

**Urban Studies and Planning Major is for students who:**

- Want to solve transportation problems
- Want to design parks and open space
- Want to develop neighborhoods that are pedestrian centered
- Want to create more economic equality
- Want to develop affordable housing solutions
- Want to tackle environmental problems



**How to Contact Us**

**We can be reached at:**

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**Department of Urban Studies and Planning**

Explore, learn and practice in a world class city



California State University  
**Northridge**

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# The Urban Studies and Planning Major: Preparing Planners for the 21st Century

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The Urban Studies and Planning major provides students with a course of study that focuses on critical urban problems and the skills required to provide solutions. The Program combines the essential scholarship and pre-professional training required for entry into careers in urban planning, local government management and the nonprofit sector. Students are exposed to those professional values and ethics required to be an effective participant in the process of planning American cities.

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## Requirements of the Major

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The major consists of 49 units that are distributed among lower division basic courses, upper division core course, specialization electives, field work and internship.

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## Skills Provided

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The problems confronting cities are complex. Accordingly, the program emphasizes a dual approach which stresses an understanding of the context of these problems and the acquisition of applied tools used on a day-to-day basis. Among the skills emphasized are:

- Urban management
- Creative urban problem solving
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Urban design
- Working with communities in the urban environment and how to address their planning needs
- Methods and techniques applicable in urban research



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## Coursework

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The core courses are designed to expose students to the depth of urban-related subject matter and to train them in current principles and practices of urban planning. Some of the core courses are:

- Introduction to Graphic Communication Tools
- Planning the Multiethnic City
- The Planning Idea
- Growth and Sustainable Development of Cities
- Quantitative and Qualitative Urban Research Methods
- Community-Based Urban Design
- Urban Problems Seminar
- Legal Foundations of Planning

Other upper division courses include:

- The General Plan and Zoning
- Cities of the Third World
- Planning for the Natural and Built Environment
- Policy Making for Urban Planners
- Planning in the Public Sector
- Advanced Urban Design
- Urban Transportation Planning

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## Specializations

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- Urban and Regional Planning** prepares graduates for positions in transportation planning, zoning administration, economic development planning and neighborhood planning.
- Housing, Community and Economic Development** prepares for positions in housing and community development, neighborhood revitalization, and workforce development.
- Environmental Planning and Sustainability** prepares for work in environmental policy, water resources, green housing construction management, water resources, and environmental advocacy.



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## Professional Engagement

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The Department is a full member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. The Department operates with the advice of the Urban Studies and Planning Alumni Council. The Department is actively involved with professional planning organizations such as the American Planning Association, together with its California and Los Angeles Chapters, and the Southern California Planning Congress.

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## Career Opportunities

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Urban Studies and Planning is a professionally-oriented program which seeks to prepare students for entry-level positions in urban planning or admission to graduate programs in urban planning. Over the last 35 years, great success has been achieved in the placement of graduates. The list of fields providing career opportunities includes:

- Urban Design and land use planning
- Environmental planning and analysis
- Community development
- Economic development planning
- Urban revitalization and renewal
- Transportation planning
- Housing and real estate development

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## Student Centered Program

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Underscoring the successful preparation of students is the Department's dedication to providing high quality service to students. Students go through an intensive advisement process which seeks to elicit students' academic and career objectives. Throughout their academic experience, student progress is carefully monitored to ensure a timely graduation and they are mentored by faculty members.

