

# urban studies



## WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN URBAN STUDIES?

Gaining an in-depth understanding of the important concepts involved in urban studies prepares you for work in a variety of engaging areas, including city planning, urban development and public administration. It also provides you with a strong basis for continuing your studies in graduate or professional school.

Urban Studies at the College of Charleston is a multi-disciplinary major in which students are encouraged to develop their own unique course plan. You can choose to follow one of two tracks: Urban Planning and Administration or Urban Policy and Social Problems. Studies in either area will provide you with the academic foundation needed to understand and be sensitive to the problems and potential of the city and its environment. You'll become acquainted with approaches to the study of urbanization through courses offered by several departments including, but not limited, to political science, economics, sociology, history and finance.

### A degree in urban studies is excellent preparation for careers in such fields as:

Urban design                      Public administration  
City and regional planning      Economic development  
Neighborhood revitalization    Nonprofit organization  
Housing and community development

Some of our graduates have chosen to work for nonprofit organizations while others are employed in the for-profit sector by developers, planners and architects. Others have carved out careers within local, state and federal government.

### Graduate schools selected by our majors include:

Clemson University                      Georgia State University  
University of North Carolina          Michigan State University  
Virginia Commonwealth University

"I came to the College of Charleston for the urban studies program. I was impressed with its multidisciplinary approach and the fact that it exists in one of America's greatest cities. Not only did the classroom experiences prepare me for my career, but the everyday laboratory of downtown Charleston and the local issues of creating outstanding urban design, economic development, redevelopment and preservation were also crucial in my education."

Christopher Morgan '89  
Director, Planning and Neighborhoods Division  
City of Charleston

## Active Learning Opportunities

Internships are a requirement of the major. They enable students to work with an agency or department of their choice within city or county government (i.e. planning, neighborhood development or economic development) or with a nonprofit organization (i.e., Lowcountry Housing Trust, Crisis Ministries Homeless Shelter) and apply concepts learned in the major to real-world situations.

Research opportunities abound. Urban studies majors engage in both classroom-based projects and special one-on-one endeavors supervised by faculty members. Recent examples include:

- Gentrification and housing
- Urban environmental issues
- Economic development challenges

## Learning Resources

- Most classes are taught in “smart classrooms” with permanently installed computer and video equipment as well as connections to the Internet and closed-circuit TV.
- The Joseph P. Riley Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Studies is an interdisciplinary institute for programs of academic study as well as research and community service. The Institute provides access to faculty and staff who possess a broad range of practical and academic experience.
- The Media Resources Center houses dozens of documentaries on urban studies topics.

“The urban studies major is a broad and all-inclusive program of study. The program requires an internship that offers great learning experiences and career preparation. I served my internship at the Charleston County Planning Department, which allowed me to confirm my career goals and helped prepare me for the job that planners do.”

David Williamson '08



## Other Special Opportunities

Urban Studies Club. Open to majors and non-majors alike, the club organizes film showings and lecture/discussion sessions as a means of enhancing the educational experience.

Urban Affairs Association. The college is a member of the national association for urban studies professionals. The Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library archives this organization's periodical—the *Journal of Urban Affairs*—along with numerous other urban studies-related journals.

“This major is more than just an area of study. It opens your eyes to the real-world problems that society encounters every day, and the interdisciplinary approach teaches you more than the course material – it teaches you how to learn on your own and apply that skill toward solving societal problems.”

Misty Black O'Neal '06

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