

THE CITIES PROGRAM

Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

"THIS IS TRULY A CALL TO THIS GENERATION TO BUILD A DIFFERENT WORLD OF URBAN OPPORTUNITY AND POSSIBILITY."

"THE STAKES ARE HIGH; THE PATH OF DEVELOPMENT IN MANY CITIES AROUND THE WORLD IS SIMPLY NOT SUSTAINABLE."

THE CITIES PROGRAM

Designed for top students interested in cities — past, present, and future

Cities have played a central role in recorded history from ancient times to the present. They have been centers of artistic and intellectual creativity, seats of political and military power, engines of economic growth and innovation, focal points of technological invention and scientific discovery, and arenas for the interaction of diverse peoples and cultures. They have been, as well, places of hardship, oppression, and social injustice, for a striking paradox of urban life is that it often combines much of the best in human experience with some of the worst. Now, with half of the world's population living in cities for the first time in history, cities are becoming even more crucial to our understanding of economic development, cultural identity, social justice, and environmental challenges.

The Cities Program is an innovative, non-major program that examines cities—past, present, and future—in all their extraordinary variety and complexity. It is open to 15–20 selected members of each entering class—students who are chosen on the basis of their strong academic qualifications and motivation, and who wish to make the study of cities and urban issues an important part of their liberal arts education.

The program views cities from a broad range of perspectives in the humanities and social sciences, drawing on insights from history, architectural history, literary and cultural studies, anthropology, economics, environmental science, geography, politics, sociology, and urban planning, among other fields. It balances a strong emphasis on older cities in the United States and Europe with a timely attention to rapid urbanization elsewhere, especially the explosive growth of megacities (e.g., Mumbai, Sao Paulo, Shanghai) in the developing world.

The program is an integral part of the Center for Urban and Global Studies at Trinity College, which was officially inaugurated in October of 2007 (www.trincoll.edu/UG).

The distinguishing features of the program include:

- An interdisciplinary approach
- Compatibility with every major offered at Trinity
- Use of the city of Hartford as a multi-dimensional educational resource
- Emphasis on a comparative approach to understanding world cities
- Special courses and other activities open only to students in the program
- Hands-on involvement with urban issues and problems through research projects, experiential learning, and internships in Hartford and world cities

Among the many challenging and controversial questions you will explore are: Can there be civilization without cities? What have the driving forces been behind the rise—and the decline—of cities in various places and historical periods? What have been the benefits, and the costs, of urbanization? How have cities influenced, and been influenced by, industrialization, democratization, migration, and globalization?

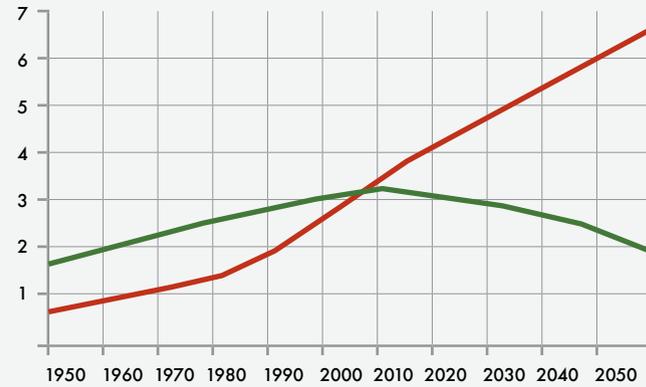
As a Cities Program student you will pursue answers to such questions through four special first-year courses, plus a more integrating second-year course and a final requirement in the sophomore year.

Participating faculty members carefully coordinate the courses (and other special activities such as a field trip to New York City) to ensure curricular coherence and to help you integrate the diverse disciplines, materials, viewpoints, and experiences represented in the program. The goal is for you not simply to take an assortment of courses on cities but to acquire a coherent, comprehensive, cumulative, interdisciplinary understanding of this multifaceted and complex subject.

The Cities Program provides a broad interdisciplinary foundation for students to pursue their urban interests further and deeper. One student recently self-designed an urban studies major, which prompted him to study in London in his junior year, then participate in Trinity's "Megacities of the Yangtze River" summer program, and finally enroll in the master's program in urban planning at London School of Economics upon graduation in 2010.

TERRA URBA

EARTH'S POPULATION IS SHIFTING.
BY 2050, TWO-THIRDS OF US WILL LIVE IN CITIES

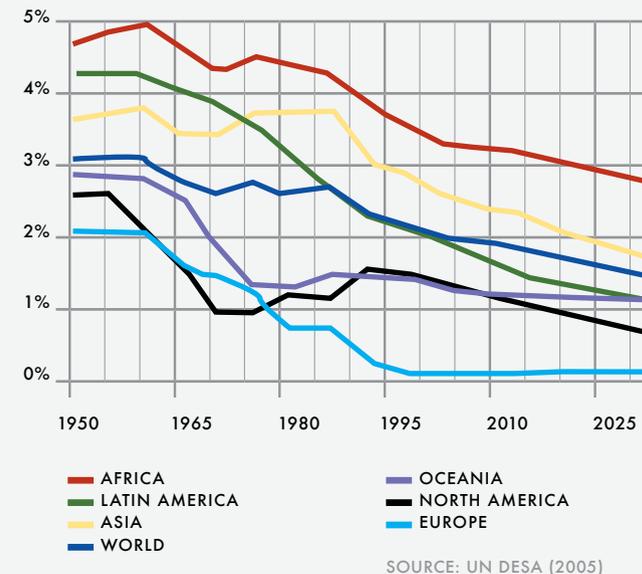


Source: *World Population Prospects; The 2006 Revision and World Urbanization Prospects; The 2007 Revision*, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

The world crossed a demographic milestone in 2009—now more than half the population is urban.



URBAN GROWTH RATES



SOURCE: UN DESA (2005)

Differentially declining rates of urban growth by major world regions.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

In the spring of each year, applicants for admission to Trinity who are judged to have the necessary academic qualifications and potential interest in studying cities are invited to become candidates for enrollment in the Cities Program. Other applicants to the College who find the program appealing are encouraged to seek admission to it as well. Inquiries should be sent to Dean Xiangming Chen, director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies and Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Sociology and International Studies. His postal address is Trinity College, 300 Summit Street, Hartford, CT 06106; his e-mail address is xiangming.chen@trincoll.edu; and his phone number is (860) 297-5175.

THE CURRICULUM

The first year

During the first year, you will take an integrated sequence of four courses in the program—two each semester. These courses have been expressly created for the program and are open only to students enrolled in it. They introduce an array of urban topics from four distinctive and complementary disciplinary perspectives.

Fall semester

URST 101. Introduction to Urban Studies

This course provides a general introduction to the interdisciplinary field of urban studies. Using a variety of Western and non-Western cities as illustrative examples, the course aims to give a broad survey and understanding of the distinctive characteristics of urban places. Students will learn definitions, concepts and theories that are fundamental to the field. Topics covered include the role of planning in shaping cities, the economic structure and functions of cities, the evolution of urban culture, community organization and development, gentrification and urban renewal, and urban governance and policy.

CTYP 202. The City as Built Environment

This course selectively examines the architectural and planning history of major European and American cities from ancient Greece to the present day. Topics include the nature of city centers and the role of public space, the formalization of town planning as a discipline, patterns of patronage and architectural education, the infrastructure of cities, and the influence of new technologies and industrialization on cities. A selection of examples—Athens, Rome, Paris, Amsterdam, London, Berlin, Vienna, New York, and Washington, D.C.—will serve as case studies.

Spring semester

CTYP 200. Hartford, Past and Present

Over the course of almost 400 years, just about every important development in American urban life has left its mark for good and ill on Hartford. The city is, therefore, an excellent point of entry into the study of American cities. The course offers an examination of Hartford's development as a major financial and manufacturing center in the 19th and 20th centuries and its subsequent transformation into a troubled post-industrial city at the heart of a privileged metropolitan area. Particular attention will be paid to changes over time in the city's economy; its ethnic, racial, religious, and class composition; its political and civic life; and its culture. The course will also explore the causes of the social and economic problems now confronting Hartford and recent efforts at reform and redevelopment.

CTYP 207. Cities in Global and Historical Perspective

This course will examine cities, past, present, and future, from the standpoint of the social sciences. It is concerned with historical patterns of city growth, planning, and change; the variation in cities across the regions of the world; and the way in which the increasingly global economy has shaped contemporary cities and the interconnections between cities. The course also focuses on the distinctive impact of cities on social, political, and intellectual life.

The sophomore year

Final required course

Bringing together some of the themes from the four courses in the first year, this course (SOCL 227: From Hartford to World Cities) uses an integrated and comparative approach to studying the local and global characteristics, connections, conditions, and consequences of the growth and transformation of cities. Again, using Hartford—Trinity's hometown—as a place of departure, the course takes students to a set of world or global cities outside the United States, especially a few dynamic megacities in developing countries, to explore the differences and similarities among them, as well as how to make sense of these differences and similarities. The cities include London, Johannesburg, Mexico City, and Shanghai. The topics include industrial restructuring, housing and neighborhoods, spatial inequalities, (im)migration patterns, and metropolitan and regional governance. The course aims to provide a rich theoretical and analytical synthesis for understanding the diversity and complexity of the urban world.

The final requirement

This requirement, which students satisfy in the spring of the sophomore year, rounds out the program. A number of options for fulfilling the requirement are offered. They include an independent study, an individual or small-group research project, an internship, or another suitable elective urban course. The option chosen must be approved in advance by Dean Xiangming Chen, director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies and Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Sociology and International Studies. Most of the options are valued at one course credit, but some of them carry more or less than one. Examples of elective courses include "19th-Century Architecture;" "Cities and Economic Development;" "Cities, Suburbs, and Schools;" "Global Hartford;" "Tokyo: Fishing to Cosmos;" "Transnational Urbanism;" and "Urban Mosaic."



Cristina Wheeler Castillo '08 and Denisa Jashari '10 participate in Hispanic Studies 280, "Hispanic Hartford," which introduces students to Hartford's Spanish-speaking communities.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What qualities does the Cities Program look for in participating students?

Exceptional academic talent and motivation and eagerness to gain deeper knowledge and understanding of cities and urban issues through rigorous, interdisciplinary study.

How do I become a candidate for admission to the Cities Program?

Each year—typically in March—selected applicants for admission to Trinity are invited to consider enrolling in the program. If you receive such an invitation and are interested in participating, send written notice of your interest to Dean Xiangming Chen, director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies and Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Sociology and International Studies, by the date specified in the letter of invitation. Any other student seeking admission to the College who finds the program attractive may become a candidate for it by writing to Dean Chen.

What happens if I express interest in the Cities Program?

If the Admissions Office acts favorably on your application to Trinity, a faculty committee will then review your academic qualifications and determine whether to admit you to the program. If you are accepted, you will be notified by mid-April and given to the end of the month to decide whether to enroll.

Since the Cities Program is limited to about 20 students in each entering class, it is not always possible to admit everyone who wishes to participate. In that case, preference is given to those students deemed to have the greatest aptitude and motivation for the kind of

demanding work the program involves. The decision is based on information already in your Admissions Office file (school grades, teacher recommendations, test scores, etc.) plus a short written response about why you want to study cities that you should submit along with your Trinity admissions application.

Will my chances of being admitted to Trinity be influenced by whether or not I apply to the Cities Program?

No. The program is not a factor in Admissions Office decisions. If you are invited to become a candidate for the program but choose not to do so, that will not adversely affect your chances of gaining admission to Trinity. Nor will those chances be improved if you express interest in the program.

If I am invited to participate in the Cities Program and one of Trinity's other special programs for selected first-year students (Guided Studies Program: European Cultures, Interdisciplinary Science Program, or InterArts Program), can I enroll in both?

No. It is not feasible to participate in more than one such program. If faced with a choice, select the program that you think comes closest to your particular academic interests.

Can I enter the Cities Program any time after the start of the first year?

If space is available, a few qualified students may be allowed to begin the program as second-semester first-years or first-semester sophomores.

Who will be my faculty adviser if I participate in the Cities Program?

Since students in the program usually do not take a first-year seminar, they have as their first-year/ sophomore adviser one of the program's faculty members or its director. When you declare your major in the spring of the sophomore year, you will be assigned an adviser in your major department or program.

If I participate in the Cities Program, will I still have time during my first two years to take courses in other subjects, including those in which I may want to major?

Yes. During the first year and sophomore years combined, students take a total of from 17 to 19 courses. Only six of these at most are in the program. Thus, you will have ample opportunity to explore other areas of Trinity's curriculum.

Will participation in the Cities Program limit my choice of major?

No. The program is designed to be compatible with every major offered at Trinity, including those in the arts, the humanities, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

Can Cities Program students study abroad?

Yes. In fact, one of the program's options for the final requirement centers on overseas study. Students in the program are especially well prepared for certain city-focused study-abroad programs (including summer programs) administered by Trinity or affiliated institutions.

If I am admitted to the Cities Program, will I be entitled to remain in it until completion?

Yes, provided that you do satisfactory work. However, students whose performance falls short of the standards of the program can be required to withdraw from it.

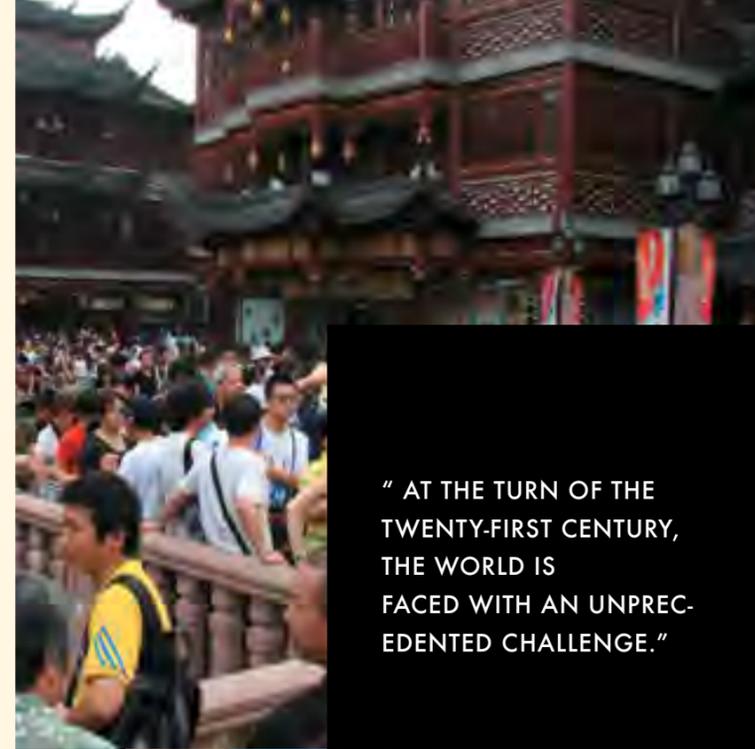
How does the Cities Program relate to Trinity's general education requirements?

Various Cities Program courses may be used to satisfy the arts, humanities, and social science distribution requirements, as well as the College's global requirement.

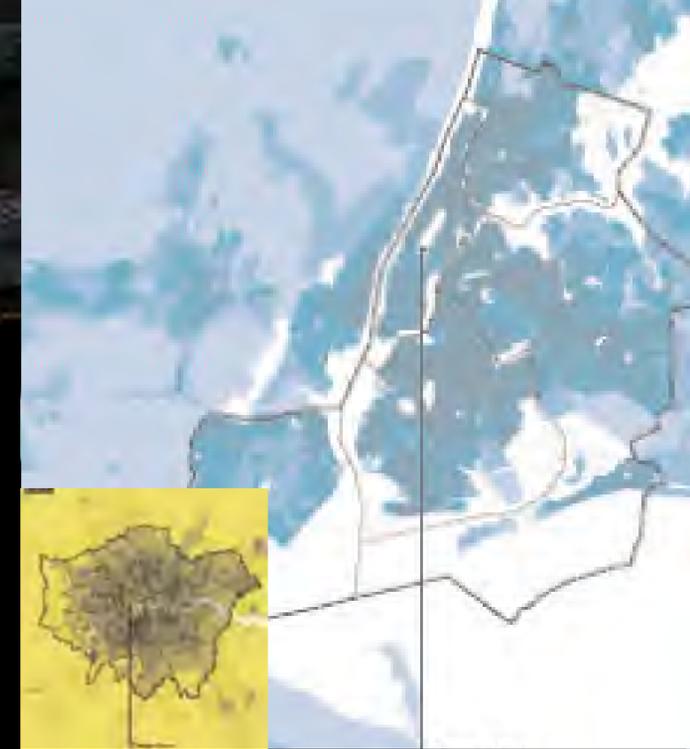
What recognition is accorded students who participate in the Cities Program?

Successful completion of the program is noted on the student's transcript.

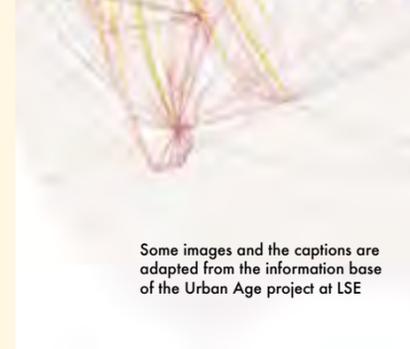
Students who have completed the Cities Program after their first two years are well positioned to deepen their interest in urban issues by taking a growing number and variety of urban courses at Trinity and at the College's global programs in several world cities, including Buenos Aires, Paris, Trinidad, Vienna, Rome, Cape Town, Barcelona, and Shanghai. Several recent Cities Program graduates have chosen to self-design an urban studies major to go with majors such as American studies, economics, english, public policy, and sociology.



" AT THE TURN OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, THE WORLD IS FACED WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE."



"NATIONAL PROSPERITY IS NOW DEPENDENT ON THE ABILITY OF CITIES TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL."



Some images and the captions are adapted from the information base of the Urban Age project at LSE



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Photos by Bob Handelman and Nick Lacy.
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