

master of arts in urban community studies

Master of Arts in Urban Community Studies

The Urban Community Studies graduate program places intense emphasis on preparing students for scholar/activist work that addresses the interests and issues of urban residents, particularly communities of color. The graduate program is centered on the in-depth examination of social, cultural economic and institutional structures that impact urban communities. Using ethnographic data collection and other action-based research methodologies as a core focus, courses in Urban Community Studies aim to forge culturally relevant understandings of human relationships in urban communities in the Chicago metropolitan area and worldwide. The graduate program seeks to prepare students to acquire employment in administrative, executive and teaching positions in urban educational, human and social service agencies.

Specific Goals of the Master of Arts Degree in URBAN COMMUNITY STUDIES

1. Students will identify, deconstruct and decode the existing socio-economic forces that influence urban structures.
2. Students will acquire a rigorous grounding in theory and research required to analyze and understand urban dilemmas
3. Students will identify and analyze culturally relevant models of behavior to navigate dilemmas faced in urban communities
4. Students will examine social movements and the role of scholar-activists in the solutions to address contemporary problems and issues in urban communities

NOTE: This program does not lead to teacher licensure.

Master of Arts in Urban Community Studies (31 cr.)

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
UCS-411	Theoretical Foundations In Urban Community Studies	3
UCS-412	Methods In Urban Community Research	3
UCS-415	Urban Ethnography	3
UCS-443	Research Writing	3
UCS-452	Field Internship	1
UCS-453	Seminar	3
ELECTIVE COURSES		
5 courses from list below (or other NEIU grad program 400 level courses with approval from UCS advisor)		15
(or Thesis Option - 3 courses from list and thesis hours)		
UCS-416	The African-American Experience In Urban Communities	
UCS-420	Migration And Diaspora In Urban Communities	
UCS-421	Faith Institutions As Political Instruments	
UCS-426	History And Philosophy Of Urban Education	
UCS-431	Systemic Challenges In Public Education	
UCS-432	Curriculum And Pedagogy In Urban Schools	
UCS-433	Popular Culture	
UCS-441	Urban Culture	
UCS-445	Critical Analysis Of Hip Hop Culture	
UCS-446	Urban Health And Wellness	
UCS-447	Urban Youth Culture And Development	
Total Hours		31

Elective Option 1:

Students who choose the Thesis will take 6 thesis hours and 3 elective courses (9 credit hours)

Elective Option 2:

Students who choose the Comprehensive Exam will take 5 elective courses, (15 credit hours) plus Comprehensive Exam

This sample curricular map is provided to guide you in the planning of your progression for this major. This guide should not replace regular consultations with your program advisor. For specific recommendations of courses not identified, please consult your program advisor.

First Year

	Hours
Term 1	
UCS-411	3
	Theoretical Foundations In Urban Community Studies
UCS-412	3
	Methods In Urban Community Research
Term Hours	
	6
Term 2	
UCS-415	3
	Urban Ethnography
UCS-443	3
	Research Writing
One UCS 400-level elective course	3
Term Hours	
	9
Term 3	
UCS-452	1
	Field Internship
UCS-453	3
	Seminar
One UCS 400-level elective course	3
Term Hours	
	7
Second Year	
Term 1	
3 UCS 400-level elective courses or Thesis option	9
Term Hours	
	9
Total Hours:	
	31