

The Undergraduate Program in Urban and Public Affairs

The University of Illinois at Chicago College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) offers a pre-professional undergraduate program of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts, with a major in Urban and Public Affairs (UPA). Using the Chicago metropolitan region as a home for investigation, students experience and analyze urban issues using different academic theories and practical skills. After completing their general education requirements, students begin interdisciplinary coursework in UPA offered jointly by CUPPA's two academic departments: Urban Planning and Policy (UPP) and Public Administration (PA).

Who Should Major in UPA?

Students with a particular interest or background in areas such as sociology, economics, geography, government, law, architecture, public health, civics, urban studies, sustainability or urban environments – to name only a few – might find the program to be especially appealing. Students with professional or volunteer experience in a community, political, or environmental setting will find that the UPA program provides a strong educational background to build upon these experiences. Potential students might also have a background of involvement in other activities such as student or community organizations, student government, debate, community volunteering, international relief organizations or political parties. Anyone with an interest in any one of the numerous topics that affect the urban environment or students who are “undecided” but are looking for a major that offers a multidisciplinary curriculum, professional experience, and the opportunity to work toward improving the conditions of their community, city or general surroundings of everyday life should consider the UPA program.

What will UPA do for Students?

The UPA program provides students with the training needed for entry-level employment in government, non-profit, and community service oriented organizations. It also prepares them for graduate studies in fields such as public administration, urban planning, law, business, sociology, political science, peace studies and many others. Students are given opportunities to participate in research projects in one of the college's seven research centers, engage in service learning activities and take part in a wide selection of internship and study abroad experiences.

Course Work

UPA students gain knowledge and understanding of the complexity and diversity of the urban environment, policy development and management processes within in the public service sector that affect urban living. The UPA program's emphasis on experiential learning in university and city settings enables students to learn in contexts linked to their job and career interests. For instance, students are able to do research and internships in the particular policy, planning, or management area they are most

interested in and learn about the many economic, social, physical, cultural, and political impacts associated with the urban experience.

In UPA coursework students learn how a city and its people are affected by what happens nationally and globally and how professionals address pressing urban problems like traffic congestion, sprawl, affordable housing, sustainable living, and urban education. The UPA program provides the intellectual and practical experiences within urban settings to help students shape and meet their career goals through their studies in urban policy development and analysis, public management, urban planning and engaged learning experiences.

Course Selections Include but are not limited to:

- ❖ Urban Policy Processes and Analysis
- ❖ Political Economy of Urban Development
- ❖ Urban Government
- ❖ Public Budgeting and Financial Management
- ❖ Public Administration Theory
- ❖ Visualizing the City: Methods and Tools
- ❖ Globalization and Urbanization
- ❖ Introduction to Urban Planning
- ❖ Cinema in the City
- ❖ Geospatial Analysis and Visualization
- ❖ Urban Food Systems

Recent UPA internship placements:

Federal Government

- ❖ Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
- ❖ Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health

City of Chicago

- ❖ Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- ❖ Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
- ❖ Alderpersons' Office
- ❖ Department of Buildings

Local Government

- ❖ East-Gateway Council of Governments, St. Louis, MO
- ❖ Village of LaGrange Park
- ❖ Village of Oak Park
- ❖ City of Blue Island Community Development Department

Non-Profits/ Community Development/ Policy/ Urban Planning

- ❖ Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
- ❖ Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA)
- ❖ Delta-Institute
- ❖ The Resurrection Project
- ❖ Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)
- ❖ Voices of Cabrini

Campaigns

- ❖ The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform
- ❖ Congressional Campaign
- ❖ Student Public Interest Group, National Campaign Against
- ❖ Hunger and Homelessness

CUPPA Research Centers

- ❖ Urban Transportation Center
- ❖ Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

How to Apply

Application materials are available online at:

www.uic.edu/depts/oar/applyonline .

Admission into the Urban and Public Affairs program is selective and competitive.

For more information on admission requirements and application procedures, see www.uic.edu/cuppa/upa.

Questions??? We'd love to hear from you! Please contact:

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About CUPPA

The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) at UIC is an internationally recognized leader in education, research, and engagement in support of the world's cities and metropolitan areas. CUPPA provides innovative urban planning and public management education that puts engaged research to purposeful use at home and abroad.

We strive for academic excellence and to provide inspirational learning experiences for our students. In the process of teaching, research and making contributions beyond the university CUPPA is committed to respecting the unique individual contributions of faculty to scholarship, students to learning, and staff to service.

We welcome cultural diversity in the composition of our faculty, staff, and students. We collaborate across disciplines, programs, and other institutional divides to generate more successful inquiry and learning. We are committed to innovation that anticipates future needs and crafts sustainable solutions in the pursuit of learning.