

Addendum

2070.40 Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Studies

A Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Studies is an multi-disciplinary, advanced degree designed to prepare graduate students for careers as applied researchers, policy makers and educators, providing leadership in facing the complex urban environments of the 21st century.

We live in a world that is rapidly urbanizing. Well over half the world's population now resides in towns or cities. The modern economy is increasingly located in urban areas. Even in nations that already are highly urbanized, such as the United States, metropolitan areas continue to grow and attract economic activity and are the destination of national and international migrants. It is in urban areas where the grand societal challenges of the 21st century are most acutely felt – but it also where innovation and adaptability are most likely to take hold.

The program will be predominantly face-to-face classes held during the late afternoon/evenings; part-time students are allowed. It will require 48 credit hours, including an applied research experience (dissertation). Foundational competencies will be assessed through coursework, the practicum, and the final dissertation. It is anticipated that most students will complete the program in 4 years, with a maximum of six years allowed. To manage completion, each dissertation advisor will work with each student to set a timeline for dissertation proposal, review, and defense. Coursework will be completed within two years, during which time the research proposal will also be developed and reviewed (end of year two). Funding will end after four years to ensure completion in a timely manner, with self-funding for part-time students or those who that need to complete the Ph.D. beyond that point (with a maximum six in mind).

The PhD in Urban Studies will include core urban studies courses oriented towards theoretical and empirical knowledge acquisition, skills and analytic capabilities, and training in translational (policy oriented) research. Students will demonstrate competency in the following areas:

1. Examination of urbanization processes, historical and contemporary in the U.S. and globally.
2. Recognition of advanced urban theory in its various formulations and demonstration of the interdisciplinary nature of the field, in relation to geography, sociology, economics, and other disciplines.
3. Advanced analytical skills based in a range of social science methods (qualitative and quantitative, data visualization and GIS).
4. Translation research skills, i.e., the formulation of policy implications of urban research or analyses of urban policy impacts.

1. Program Requirements:

To earn the joint Ph.D., a student must satisfactorily complete six general requirements:

- a. Core master's-level curriculum or its equivalent;
- b. The doctoral core curriculum;
- c. Three 3-hour core elective courses;

- d. Three hours of research design;
- e. Full-time enrollment for one academic year;
- f. Defense of a dissertation.

2. Core Master's Program Curriculum:

The core master's program curriculum consists of four 3-hour courses. Students may document completion of the core curriculum through coursework taken elsewhere or may select from the courses listed in the current master's program of the Urban Studies Institute. Alternative courses considered be taken with permission of the degree program chair (DPC).

1. [URB 8010](#): Urban Theory and Praxis (3)
2. [URB 8020](#): Global Urban Trajectories (3)
3. GIS Course: [GEOS 6532](#) Urban GIS or [PMAP 8561](#) GIS Applications (3)
4. Methods: [PMAP 8121](#) Applied Statistics (3)

3. Program of Study:

Core Curriculum:

Building on skills developed at the master's level, the doctoral core curriculum provides students with an in-depth analysis of urban theory and contemporary debates; extended research methods experience; design and demonstration of empirical research; and a research design class to prepare for the dissertation. Core courses are generally offered once a year and three semester hours. Students must earn a grade of B or higher in all core courses to maintain their doctoral candidacy.

Required Courses (12):

1. [URB 9010](#) Advanced Seminar in Urban Theory
2. [URB 9020](#) Advanced Urban Analysis
3. Choose Two:
 - o [PMAP 9111](#) Advanced Research Methods I
 - o [PMAP 9121](#) Advanced Research Methods II
 - o [SOC 8342](#) Qualitative Methods in Sociology
 - o [SOC 9010](#) Multivariate Sociological Data Analysis
 - o [SOC 9020](#) Advanced Research Methodology
 - o [PH 9140](#) Advanced Research Methods
 - o Or as approved by Director of Ph.D. program

Elective Courses: (9):

Choose three courses from the following list. One course may be substituted with an alternative course or directed studies on the topic related to the field through a petition to the DPC:

- [ANTH 6200](#) Urban Anthropology
- [ECON 8310](#) Economics Educational Policy

- [ECON 8300](#) Urban Economics
- [GEOS 6020/URB 8660](#) Urban Environments
- [GEOS 6515 Qualitative Methods in Geography
- [GEOS 6764](#) Urban Geography
- [GEOS 6768/HIST 6320](#) Metropolitan Atlanta
- [GEOS 6774](#): Contemporary Urban Theory & Issues
- [GEOS 8007](#): Urban Environmental Geography
- [GEOS 8010](#): Seminar in Urban-Economic Geography
- [HIST 8630](#): The American Built Environment
- [LAW 7251](#): Law & Social Welfare
- [PH 7140](#): Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health
- [PH 7297](#): Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- [PH 7340](#): Built Environment and Health
- [PH 7300](#): Urban Health
- [PMAP 8010](#): Social Policy
- [PMAP 8021/9151: Scope and Theory of Planning / Public Planning](#)
- [PMAP 8311](#): Urban Demography and Analysis
- [PMAP 8321](#): Economic Development, Policy and Planning
- [PMAP 8331](#): Urban Development and Sustainable Cities
- [PMAP 8351](#): Local Government and Management
- [PMAP 9501: Special Topics Seminar on Urban Development](#)
- [SOC 8020](#): Research Methodology
- [SOC 8212](#): Race and Ethnic Relations
- [SOC 8226](#): Urban Sociology
- [SOC 8228: Contemporary Urban Research](#)
- [SOC 8232: Poverty Dynamics](#)
- [SW 7300](#): Methods of Community Research
- [SW 8350](#): Economics of Poverty & Public Policy
- [SW 8440](#): Global Social Work Practice, Policy, Research
- [URB 8097](#): Special Topics
- [URB 8140](#): Directed Studies
- [WGSS 8002](#): Globalization and Gender
- Or other graduate course relevant to urban studies, as approved of by Faculty Advisor and Degree Program Chair

Research Experience/Dissertation: (15):

- URB Research Design 8899: Research Design (3 credit hours)
- URB 8999: Dissertation Research (15 credits hours)

4. Full-time Residency Requirement:

Before taking the final written qualifying examination, a student must complete one year (two consecutive semesters) of full-time residency. For this requirement, full-time enrollment is 12 credit hours per semester and must include three credit hours of research assistantship or directed research experience. In addition, throughout the period before completing the prescribed coursework, a student must take at least 12 credit hours in every twelve-month period.

5. Doctoral Qualified Examinations:

Students must pass all parts of a comprehensive qualifying examination within one year of completing the prescribed coursework. The comprehensive qualifying examination will consist of:

a. Written Qualifying Examinations

Students will take one written examinations, one in the theory and methods of urban studies. Examinations will be given twice per year, and students must notify the program director in writing of their intention to take the examinations one month before they occur.

b. Oral Qualifying Examination.

At the discretion of the Examining Committee, an oral examination may be required as part of the qualifying examination process prior to a determination as to whether the written examination is satisfactory.

c. Students will only be permitted a second attempt to pass any qualifying examination they fail upon the recommendation, by majority vote, of the group of faculty members who graded the examination. A maximum of two attempts is permitted.

6. The Dissertation:

The dissertation allows the Ph.D. candidate to demonstrate his or her ability to conduct a research program leading to a significant contribution to the candidate's discipline. Students must obtain approval of their dissertation proposal within one calendar year after completing their comprehensive exams. Dissertation guidelines are available at aysps.gsu.edu/oaa/dissertation-guidelines.

At the time the electronic version of the student's dissertation (ETD) is posted on the Georgia State University Library server, students must choose the availability option, "Release the entire work immediately for access worldwide," unless they have received approval to restrict distribution from the AYSPS Associate Dean. A letter showing this approval, which will be granted only for a maximum of one year, must be on file in the Office of Academic Assistance prior to graduation.

The Dissertation Committee. After successfully completing the qualifying examinations, the student forms a Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee consists of a chair plus four additional members. At least two members must be core/affiliate faculty of the Urban Studies Institute. Students are encouraged to include outside members on their committees as appropriate. Students will choose a committee chair with the advice and approval of the program director and will choose the remaining members of the committee with the advice and approval of the committee chair and program director. Once the committee is chosen, the student may change the membership of the committee only with the advice and approval of the program director.

The Dissertation Proposal and Oral Defense.

- a. In consultation with the Dissertation Committee, the student will develop a dissertation proposal. The proposal should include a summary of the following: the purpose of the study; the nature of the subject to be investigated and its importance; a brief review of the literature; the nature of the hypotheses to be developed or tested; the empirical methodology, techniques, and data sources, if any, to be used; and a time frame for completion of the dissertation. Normally, the proposal should not exceed 40 pages.
- b. The student will present and defend the dissertation proposal in a public presentation that will be open to faculty and graduate students from both schools and announced two weeks prior to the date it is scheduled. The Dissertation Committee will question the student in a two-hour oral examination, and then vote to determine if the student has a satisfactory research topic and design. A unanimous decision by the student's Dissertation Committee is required. The approving members will sign the dissertation proposal defense approval form. Upon submission of the proposal defense approval form, the student is admitted to candidacy for the degree.
- c. Submission of the approval form does not constitute a contractual agreement between the students and the Dissertation Committee. It is within the scope and function of the Dissertation Committee to recommend modifications to the research as it proceeds.

The Final Dissertation Defense. When the candidate's Dissertation Committee judges that the dissertation is complete, the student must defend it orally in a final dissertation defense, subject to rules governing Georgia State University graduate study. At least two weeks before the final dissertation defense, the student must submit an abstract of the dissertation to the program director, who will issue an announcement of the scheduling of the candidate's dissertation defense. Any interested faculty member or graduate student may attend the examination and participate in the discussion. At the completion of the oral defense, members of the dissertation committee will vote on the dissertation's approval or disapproval. Unanimous approval is required.

7. Regulations for the Degree:

Oversight. An Admissions and Coordinating (A & C, a subcommittee of Degree Program Committee), consisting of six tenure-track faculty has jurisdiction over and is chiefly responsible for policy relating to admissions, program curriculum, rules and regulations, and operations of the joint degree program. The faculties of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and Urban Studies Institute, in accordance with their procedures and bylaws, select members of the A & C Committee.

Scholastic Warning and Termination. The doctoral grade-point average (GPA) is defined as the GPA for all courses numbered 6000 or higher taken after admission to the doctoral program. Each student must maintain a 3.00 doctoral GPA (B average). For graduation, a student may have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above in all courses at Georgia State taken at the graduate level, regardless of the degree program.

Standards of Performance. To continue in the program, a student must make reasonable and timely progress toward the degree in terms of coursework completed and examinations. A determination that a student is not making satisfactory progress and should be terminated from the program may be made at several points in his or her program, including failure to achieve and

maintain a doctoral GPA of at least 3.00, failure to pass 12 credit hours within a twelve-month period, failure of the comprehensive qualifying examination, or failure to successfully defend a dissertation proposal or dissertation. In all such cases, a recommendation of dismissal must be made to the Admissions and Coordinating Committee, which will review the case and issue a final decision regarding termination from the program.

Petitions. Where a student believes that unusual circumstances invalidate any of the regulations or requirements relating to the degree in his or her particular case, the student may write to the A & C Committee and request exemption from or change in the policy. The petition by the student must be submitted with accompanying justifications. In all such cases, the A & C Committee will review the case and issue a final decision regarding the petition.

Appeals. All student appeals regarding grades and other faculty actions affecting students will be adjudicated through the appeals process governing the School where the action occurred. If the appeal concerns an A & C Committee action or other joint program action, the student must appeal the action first to the faculties of both schools (with approval from both required to overturn the action), then to the graduate committees of both institutions (with approval from both required to overturn the action).

Time Limits for the Degree. These time limits should be interpreted as the maximum amount of time students may take to complete each of the degree requirements. It is anticipated that most students will complete the requirements much earlier than the maximum time limits specified below:

1. All required coursework and written examinations must be completed within three years from the semester of entry into the doctoral program for full-time students.
2. Qualifying examination must be successfully completed, the Dissertation Committee must be appointed, and the dissertation proposal must be defended and approved within one year after completion of coursework.
3. All requirements for the degree, including the dissertation, must be completed within six years from the semester of entry into the doctoral program.