

College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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Introduction

The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) promotes just, resilient, and livable communities in the world's cities and metropolitan areas. As an internationally recognized leader in education, research, and engagement, it provides innovative education in urban planning, public administration, urban studies, and public policy. It strives for academic excellence to provide inspirational learning experiences for our students and to make contributions beyond the university.

Degree Requirements

To earn a College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs degree from UIC, students need to complete university, college, and department degree requirements. University and college degree requirements for all College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs students are outlined below. Students should consult their academic department section for major course requirements.

Semester Hour Requirement

The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs semester hour requirement is determined by program:

Major	School	Degree Conferred	Total Hours
Public Policy	Public Policy, Management, and Analytics	BA in Public Policy	120
Urban Studies	Urban Planning and Policy	BA in Urban Studies	120

Course Requirements

See academic department sections for specific course requirements.

General Education Core

General Education at UIC is designed to serve as a foundation for lifelong learning. Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 semester hours in the General Education Core with at least one course from each of the following categories:

- Analyzing the Natural World
- Understanding the Individual and Society

- Understanding the Past
- Understanding the Creative Arts
- Exploring World Cultures
- Understanding U.S. Society

For a description and a list of courses for each General Education Core category, students should consult the *General Education* section of the catalog. Information on meeting the General Education requirements for CUPPA programs are listed in the respective academic department sections.

General Education Proficiencies—University Writing Requirement and Foreign Language

College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs students must meet the University Writing Requirement. Students in the Urban Studies program must also meet a Foreign Language requirement.

University Writing Requirement

All students must earn a passing grade in ENGL 160 and ENGL 161 or equivalent.

Foreign Language

Urban Studies students must earn 8 hours in a single language or the equivalent.

First-Year Seminar Requirement

All incoming first-year students, including transfer students who enter with less than 24 hours and those admitted in the spring semester, must take the two-course first-year seminar, UPA 120 and UPA 121, during their first and second term at UIC. Satisfactory completion of the seminar is a graduation requirement.

Other Requirements

Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement

Students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.00/4.00 in all work applied to CUPPA's undergraduate degrees. In addition, the combined average of a student's transfer work and work taken at UIC must be at least 2.00. The grade point average for all degree-specific course work must be at least 2.50. This includes 45 hours of core program requirements for the BA in Public Policy and 60 hours of required courses and selectives for the BA in Urban Studies (see departmental pages for additional information on these courses).

Course Level Requirement

A student must earn a minimum of 40 semester hours in advanced-level courses (those numbered 200 and above at UIC) at any accredited four-year college or university. At least 12 semester of these 40 advanced hours must be taken in the major field while in enrollment residence at UIC. Community college work, regardless of the course number, is not considered advanced for the purposes of this requirement.

Graduation Declaration/Filing to Graduate

Students declare their intent to graduate online using *my.UIC*. The deadline for submission to the Pending Degree List is the end of the third week (fall and spring) or second week (Summer Session 2) of the term in which graduation is sought. Failure to submit the request at this time may delay the awarding of the degree. A final review will be made following the close of the term. If a student has satisfactorily completed all the degree requirements, the student's name will be placed on the official degree list.

Enrollment Residence Requirement

See the *University Degree Requirements, Graduation, and Commencement* section of the catalog for a complete description of this requirement.

Transfer Credit

Transfer guides are available for most colleges in the Chicago area and can be found on the Admissions website.

College Policies

The following policies apply to undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Urban Planning and Public Administration.

Academic Load

Students may enroll in either a part-time or full-time program of study, in either day or evening classes. During the fall and spring semesters, a minimum full-time program is 12 semester hours. A program of 19 semester hours or more must be approved by the appropriate director of undergraduate studies. For Summer Session 1 (four-week) and Summer Session 2 (eight-week), UIC considers a total aggregate of 6 semester hours (5 hours for graduate students) as the minimum number necessary to constitute full-time enrollment. A program of 13 semester hours or more during the summer session must be approved by the appropriate director of undergraduate studies.

Academic Probation and Dismissal Rules

Deficit Points and Academic Recovery

To better understand probation, dismissal, and academic recovery, it is important to understand deficit points. Students who have earned a UIC total GPA below a 2.00 will have negative deficit points. Deficit points are calculated as follows: multiply the number of semester hours for each course taken by the points for the grade received, A=+2, B=+1, C=0, D=-1, F=-2. Add the points for each course taken during the semester. The total equals the deficit points used to determine probation status and dismissal. For every negative deficit point earned, an equivalent in positive points must be earned to offset the negative, returning the GPA to 2.00, and good academic standing. As an example, students with a -14 deficit would need a subsequent semester of 14 semester hours of B grades, with nothing less than a C in order to return to good standing. A personalized degree audit found in uAchieve detail academic deficit, semester, and total GPAs.

Probation Rules

A student will be placed on academic probation in any term in which either their UIC total or semester grade point average (GPA) is less than 2.00/4.00.

A student who earned probation as the result of a semester GPA below a 2.00, but has a UIC total GPA above a 2.00, must earn a 2.00 GPA the following term to regain good academic standing. Probation students with a UIC total GPA below a 2.00 must earn equal to or greater than a 2.00 during their next term. It is required that students reach a UIC total GPA greater than or equal to a 2.00 GPA to graduate.

Dismissal Rules

The college is greatly concerned with student success and occasionally must take steps to encourage a student to remediate academic deficits and/or reevaluate their commitment to higher education. After careful consideration of a student's ability to recover from academic difficulty,

the college may elect to academically dismiss a student and cancel their continuing student status.

In any term, a student may be dismissed for one or more of the following reasons:

- First-term students may be dismissed after their first term of enrollment if they earn zero credit, a grade point average of less than 1.00/4.00, or obtain a deficit of -15 points or more.
- Continuing students may be dismissed at the end of any term in which they obtain a deficit of 20 points or more.
- Failure to earn any credit.
- Failure to earn at least a 2.00/4.00 while on probation.
- Failure to meet conditions of an academic contract.
- Failure to meet conditions specified at the time of admission.
- Failure to make progress toward completion of a CUPPA degree.
- Two or more consecutive terms of university withdrawals.

The dean may waive the dismissal rules in extraordinary circumstances.

Appeal of a Dismissal Decision

Students who have been dismissed may apply for readmission after two terms (excluding the summer session), applications originate at the office of admissions. If there were extenuating circumstances that led to poor academic performance, a student may appeal the dismissal. Documentation of extenuating circumstances must be provided. The student may request immediate reinstatement by following the guidelines as outlined in the college dismissal letter.

Change of Course Schedule - Dropping Courses

Undergraduate students may drop courses using my.UIC through the end of the second week of classes for fall and spring semesters, the first Wednesday of Summer Session 1, or the first Friday of Summer Session 2. During weeks 3 through 10 of the fall and spring semesters (first Thursday through the third Wednesday of Summer Session 1 or weeks 2 through 5 of Summer Session 2) students may drop courses with the permission of their major college. If the drop occurs between 0 and 2 weeks in fall and spring, there will be no notation on the transcript. If the drop occurs during weeks 3 through 10 in fall and spring (first Thursday through the second Wednesday of Summer Session 1 or weeks 2 through 5 of Summer Session 2), a W is noted on the transcript. Undergraduate students may drop a maximum of 4 UIC individual courses that result in a W notation on their transcript during their entire undergraduate degree program.

Class Attendance

Each instructor establishes the attendance policy for the class, including penalties for nonattendance. Failure to attend classes does not result in automatic withdrawal from a course. The college expects that students will attend all classes.

Course Prerequisites

A student must satisfy the prerequisites before enrolling in a course. A student enrolling in a course without having met the prerequisites may be withdrawn from the course. Course prerequisites are listed in both the course descriptions in this catalog and the *Schedule of Classes*. Only the instructor may waive the prerequisite, if given evidence that the student is adequately prepared to pursue the subject.

Credit/No Credit Option

The credit/no credit option allows the student to complete a course with a grade of credit (CR) or no credit (NC) instead of a letter grade. Courses completed with a grade of CR carry credit and apply toward degree requirements. In general, grades of CR and NC are final and cannot be changed to letter grades. The Public Policy and Urban Studies programs' policy coincides with campus policy with the following conditions:

- a. Only students in good standing may elect to take a course under the credit/no credit option. Students on probation and those whose status is undetermined at the time at which they elect the option are not eligible.
- b. A student may request only one course per term as credit/no credit.
- c. No more than two courses in a single discipline may be taken as credit/no credit.
- d. Only elective courses may be taken on a credit/ no credit basis; courses being used to meet any graduation course requirements must be taken for letter grades.
- e. The following describes the restrictions that apply to all students regardless of major or curriculum:
 - i. Students may not take ENGL 160 or ENGL 161 as credit/no credit.
 - ii. Students may not take any course used to satisfy the foreign language requirement in the Urban Studies program as credit/no credit.
 - iii. Students may not take any course used to satisfy the General Education Core requirements as credit/no credit. Until students have completed the minimum requirement in each General Education Core category, courses from these areas may not be taken as credit/no credit.
 - iv. Students may not take any course used to satisfy the quantitative reasoning requirement as credit/no credit.
 - v. Students may not take any course being used to satisfy the requirements of the Public Policy or Urban Studies major or required prerequisite and collateral courses of the major as credit/no credit.
- f. A student may earn no more than 21 semester hours of credit at UIC under the credit/no credit option.

Students must apply to take a course credit/no credit, no later than the tenth day of the term (first Wednesday of Summer Session 1 or first Friday of Summer Session 2). After that date, students may not request courses on a credit/no credit basis nor may they change a credit/no credit request previously submitted. It is the responsibility of the student to determine eligibility under the regulations. Students will be informed if they are ineligible and will receive a grade for the course. Students with questions concerning their eligibility should make an appointment with the appropriate director of undergraduate studies.

Declaring a Major

Students must declare a major that leads to a degree after earning 45 semester hours. Failure to do so will result in a registration hold which will not be lifted until the student has changed their major to one that leads to a degree. Transfer students entering with 45 semester hours or more must declare a major by the end of their first term at UIC. Failure to do so will result in a registration hold which will not be lifted until the student has changed their major to one that leads to a degree. Students who have earned 45 semester hours or more may not change their major to an Undecided Major.

Double Major, Double Degrees, and Second Bachelor's Degree

Double Major

This option is not available in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

Double Degrees

Double degrees consist of two bachelor's degrees completed concurrently. Double degrees may be possible. Students should consult the college section of the catalog for the second degree program to determine if this option is available.

Students seeking two bachelor's degrees concurrently must formally request acceptance into the second degree program. Students must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond those required for the first degree and all requirements for each of the degree programs as specified by the college and major department. All students interested in double degrees should discuss this option with an advisor.

Double degrees are not permitted when there is substantial course overlap between the first and second degrees.

Students who obtain double degrees receive a diploma for each degree. No more than two bachelor's degrees may be awarded concurrently.

Second Bachelor's Degree

Students who have already earned a bachelor's degree at UIC or another institution are required to follow the same application procedures as all other applicants in order to pursue a second bachelor's degree. Students must complete all requirements for the second degree as specified by the college and the major department, including a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond those required for the first degree. The UIC enrollment residence requirement must also be met, i.e., the last 30 semester hours for the second degree must be taken at UIC. A second bachelor's degree is not permitted when there is substantial course overlap between the first and second degrees.

Independent Study

A student must have a minimum 2.00/4.00 grade point average in all course work taken at UIC and must obtain consent of the instructor and the degree program prior to registration. No student may enroll in an independent study course after the tenth day of the term without approval of the director of undergraduate studies.

Petition Procedure

Any rule, regulation, or action of the college may be appealed in writing. Continuing students must initiate the petitions process in consultation with their assigned academic advisor. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation in support of the petition. Submission of a petition does not imply approval.

Registration Approval

All new students are required to either receive advising or attend an orientation program prior to registration.

Repeat Policy for Standard Graded Courses

The undergraduate programs require students to discuss any plan to repeat a course with their academic advisor before they register to repeat the course.

Courses with A or B grades may not be repeated. Normally, courses with a C grade may not be repeated. Courses with D or F grades may be repeated once without written permission. In all cases, the original grade for the course and the grade for each repeat will appear on the transcript. The original grade and the grade for each repeat will be calculated into the grade point average. Only one registration for the course counts toward the total number of credits required for graduation. A course cannot be repeated after receiving credit in a course for which the repeat course is a prerequisite.

To repeat a course more than once due to a grade of D or F requires written permission from the student's college dean. Students who have been dismissed may not appeal on the grounds of intention to repeat courses. Certain courses may not be repeated; students should consult their college before repeating a course.

Undergraduate Grade Point Average Recalculation Policy

- Colleges may elect to implement this policy as early as the end of the junior year, or as late as the final semester during degree certification.
- The college will evaluate each student unable to graduate because of an academic grade point average deficit. The deficit may occur in the UIC GPA, the program GPA, or both.
- The academic record is examined so as to determine if courses, deemed appropriate by each college, with grades of F or grades of D, may be excluded from the student's grade point average.
- A total of four courses may be excluded, with one course excluded at a time until the necessary quality points are obtained to meet the UIC GPA requirement and/or degree program minimum GPA. The semester hours associated with excluded course grades will not count towards graduation requirements.
- Only the college can initiate course exclusions, and only in consultation with the evaluated student.
- Students may not request exclusions.
- Only courses taken at UIC may be converted as part of this policy.
- This policy only applies to undergraduate degree seeking students.
- All courses taken and all grades will remain on the official transcript.
- The grade exclusion policy does not apply to courses failed as the result of a student conduct hearing.
- In cases where these procedures would impact program accreditation, licensure or similar, colleges may use their discretion to allow the policy. Colleges, departments, and programs may have discretion in choosing courses that impact the student's major.

Transferring

Intercollege Transfer Students

Students currently enrolled at UIC who want to transfer into the College of Urban and Public Affairs should complete an [Intercollege Transfer Application](#). Students are welcome to discuss possible admission to the Public Policy or Urban Studies degree program with the director of undergraduate studies or the program's appointed staff advisor. Admission to degree programs in CUPPA is limited to those students in good academic standing who have a UIC grade point average of at least 2.00/4.00 and whose combined UIC and transfer grade point average is at least 2.00. Those students who are accepted into either the Public Policy or Urban Studies degree program are expected to enroll immediately in courses that fulfill degree requirements.

Transfer Students from Other Colleges and Universities

Provided space is available, a minimum 2.50/4.00 grade point average is required for consideration. Please consult the *Admissions* section of the catalog for more information. See the Office of Admissions *Transfer Guide* for more information about transfer admission requirements.

Transferring out of the College

A CUPPA undergraduate student who wants to transfer into another UIC college must follow the procedures of that college.

Military Science Credit

Students may earn a maximum of three semester hours of 100-level Military Science and Naval Science courses. An additional one hour of credit in basic military science is allowed for students who have served for a minimum of six months of extended active duty in any branch of the armed forces for the United States. Students in the BA in Public Policy may be able to apply 200-, 300-, and 400-level Military Science courses to a specialization with approval of an advisor or director of undergraduate studies.

Minors

The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs offers the following minors. Please see departmental listings for more information.

Minor	School	Hours
Civic Analytics	Public Policy, Administration, and Analytics	15
Geographic Information Systems	Urban Planning and Policy	12
Nonprofit Management	Public Policy, Administration, and Analytics	15
Public Policy	Public Policy, Administration, and Analytics	15
Sustainable Cities	Urban Planning and Policy	12
Urban Studies	Urban Planning and Policy	15

Academic Advising

Advising Policy

The CUPPA undergraduate programs encourage the intellectual growth and development of the student as an individual. Newly admitted students are required to participate in an advising session prior to their initial registration. To arrange an advising appointment, students may contact the director of undergraduate studies or the college academic advisor.

New Students

All new first-year and transfer students MUST meet with an academic advisor before registering for their first semester. New first-year and transfer students are also required to meet with an academic advisor prior to enrolling in second-semester classes. Students should make academic

advising appointments using iAdvise's online appointment system at my.UIC.edu.

Continuing Students

Continuing second-year and upper division students are encouraged to meet with their advisor to continue the development of an academic plan and prioritize declaring a major. Students can schedule an appointment with their assigned advisor online through the iAdvise appointment system. The responsibility for selecting courses and meeting graduation requirements rests with the students, who must plan intelligently to make their programs consistent with their goals and with college requirements.

Academic Honors

University Honors

The college recognizes and conforms with the campus-wide honors program. University Honors are awarded to graduating students who satisfy UIC hours residency requirements with a UIC grade point average that falls within the following honors categories:

- **Summa cum laude:** 3.90 and above
- **Magna cum laude:** 3.75 to 3.89
- **Cum laude:** 3.50 to 3.74

University Honors will be awarded based on UIC GPA at the end of the term prior to the term of graduation for commencement ceremony purposes. UIC will make permanent adjustments to student transcripts and diploma related to University Honors based on final grades.

Dean's List

Exceptional academic achievement in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs is recognized each term by inclusion on the Dean's List. Eligibility is based on a 3.50/4.00 term GPA with a minimum program of 12 semester hours, exclusive of basic military science and basic activity courses in physical education. At least 9 semester hours must be earned for letter grades, in addition to a grade of Credit earned in any course taken on a credit/no credit basis.