about building a flight plan that works for you.

Degree Audit Report

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan, and which requirements are still outstanding. Degree audits also take transfer credits and test credits into account. "What-if" reports allow you to compare the courses you have completed in your current academic plan to the courses required in another academic plan. Should you have questions about either report, please consult with your academic advisor.

Flight Planner

The Flight Planner tool is available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan to graduation. Advisors have access to review your Flight Planner and can help you adjust it to ensure you remain on track to graduate in a timely manner.

To create these reports:

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Select the appropriate report.
 - a. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
 - b. To create a What-if report, click on "What-if Advisement Report."
 - c. To run a Flight Planner report, click on "Use My Flight Planner."

Click here to run a Degree Audit report, create a What-if report, or run a Flight Planner report. (<https://ulink.louisville.edu>)