The School of Urban Studies at the University of Washington Tacoma explores urban dynamics that shape our cities both locally and globally. Course topics include urban society and culture, urban environmental issues, planning, race and poverty, and economic development. Graduates are qualified for public or private-sector jobs in areas such as housing and community development, planning, transportation, government agencies, and social services. The school is also excellent preparation for those interested in graduate study in community development, community planning, public administration, law, or urban planning/design.

The Urban Studies mission is to engage students, faculty and community to advance critical thinking, social justice, and applied research through the transformative power of higher education.

We strive to:
- Be a premier School of Urban Studies within a leading urban-serving university.
- Teach to engage; research to advance knowledge; act to promote social justice and equitable development.

URBAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS
- Urban Studies Endowed Scholarship
- Ryan Petty and Erling O. Mork Scholarship
- General Urban Studies Student Scholarship
- GIS & Spatial Technologies Scholarship
- Columbia Bank Scholarship
- Graduate Merit Scholarship
- Catalyst Award
- GIS Certificate Program

114 Enrolled student headcount
- Urban Studies (BA).............. 31
- Sustainable Urban Development (BA).......... 20
- Urban Design (BS)............... 33
- Community Planning (MA)........ 16
- Geospatial Technologies (MS).............. 14

42% Female 58% Male
33% Underrepresented minorities
- Caucasian........................... 46.0%
- Asian American .................. 15.0%
- African American................. 14.2%
- Hispanic............................. 9.7%
- Two or more races................. 9.7%
- International....................... 3.5%
- American Indian................... 1.8%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander......... 0.0%
- Not reported....................... 0.0%

26% Military-affiliated

The academic year for FTE runs from summer through spring, while the academic year for degrees runs autumn through summer. All information shown is current as of Autumn Quarter 2019.

tacoma.uw.edu/urban-studies

DIRECTOR
Ali Modarres, Ph.D.

DEGREES OFFERED
- URBAN STUDIES
  BACHELOR OF ARTS, EST. 2001
- SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT
  BACHELOR OF ARTS, EST. 2011
- URBAN DESIGN
  BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, EST. 2018

COMMUNITY PLANNING
MASTER OF ARTS, EST. 2016

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES
MASTER OF SCIENCE, EST. 2014

GIS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
EST. 2004
BACHELOR OF ARTS, URBAN STUDIES
Urban Studies is a discipline dedicated to the study of cities and how they function. The degree focuses on important quality of life issues, including economy, environment, politics, governance, social justice and cultural dynamics. Formal options in Global Urbanism, Community Development & Planning, and GIS & Spatial Planning deliver focused theory and skill-based courses that teach the impact of local and global dynamics of urban society. Graduates are qualified for public or private-sector jobs in areas such as housing and community development, planning, transportation, government and social services.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, URBAN DESIGN
The first undergraduate urban design program on the west coast, this degree helps students turn their passions for social change and equity into meaningful urban design solutions producing livable cities and neighborhoods. Students gain skills in visual communication, design thinking and community-engaged design processes that are applied in design studios dedicated to engaging with local and regional urban issues.

BACHELOR OF ARTS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT
One of the first such degrees in the nation, Sustainable Urban Development will prepare students to address recent initiatives that have called for a significant “greening” of urban development, both locally and internationally. The degree focuses on the study of cities from three perspectives: economy, environment, and equity. Graduates are qualified for jobs with planning agencies, corporations adhering to sustainability practices, consulting firms, nonprofit organizations and environmental/resource-related agencies in local, state and federal government.

MASTER OF ARTS, COMMUNITY PLANNING
Graduates of the MA in Community Planning are collaborative professionals who work with and empower community constituents, influencing processes of policy formation, resource generation, community change and urban development. The program’s emphasis is on urban social issues, community development and urban problem solving committed to training students to think critically and creatively, and to work collaboratively in the interest of creating sustainable communities.

MASTER OF SCIENCE, GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES
The MS in Geospatial Technologies degree will provide advanced training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including mobile and web-based GIS. Students are trained in the use and application of geospatial hardware, software and data in urban and environmental planning scenarios. Graduates are prepared to become leaders in the management and utilization of geospatial technologies within the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) CERTIFICATE
The GIS certificate program is a nine-month course of study for those seeking the knowledge and skills to utilize GIS in fields such as urban and regional planning, environmental research, resource management, crime analysis, marketing, real estate, medical research and various branches of government. This certificate is open to current undergraduate students in any major and the community.