

Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Urban Studies

Learn more about the Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Urban Studies.

The Geography and Urban Studies major introduces students to urban processes, spatial relations, geospatial technologies including GIS, and qualitative and quantitative social science research methods. In required courses and electives, students examine urban issues; the role of political institutions; policy-making; and human interactions with the environment. The Geography and Urban Studies gateway courses are designed to develop the theoretical and methodological frameworks and tools necessary to understand the relationships among people, places, and the environment as they interact through local and global connections. The electives give students the opportunity to develop an area of emphasis around their particular interests. Students focus on an individualized research project in their Senior Research Seminar. Each student's program is developed with a departmental advisor to suit individual interests and is designed to maximize educational and career opportunities. We encourage Geography and Urban Studies students to incorporate a semester abroad and/or an internship into their plan of study.

The objective of the Bachelor of Arts program in Geography and Urban Studies is to provide students with an understanding of:

- How space, place, and scale shape the interaction between environment and society;
- Critical thinking skills developed through examining a range of analytical approaches to investigate geographic, urban, and environmental processes;
- Contemporary explanatory frameworks in Geography and Urban Studies such as political ecology, feminist and poststructuralist theory, and development theory;
- The application of information technology skills to analyze spatial and temporal information, processes, and patterns through integrative research experiences;
- Practical considerations of community and environmental organizational settings at the local and regional scales.

Summary of Degree Requirements

University Requirements:

- MATH 0701 (4 s.h.) and/or ENG 0701 (4 s.h.), if required by placement testing.
- All Temple students must take a minimum of two writing-intensive courses as part of the major. The specific courses required for this major are GUS 2197 and GUS 4198.
- Students must complete requirements of the General Education (GenEd) Program. See the General Education section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for more details.

College of Liberal Arts Requirements:

- Completion of a minimum of 123 credits, including:
 - 90 credits in CLA/CST courses;
 - 45 credits of which must be at the upper level (numbered 2000-4999).
 - For **Social Science majors**, 6 upper level credits (numbered 2000-4999) must be taken in Humanities Subject Areas: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek (Ancient), Greek and Roman Classics, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Philosophy, Religion, Russian, and Spanish in the College of Liberal Arts, Art History in the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, or any department in the College of Science and Technology.
- A minimum GPA of 2.0, cumulatively, in CLA/CST coursework, and in the major.
- Only courses in which a student receives a grade of at least C- can satisfy GenEd, major, minor, or CLA Foreign Language and Global Studies requirements.
- **Professional Development Requirement**
 - All students in the College of Liberal Arts are required to take a 1 credit seminar in professional development. CLA 1002 Professional Development for Liberal Arts Majors is the appropriate course option for this major. Other courses that fulfill this requirement may be found on the CLA College Requirements page. Only one course in this category may count towards graduation.
- **Foreign Language/Global Studies Requirements:**
 - All students must complete or test out of the first and second levels of a foreign language - these courses are numbered 1001 and 1002;
 - All students must complete at least one course from the GenEd Global/World Society category; and
 - All Bachelor of Arts students must complete one of the following options:
 - Third semester of a foreign language;
 - Demonstrated proficiency beyond the third semester in a foreign language (placement exam or certification from the language department);
 - Take one Global Studies course from the list on the CLA College Requirements page;

- Study Abroad at an approved program; or
- Take a second General Education Global/World Society course.
- **Notes on Foreign Language Study**
 - The third level of language is numbered 1003 in French, German, Spanish, and Portuguese and numbered 2001 in all other foreign language subjects.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take the third level of a foreign language as it is the minimum required for election to the prestigious honor society *Phi Beta Kappa*. (Taking the course does not guarantee admission but not taking it guarantees exclusion.)
 - See the College of Liberal Arts Policies section of this *Bulletin* for more information on the Foreign Language Placement, Regression in Coursework, and guidelines for students' other experiences with language.

General Electives are typically one-third of a student's program of study and can be focused on a second major, a minor, or towards some other personal enrichment or professional goals. See an academic advisor for assistance in developing an academic plan for these courses.

Major Requirements (39 credits):

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Gateway Courses		
GUS 2001	Cities	3
GUS 2002	Space and Place	3
Research Methods courses		
GUS 2197	Research Design in Geography and Urban Studies	3
GUS 3062	Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems	3
GUS 3161	Spatial Statistics	3
Research Methods elective		
Select one of the following:		3
GUS 3001	Images of the City in Popular Culture	
GUS 3061	Fundamentals of Cartography	
GUS 3063	Environmental Remote Sensing	
GUS 3064	Qualitative Methods	
GUS 4065	Urban Geographic Information Systems	
International Course		
Select one of the following:		3
GUS 2032	Urban Systems in a Global Economy	
GUS 2073	African Development	
GUS 2074	East and South Asia	
GUS 2121	Russian Cities	
GUS 3021	International Urbanization	
GUS 3052	Environmental Problems in Asia	
GUS 3073	Geography of Travel and Tourism	
GUS 3074	Sicily: The Land, People and Identity	
GUS 3075	Comparative Regional Development	
GUS 3076	Metropolitan Tokyo	
GUS 3928	Honors Metropolitan Tokyo	
GUS 4000	Special Topics in Geography and Urban Studies	
Geography and Urban Studies electives ¹		
Select 1 GUS course numbered 0800-4999		3
Select 4 GUS courses numbered 2000-4999		12
Capstone Course		
GUS 4198	Senior Seminar in Geography and Urban Studies	3
Total Credit Hours		39

¹ No electives may double-count between the Geography & Urban Studies major and either the Environmental Studies major or minor.

Distinction in Major

Geography and Urban Studies students can graduate with distinction if they have, at the time of graduation, a 3.5 GPA in the major and a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Suggested Academic Plan

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Requirements for New Students starting in the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
ENG 0802, 0812, or 0902	Analytical Reading and Writing [GW]	4
	GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course [GQ]	4
	Foreign Language 1001 - first level	4
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
Term Credit Hours		15
Spring		
IH 0851 or 0951	Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life [GY]	3
	Foreign Language 1002 - second level	4
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
Term Credit Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
GUS 2001	Cities	3
IH 0852 or 0952	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good [GZ]	3
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
	CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	2
CLA 1002	Professional Development for Liberal Arts Majors	1
	Select one of the following:	3
	Foreign Language - third level	
	GenEd Global/World Society Course	
	Internationally Focused Course From Approved List	
Term Credit Hours		15
Spring		
GUS 2002	Space and Place	3
	GUS 0800-4999 Elective	3
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
	CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	3
Term Credit Hours		15
Year 3		
Fall		
GUS 2197	Research Design in Geography and Urban Studies [WI]	3
GUS 3062	Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems	3
	One International Geography & Urban Studies Course From Approved List	3
	CLA/CST 2000+ Humanities/CST Course	3
	CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	3
	One 0800-4999 Elective in Any School or College	2
Term Credit Hours		17
Spring		
GUS 3161	Spatial Statistics	3

GUS Research Methods Elective Course From Approved List	3
GUS 2000+ Elective	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Humanities/CST Course	3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	3
Term Credit Hours	15
Year 4	
Fall	
GUS 2000+ Elective	3
GUS 2000+ Elective	3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Elective	3
One 0800-4999 Elective in Any School or College	3
Term Credit Hours	15
Spring	
GUS 4198 Senior Seminar in Geography and Urban Studies [WI]	3
GUS 2000+ Elective	3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	9
Term Credit Hours	15
Total Credit Hours:	123