

Sociology Minor, Urban Studies Specialization

Beginning in Fall 2026, the Sociology Department is pleased to offer a new undergraduate **Specialization in Urban Studies** for Sociology majors and minors. This specialization will be reflected on student transcripts and diplomas.

This specialization will be of interest to students:

- who want to study the origins and reproduction of social inequality;
- who want to apply that knowledge to address issues of pressing public concern; and
- who have a particular interest in investigating how inequalities manifest in urban spaces, including St. Louis.

Our department's core areas of expertise are critical for urban studies: racial and gender inequality; economic sociology; work, organizations, and occupations; health; immigration; and political sociology and social movements. Our location in St. Louis provides an ideal vantage point for engaging with the complex interplay of inequity and policy, along with the vibrant social movements that have emerged to address entrenched injustices in the city and region.

An interdisciplinary component of the specialization also ensures that students' investigation of urban studies is informed by other relevant disciplines at Washington University.

Program Requirements

- **Total Units Required:** 18-21 (credits may vary based on capstone option)
- **Grade Requirement:** Courses must be completed with a letter grade of C– or better to satisfy minor and specialization requirements. Courses taken on a Pass/No Pass basis do not satisfy program requirements, save for internships used for capstone credit.

Requirements

Students must declare as a Sociology minor on Workday. As students fulfill their standard program requirements within the Sociology Minor, they will need to incorporate the completion of three regular courses with a focus on urban issues:

1. At least one course should be taken from the Group A list of Sociology offerings below:

Code	Title	Units
EDUC 4260	Neighborhoods, Schools, and Social Inequality	3
EDUC 4470	The Political Economy of Urban Education	3
SOC 2010	The Roots of Ferguson: Understanding Racial Inequality in the Contemporary U.S.	3
SOC 2020	Order and Change in Society	3
SOC 2050	Inequality By Design: Understanding Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities	3
SOC 3810	Film and the City	3
SOC 4214	Race and Place	3

Contact: Kaitlyne A. Motl, PhD
 Phone: 314-935-5790
 Email: kaitlyne.motl@wustl.edu
 Website: <http://sociology.wustl.edu>