INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Urban Studies major educates students on the significance and implications of the global movement towards urbanization. The major trains undergraduates for a variety of future careers and fields of graduate study that are related to urban studies and planning. These include practice-oriented fields such as urban planning, law, non-profit management, and public policy, as well as research-oriented fields such as geography, sociology, and anthropology. Above all, the intent of the major is to produce urban citizens and global leaders.

“Urban studies is the perfect combination of my love for people, justice, and life. CED has taught me to be a global citizen and view the world through an interdisciplinary lens.”

– Sosseh Taimoorian, Urban Studies major

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

Students must declare the major at the time of application to the College of Environmental Design (CED). However, current UC Berkeley students may apply to change into CED. Transfer applicants must complete two years worth of lower division coursework to be considered for admission to CED. The department offers a minor in City Planning. The minor is open to undergraduate students at UC Berkeley except those in the Urban Studies Major.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Get involved with a CED student group such as the Berkeley Urban Studies Student Association.
- Complete a course thread in the Historical and Modern City or certificate in Global Urban Humanities.
- Study urban environments of Spain through Berkeley Summer Abroad.
- Connect with the CED community through Wurster Life, CED’s official alumni and student networking platform.
URBAN STUDIES
Bachelor of Arts

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

FIRST YEAR
- Explore your major
  - Stop by Wurster Hall to meet with your CED advisor.
  - Review the Urban Studies Major Handbook for degree requirements, sample study plans, and student resources.
  - Enroll in ENV DES 1: Intro to Environmental Design.
- Connect and build community
  - Register for Wurster Life, CED’s official alumni and student networking platform.
  - Meet other CED students at a CED social hour.
  - Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
  - Join a CED student group such as the Berkeley Urban Studies Student Association.
- Discover your passions
  - Subscribe to the CED advising blog for enrichment opportunities and announcements.
  - Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
  - Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar. Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
  - Brown faculty projects and research taking place in CED.
  - Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URBAP and SURF-SMART.
- Engage locally and globally
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
  - Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.
  - Help prospective and incoming students as a CED Admissions Ambassador.
  - Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
  - Check out events from SPUR and other local organizations.
- Reflect and plan your future
  - Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
  - Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
  - Explore career resources on the CED and City & Regional Planning websites.
  - Attend the CED Career Fair to learn about possible careers.

SECOND YEAR
- Complete your lower division major requirements.
  - Take ENV DES 4A: Design and Activism, 4B: Global Cities, or 4C: Future Ecologies. You must complete two of these courses by the end of your second year.
  - Consider a course thread in the Historical and Modern City or certificate in Global Urban Humanities.
- Connect and build community
  - Represent CED on the Student Advisory Council on Undergraduate Education or another campus advisory committee.
  - Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
  - If you haven’t done so yet, register for Wurster Life.
- Discover your passions
  - Attend seminars and workshops hosted by the Institute of Urban and Regional Development.
  - Check out CED research opportunities.
  - Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.
  - Apply for CED prizes and awards to fund your studies and projects.
- Engage locally and globally
  - Work with a community organization in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
  - Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.
  - Get inspired by what others have done in the CED online gallery.
  - Study urban environments of Spain through Berkeley Summer Abroad (ENV DES 120).
- Reflect and plan your future
  - Conduct informational interviews. Use Wurster Life to network with CED alumni.
  - Learn about and professional school.
  - Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

THIRD YEAR
- Continue following the graduation plan in your major handbook.
  - Check your degree progress in your Academic Progress Report (APR) in CalCentral.
  - Complement your major with a summer minor or CED minor such as History of the Built Environment.
  - Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Complete any “bucket list” courses and finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
  - Enroll in a required upper division capstone experience course, such as a thesis, studio experience, or field experience.
- Connect and build community
  - Join a professional association such as the American Planning Association (APA).
  - Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.
  - Utilize Wurster Life to stay connected with classmates and instructors, especially as you prepare for graduation.
- Discover your passions
  - Attend the CED Career Fair.
  - Apply for CED prizes and awards.
  - Enroll in a required upper division capstone experience course.
- Engage locally and globally
  - Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
  - Utilize job search tools from the Career Center.
  - Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.
  - Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.

FOURTH YEAR
- Attend the CED Career Fair.
- Explore career options with advisors and professors.
- Update your resume, portfolio, and LinkedIn profile.
- Attend career and graduate school fairs.
- Attend the CED Student Advisory Council on Undergraduate Education or another campus advisory committee.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- If you haven’t done so yet, register for Wurster Life.
- Attend the CED Career Fair.
- Explore career options with advisors and professors.
- Update your resume, portfolio, and LinkedIn profile.
- Attend career and graduate school fairs.
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WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Jobs and Employers
- Advisory Associate, KPMG
- Analyst, BAE Urban Economics
- Asst. Management Analyst, City of San Diego
- Asst. Project Manager, Habitat for Humanity
- Asst. transit planner, City of Union City
- Designer, IDEO
- Designer/Drafter, CA Landscape & Design
- Electric Bike Mechanic, Electric Bikes LA
- Investment Analyst, Prudential
- Junior Designer, BDE Architects
- Park Planner, Central Park Conservancy
- Research Asst., CapitolEdge
- Senior Urban Planning Consultant, Hatch
- Sourcing Coordinator, Clif Bar & Company
- Transit Data Specialist, Swiftly
- Transportation Planner, City of Oakland

Graduate Programs
- Energy & Resources, PhD
- City and Regional Planning, Master’s, PhD

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

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