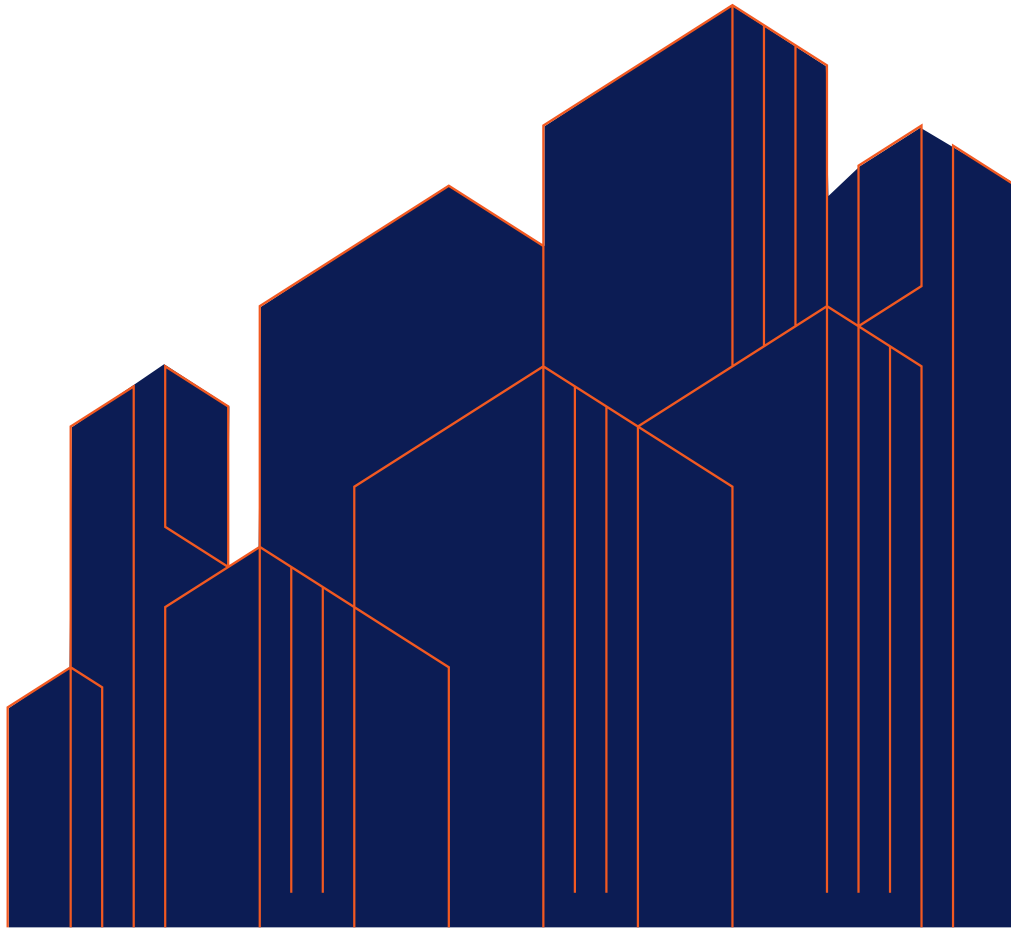


# BAUSP Handbook

Academic Year 2025-26



## Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

College of Fine and Applied Arts

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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## 1. BAUSP Program Overview

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) offers an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies and Planning (BAUSP) for students interested in the field of urban planning. The BAUSP degree is professionally accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board.

The field of urban planning aims to sustain and enhance the quality of life in cities and regions. In addition to technical skills, BAUSP students acquire a broad liberal education that leads to an understanding of the natural and social environments, their problems, and their potential for enriching human life. The urban studies and planning degree emphasizes skills in analysis, problem solving, and communication within complex urban and social contexts. As a result, undergraduate planning education leads to diverse professional careers or graduate study in urban planning or related professions, such as law, business, public policy, or public administration.

Students pursuing the BAUSP degree elect one or more of these four concentrations: Policy and Planning, Sustainability, Social Justice, and Global Cities.

Continuation in the program requires a student to maintain a **2.00** grade point average.

## 2. BAUSP Curriculum Requirements

The BAUSP degree requires students to complete a minimum of 120 credit hours of university coursework. This coursework includes the following:

- **BAUSP Foundation Courses**  
*Foundation courses ensure that students begin their BAUSP studies with basic proficiencies in writing, social science, economics, and statistical analysis.*
- **BAUSP Core Courses**  
*Core courses imbue students with an understanding of the history and practice of the urban planning field, as well as a professional set of skills in communication, design, and analysis.*
- **BAUSP Concentration Courses**  
*Concentration courses offer students the opportunity to specialize in one of many areas or interests within the field of urban planning. Students pursuing multiple concentrations must complete separate coursework for each concentration.*
- **BAUSP electives**  
*Elective courses allow students to explore a variety of courses within or beyond the field of urban planning.*

Urban Studies and Planning courses are listed with a UP designation in the course catalog.

In addition to BAUSP-specific requirements, students must also complete the University General Education requirements (Gen Eds). Some Urban Studies and Planning courses apply toward those requirements.

### a) BAUSP Course Sequence

Below is a representative course sequence for a BAUSP candidate who begins the program as a first-year student:

| Fall Semester                                               | Spring Semester         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Year 1</b>                                               |                         |
| UP 101                                                      | UP 201                  |
| Foundation Courses                                          | Foundation Courses      |
| <b>Year 2</b>                                               |                         |
| UP 203 or UP 204                                            |                         |
| Concentration Gateway                                       | UP 211                  |
| <b>Year 3</b>                                               |                         |
| UP 312                                                      | UP 316                  |
| Concentration Electives                                     | UP 347                  |
|                                                             | Concentration Electives |
| <b>Year 4</b>                                               |                         |
| Senior Workshops (UP 447, 456, 478) offered Fall and Spring |                         |
|                                                             | UP401                   |

In addition, students will also complete 15 credits of UP electives, Gen Eds not met by BAUSP Foundation & Core coursework, and open electives. Please note that the sequence is flexible for students who begin in Year 2 or Year 3.

## i) BAUSP Foundation Courses

| Hours | Requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3     | RHET 105 or equivalent (Gen Ed: Comp I)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3-4   | AAS 100 – Intro to Asian American Studies (Gen Ed: CNW, SBS);<br>AFRO 100 – Intro to African American Studies (Gen Ed: CNW, SBS);<br>AIS 102 – Contemporary Issues in Indian Country (Gen Ed: SBS, USM);<br>GGIS 101 – Global Development and Environment (Gen Ed: CNW, SBS);<br>GGIS 104 – Social and Cultural Geography (Gen Ed: SBS);<br>LLS 100 – Intro to Latino/Latina Studies (Gen Ed: CNW, SBS); or<br>SOC 100 – Intro to Soc (Gen Ed: SBS) |
| 3-4   | ECON 102 – Microeconomic Principles (Gen Ed: SBS); or<br>ACE 100 – Agricultural Consumer and Resource Economics (Gen Ed: SBS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3-4   | UP 116 – Urban Informatics I (Gen Ed: QR I); or<br>STAT 100 – Statistics (or equivalent) (Gen Ed: QR I)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## ii) BAUSP Core Courses

| Hours                                                                             | Requirements                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3                                                                                 | UP 101 – Introduction to City Planning                                                    |
| 3                                                                                 | UP 201 – Planning in Action                                                               |
| 3                                                                                 | UP 203 – Cities: Planning and Urban Life; or<br>UP 204 – Chicago: Planning and Urban Life |
| 3                                                                                 | UP 211 – Local Planning, Gov't and Law                                                    |
| 4                                                                                 | UP 312 – Communication for Planners (GE: Advanced Comp)                                   |
| 3                                                                                 | UP 316 – Urban Informatics II (GE: QR II)                                                 |
| 4                                                                                 | UP 347 – Junior Planning Workshop                                                         |
| 1                                                                                 | UP401 - Undergraduate Capstone Seminar                                                    |
| In addition, students must take any ONE of the following 4-credit hours workshops |                                                                                           |
|                                                                                   | UP 447 – Land Use Planning Workshop                                                       |
|                                                                                   | UP 455 – Economic Development Workshop                                                    |
|                                                                                   | UP 456 – Sustainable Planning Workshop                                                    |
|                                                                                   | UP 457 – Small Town/Rural Planning Workshop                                               |
|                                                                                   | UP 478 – Community Development Workshop                                                   |

## b) BAUSP Concentrations

This section describes the four transcriptable concentrations in BAUSP.

The BAUSP curriculum allows students to develop a solid foundation in the key theoretical and analytical tools of urban planning, while allowing them to pursue a concentration area that better matches their career goals. To complete a concentration, students must complete a Concentration Gateway Course and additional Concentration Courses. Requirements for each concentration are detailed below.

Students are welcome to pursue more than one concentration, as well as double-major or multiple minors. Please note: Students may complete more than one concentration, but each course may only count towards completion of one concentration. For example, a student pursuing both the Policy and Planning concentration and the Sustainability concentration may count *UP 438 – Disasters and Urban Planning* towards either concentration of their choosing but may not count that course for both concentrations.

### i) Policy and Planning

A concentration in policy and planning provides students depth in practice at the local government level within applications in a wide range of areas including land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and community development. **UP 211 – Local Planning, Government, and Law**, also a BAUSP Core course, serves as the Gateway Course for this concentration. Students must complete three additional concentration electives, as well. Courses eligible for inclusion in this concentration are:

| Policy and Planning Concentration Courses |                                      |      |        |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Course Number                             | Course Name                          | Fall | Spring |
| UP 211 (Gateway)                          | Local Planning, Gov't, and Law       |      | ✓      |
| UP317                                     | Introduction to Urban Data Science   | ✓    |        |
| UP330                                     | Modern American City                 | ✓    |        |
| UP340                                     | Planning for Healthy Cities          | ✓    |        |
| UP347                                     | Land Development Process             | ✓    |        |
| UP407                                     | State and Local Public Finance       |      | ✓      |
| UP430                                     | Urban Transportation Planning        | ✓    |        |
| UP431                                     | Urban Transportation Modeling        |      | ✓      |
| UP438                                     | Disasters and Urban Planning         |      | ✓      |
| UP460                                     | Transportation/Land Use Planning     | ✓    |        |
| UP475                                     | Real Estate Development Fundamentals |      | ✓      |

## ii) Sustainability

A concentration in sustainability provides students specialization in balancing social, environmental, and economic dimensions of planning with a particular emphasis on the environmental dimension. Students may focus on urgent concerns such as planning for climate change or further focus on one of a number of areas such as watershed planning, energy planning, and disaster planning. **UP 136 – Urban Sustainability** (Social & Behavioral Science — Social Science) serves as the Gateway Course for this concentration. Students must complete two additional concentration electives, as well. Courses eligible for inclusion in this concentration are:

| Sustainability Concentration Courses |                                        |      |        |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Course Number                        | Course Name                            | Fall | Spring |
| UP136 (Gateway)                      | Urban Sustainability                   |      | ✓      |
| UP205                                | Ecology + Environmental Sustainability |      | ✓      |
| UP230                                | Transportation Planning                |      | ✓      |
| UP406                                | Urban Ecology                          | ✓    |        |
| UP426                                | Urban Design and Planning              | ✓    |        |
| UP434                                | Pedestrian and Bike Planning           |      | ✓      |
| UP438                                | Disasters and Urban Planning           |      | ✓      |
| UP446                                | Sustainable Planning Seminar           |      | ✓      |
| UP460                                | Transportation/Land Use Planning       | ✓    |        |
| UP480                                | Sustainable Design Principles          |      | ✓      |
| UP486                                | Planning with Climate Change           |      | ✓      |

## iii) Social Justice

A concentration in social justice provides students with the skills and knowledge to work as an advocate for change towards greater equity in communities. While all planners should work toward justice, students concentrating in social justice receive deeper knowledge in theories and methods that can recognize social, environmental, and economic injustice, especially in vulnerable communities, and that can help advance the interest of such communities in the planning process. **UP 160 – Race, Social Justice, and Cities** serves as the Gateway Course for this concentration (Gen Ed: Cultural Studies — US Minority). Students must complete two additional concentration electives, as well. Courses eligible for inclusion in this concentration are:

| Social Justice Concentration Courses |                                           |      |        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Course Number                        | Course Name                               | Fall | Spring |
| UP160 (Gateway)                      | Race, Social Justice, and Cities          | ✓    |        |
| UP260                                | Social Inequality and Planning            | ✓    |        |
| UP327                                | International Creative Placemaking        | ✓    |        |
| UP330                                | Modern American City                      | ✓    |        |
| UP340                                | Planning for Healthy Cities               | ✓    |        |
| UP423                                | Community Development in the Global South | ✓    |        |
| UP479                                | Community Engagement in Planning          | ✓    |        |

#### iv) Global Cities

The concentration in global cities aims to provide students a deeper understanding of planning in a variety of political, economic, and cultural contexts around the world. A large share of courses focus on planning in the Global South, which often encompass a multitude of rich planning histories, governance practices, and socioeconomic conditions. Students are encouraged to supplement their concentration with internships in international organizations or research projects focused on the global context. **UP 185 – Cities in a Global Perspective** serves as the Gateway Course for this concentration (Cultural Studies — US Minority; Social & Behavioral Science — Social Science). Students must complete two concentration electives, as well. Courses eligible for inclusion in this concentration are:

| Global Cities Concentration Courses |                                           |      |        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Course Number                       | Course Name                               | Fall | Spring |
| UP185 (Gateway)                     | Cities in a Global Perspective            | ✓    |        |
| UP327                               | International Creative Placemaking        | ✓    |        |
| UP406                               | Urban Ecology                             | ✓    |        |
| UP423                               | Community Development in the Global South | ✓    |        |
| UP486                               | Planning with Climate Change              |      | ✓      |
| UP427                               | Digital Storytelling                      |      | ✓      |

### c) UP General Electives

Apart from Core Courses and those courses a student counts as Concentration Courses, all other UP-listed courses count towards general UP electives. Electives are an opportunity to explore your broader interest while pursuing the BAUSP degree. Students must complete 15 credits of UP electives. You are welcome to consult with the academic advisor for guidance regarding selecting electives.

**UP 390 – Planning Internship** and **UP 397 – Undergraduate Research** also count as UP electives. Please review the relevant sections below for more information.

#### i) Planning Internship (UP 390)

The objective of the planning internship is to introduce urban planning students to professional employment and actual planning practice. Students work in an organization of their own choice, subject to departmental approval, either during the summer session or part-time during a regular term. Typical places of employment include municipal and county governments, private planning consulting firms, non-profit agencies, regional planning councils, park districts, and state agencies such as the Department of Transportation.

Students earn credit for their internship by registering and completing requirements for **UP 390 – Planning Internship**.

The internship must be preceded by at least one semester of course work in planning while in residence at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

#### Additional Internship Information

1. A BAUSP internship must consist of at least 135 hours of appropriate planning-related work. Students earn 3 hours of credit that counts toward their urban planning electives.
2. The work must be planning, or clearly related to planning; that is, work must be directed toward the physical, economic, environmental, or social betterment of a community. The agency must be involved in such action and the internship must be performed under the supervision of a professional in the field.
3. Internship credit will not be given for work that is primarily clerical in nature (answering the telephone, data entry), for manual labor (e.g., landscaping), or for most university research. Typically, an internship consists of support tasks similar to those of an entry level professional position. These might include but are not limited to: field data collection, map preparation, data analysis, preparation of case memos, participation in public meetings, and preparation of memos and reports to support planning activities.
4. Internship credit will normally not be given for work in law, banking, engineering, architecture, or landscape architecture offices unless the work of the office has a

clear planning component that distinguishes it from the norm. Internship credit will normally be given for work for relevant public agencies, consultants in planning or economic development, community nonprofits, and private developers.

5. Most internships are during the summer break. Internships may be on a paid or volunteer basis, depending on the student's arrangements with the agency.
6. UP 390 internship credit is given only to students enrolled in the BAUSP Program and in **UP 390 – Planning Internship**. Prior approval of internships by the UP 390 course instructor is required along with completion of three forms to include: An agency offer, supervisor evaluation and student evaluation.

### **Internship Requirements**

Students must submit the following to complete the internship:

1. [Agency Offer of Internship](#)  
This form is completed by the professional who will act as the internship supervisor. The purpose of the form is to assure the necessary commitment of time by the supervisor, and to confirm that the tasks will be appropriate for an internship. Once the student has accepted an offer, they should submit this form which will route to the course instructor for approval. This will allow the student to enroll in **UP 390 – Planning Internship**.
2. [Student Internship Evaluation](#)  
This form must be completed at the end of the internship in order to receive a grade of satisfactory for UP 390.
3. [Agency Internship Evaluation](#)  
The internship supervisor must return this form at the end of the internship. The student is responsible to ensure that the supervisor has the form and submits it in a timely manner. The form provides the supervisor with the chance to evaluate student skills and to reflect upon their contribution to the agency. Students will not receive a grade for UP 390 until the form is submitted.
4. [UP 390 Class Sessions](#)  
During the semester after completion of the internship, students are required to attend several sessions of UP390. These sessions will be scheduled at the beginning of each semester. These sessions provide opportunities to share work and experiences with classmates.

ii) **Undergraduate Research (UP 397)**

Students work with an instructor on a special project or applied research related to real world urban problems and professional practice. Students gain advanced skills in research or project-based work and self-directed time management and understand how to make meaningful contributions to the discipline through research or project-based work. Students may enroll for 1-3 credit hours with instructor consent.

### **3. Minor in Urban Studies and Planning**

Urban Planning is an interdisciplinary field that emphasizes cohesion, cooperation, and compassion. As such, an Urban Studies and Planning Minor enhances many other program majors. Our students explore current issues impacting the development and functioning of communities worldwide.

By enriching your college major with an Urban Studies and Planning Minor, you will:

- Apply problem-solving skills and policy development techniques.
- Explore a broad range of communities—from local neighborhoods to international “mega-cities.”
- Work face-to-face with internationally recognized faculty. Our instructors offer a broad range of courses. They explore the historical core of planning and introduce students to cutting-edge research. To learn more about the faculty, check out Meet Our Faculty.
- Connect with community-minded people who focus on the future. To learn more about our students, check out Meet Our Students.

#### **a) Admission process**

Applicants for the Urban Studies & Planning Minor must have a 2.75 GPA or higher. We accept applications on a continuous basis, but we reserve admission decisions until an applicant’s GPA is available for the current semester. Admission decisions are also informed by the department’s capacity for additional students. Final decisions, credit checks, and graduation requirements are the responsibility of the FAA Office of Academic Affairs.

To apply, please complete the [Minor Declaration Form](#).

### b) Requirement to complete

The Urban Studies and Urban Planning minor curriculum consists of 1) 2 core courses; 2) 12 credit hours of electives, for a total of 18 credit hours. Please see summary of credit hours below:

| Summary of credit hours                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                 | Credit    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| UP 101                                                                                                                                                                                        | Introduction to City Planning                                   | 3         |
| UP 203 <i>or</i><br>UP 204                                                                                                                                                                    | Cities: Planning & Urban Life<br>Chicago: Planning & Urban Life | 3         |
| Elective courses offered by DURP. At least six (6) hours of coursework must be advanced courses (300- or 400-level) and distinct from credit earned for the student's major or another minor. |                                                                 | 12        |
| <b>Total Degree Hours</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                 | <b>18</b> |

## 4. BAUSP/MUP 4 + 1 Program

The 4+1 program allows BAUSP students with Junior standing to complete the Master of Urban Planning degree (MUP) on an accelerated timeline, graduating with both BAUSP and MUP degrees in five years. Eligibility for participation in the 4+1 program is restricted to Junior BAUSP majors with a minimum 3.50 GPA. Junior BAUSP majors who do not meet this requirement are welcome to inquire about applying to the program, but their applications will need to provide extraordinary evidence of preparedness for the program in order to gain admission.

During Senior year, students accepted to the 4+1 program complete a blend of undergraduate and first-year MUP coursework. Students also formally apply to the MUP program during Fall semester. Students receive their BAUSP degree at the end of the year.

4+1 Seniors accepted to the MUP program then complete second-year MUP requirements, including the MUP capstone, during the following year. Students who complete the 4+1 program graduate with their MUP degree a year after receiving their BAUSP degree.

### a) Admissions Process

- Eligible BAUSP students should submit their application packet as a single PDF document to Jennifer Kowalski ([jakowal@illinois.edu](mailto:jakowal@illinois.edu)) by **December 15** of their junior year.
- Applicants will prepare an application packet containing the following items:
  - Cover Letter: Please prepare a cover letter that includes your name, UIN, and University of Illinois email address, and that clearly states that you are applying to the 4+1 program.

- Statement of Purpose: Please compose a statement of purpose of no more than 1,500 words that describes your background, motivation, and qualifications for pursuing a MUP degree at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The statement of purpose should focus not only on your qualifications, but also on your future educational and professional goals.
- Resume: Please attach a current resume of no more than 2 pages in length.
- Work Examples: Please attach with your application up to two examples of professional work products. These products may have been produced by you as part of a class assignment, internship, or other professional engagement. The selected work examples should be reflective of your preparedness to undertake graduate-level study in the senior year of your BAUSP degree.
- Please reach out to Professor Andrew Greenlee ([agreen4@illinois.edu](mailto:agreen4@illinois.edu)), Director of Graduate Studies, with any questions about the 4+1 program or application.
- Admissions decisions are sent no later than mid-January.

## b) 4+1 Plan of Study

The 4+1 program is split into two components – the senior year of the BAUSP program, and the MUP program year.

### i) BAUSP Senior year

A BAUSP student admitted to the 4+1 program is expected to enroll in the first-year MUP core courses in their senior year, although they are not yet admitted to the MUP program. Typically, a 4+1 student will take a senior workshop (4 hours), as required by the BAUSP program, plus the five first-year MUP core courses:

| Course Number    | Course Title              | Semester Offered |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| UP 401           | Undergraduate Seminar     | Fall             |
| UP 447, 456, 478 | Senior Workshop           | Fall or Spring   |
| UP 501           | Planning History & Theory | Fall             |
| UP 503           | Physical Planning         | Fall             |
| UP 505           | Urban & Regional Analysis | Fall             |
| UP 504           | Urban History & Theory    | Spring           |
| UP 511           | Law & Planning            | Spring           |

The MUP core courses meet the BAUSP requirements for UP electives and planning-related electives.

In the fall and spring semesters of the senior year, the Academic Advisor will collect feedback on 4+1 students' performance from their course instructors and will make a determination regarding adequate progress in the program. At the end of their senior year, the 4+1 student is qualified to graduate with the BAUSP degree, having met all the requirements of that program.

During Fall semester of their senior year, 4+1 students wishing to complete the MUP degree will formally apply to the MUP program, submitting a full application package including recommendations, and transcripts. 4+1 students will also submit a MUP Plan of Study to their academic advisor for review during their senior year.

## ii) MUP program year

Once admitted to the MUP program, a 4+1 student must take 32 credit hours of graduate-level courses, 20 of which must be UP courses. These courses include the capstone requirement (8 credit hours). Up to two MUP core courses may be included among the 32 hours. If more core courses are needed, then correspondingly more than 32 hours will be required for the MUP degree. The 32 hours of graduate courses is a minimum requirement for the MUP degree; it cannot be reduced by UP 590 internship or course waivers.

# 5. Student advising and support

## a) DURP Academic Advisor

Students can reach out to our Academic Advisor, Ben LeRoy ([bleroy@illinois.edu](mailto:bleroy@illinois.edu)) for guidance on curriculum planning. The advisor will assist with:

- Course selection
- Study abroad course planning
- Transfers
- Urban Studies and Planning Minor
- BAUSP students seeking a minor in other fields
- Administrative needs such as course petitions, course substitutions, and late course changes

## b) College of Fine and Applied Arts (FAA) Office of Academic Affairs

- The FAA Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs provides an additional layer of support and resources for undergraduate students at FAA.
- The Office is open to meet with students during regular business hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m (Room 110 Architecture Building).

- If you have questions, you may also contact the office at 217-333-6061 or [faa-uaa@illinois.edu](mailto:faa-uaa@illinois.edu).
- FAA also has an Embedded Clinical Counselor who assists in addressing emotional, interpersonal, wellness, and academic needs.
  - Bryan Deutsch, LCSW, Embedded Clinical Counselor
  - You may contact Bryan at: 217-333-3704, or [bmdeuts2@illinois.edu](mailto:bmdeuts2@illinois.edu) (Rm. 108 Architecture Building)