

**The Position of Urban Studies:** This document situates some of the advantages of choosing an Urban Studies major. The following are talking points. Please use them in your interactions with students to directly clarify the benefits of this major that are not provided by other majors.

**Get out of the classroom, as Charleston is the teacher for urban studies majors:**

- Engage in experiential learning, which means learning by directly experiencing a concept, principle, or phenomena rather than just reading about it or hearing a lecture.
- Urban studies majors have the opportunity—via class room exercises and field trips—to learn about the core principles in urban studies by engaging in the history, culture, and location of the Lowcountry where many of these principles can be seen in action.

**Link to a career that will pay a good wage when you graduate:**

- Urban and Regional Planning is one of the top 50 careers, has a median income of \$62,000, and is projected to see significant growth in the next decade as reported by U.S. News & World Report.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an increase of 16.2% in jobs for urban and regional planners.
- Nearly all parts of the United States have a need for planners, but there is a particular need in the South where populations are predicted to rise and urbanize in the next few decades. Urban studies majors will have many opportunities for jobs.
- If you love the southern lifestyle and atmosphere, an urban studies major may help you find work here after graduation.

**Build a resume that gives you the broadest base possible for finding work and opportunity:**

- Do not confine yourself to the perspectives of one major: the Urban Studies Program provides an interdisciplinary foundation so that you are well positioned to tackle the vexing issues of our time—and your futures—that do not neatly fit into the confines of a single discipline.
  - Take courses in Political Science, Economics and Business, and Historic Preservation, among many others.
- The online training practicum (URST 400) requires you to get real-world job preparation, which is increasingly sought by employers. Because the class is offered online, you do not have to be at the college to take it.
- The Urban Studies Program is one of a few programs to provide a class in geographic information systems, which is a highly marketable skill across many disciplines. Priority for registration in the class is given to majors.

**Network with other professionals**

- The Urban Studies Club is active with both undergraduate and graduate students, which provides a venue for you to meet advanced students.
- Urban managers, leaders, and practitioners serve as mentors for students in the program.