

Urban/Regional Studies

The core faculty in Urban and Regional Studies reviewed program objectives and adopted 6 objectives relating to interdisciplinary knowledge acquisition (“Integrative Knowledge”), 6 objectives relevant to disciplinary content (“Thematic Knowledge”), and 3 core competencies (“Foundational Skills”).

Each URS course in the program was then evaluated by the degree to which they focused on the individual goals. Using a scale of 1, 2 or 3 reflecting low, moderate and high faculty indicated the level of attention devoted to achieving that particular objective.

In addition, the three tracks were also evaluated in terms of the degree to which they attended to the particular program objectives. The tracks are: Policy and Social Problems (Track I); Community Development, Culture and History (Track II); Environment, Design and Space (Track III).

Finally, the Academic Service Learning (ASL) courses were also evaluated upon those goals that were common to them all.

**Urban and Regional Studies
Program Goals and Objectives**

1 = low

2 = moderate

3 = high

NA = not applicable Blank = does not apply to all ASL classes

<u>Integrative Knowledge</u>	URS300	URS450	ASL	Track I	Track II	Track III
Describe the distinctive social, cultural, and spatial features of cities and illustrate their impacts on the urban experience. Explain how the concept or meaning of a city varies in different historical and comparative contexts.	3	2		3	3	2
Explain the major processes of urbanization and features of urban life associated with contemporary Detroit.	3	1		2	2	1
Articulate the basic research questions and agendas associated with a particular discipline contributing to our understanding of urban issues.	3	1		3	3	3
Apply concepts or methods from more than one social science or adjacent discipline to analyze an urban issue or problem.	3	2		1	1	1
Articulate a well-defined research question, conduct independent research using primary sources and a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches, and write a substantive research paper.	3	3		2	2	2
Explain the processes and goals of community-based participation in the development of programs and policies that contribute to the social, economic, political, and environmental improvement of their communities and cities.	2	3	3	NA	NA	NA

<u>Thematic Knowledge</u>	URS300	URS450	ASL	Track I	Track II	Track III
Apply their understanding of urban issues to the development and critical analysis of programs and policies appropriate to addressing contemporary social and economic problems.	2	3		3	2	2
Demonstrate an understanding of the history and variety of urban forms and governance structures.	3	1		3	3	2
Identify and utilize appropriate primary data, including census materials, for the analysis of urban issues.	2	3		3	2	2
Apply basic skills of empirical reasoning to an urban program or problem.	1	3		3	1	2
Explain the impact of the natural environment and the built environment on patterns of urban growth, development and forms of social interaction.	3	1		2	2	3
Articulate an analysis of the implications of urbanization and urban policy in the context of social justice and sustainable environmental practices.	2	2		3	3	3
<u>Foundational Skills</u>						
Communicate ideas effectively in written or oral form.	3	3		3	3	3
Explain and interpret information contained in maps.	2	NA		3	2	3
Collaborate on research projects and presentations.	1	3	3	2	2	2