2-14-1972

New Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Life Established

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Recommended Citation
"New Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Life Established" (1972). News Releases. 3980.
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DAYTON, Ohio, February 14, 1972 --- Urban life is demanding more and more professionally trained people to cope with the problems of the city as population continues to grow. In recognition of this, the University of Dayton is instituting a new Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Life.

The program was designed by Dr. Mary Jo Huth, Associate Professor of Sociology, in collaboration with Dr. Hani Fakhouri, Associate Professor of Anthropology, and several departments at the University, notably, Political Science, Economics, Computer Science, and Civil Engineering.

Several features of this program are unique. One is the six credit hour "practicum" whereby an Urban Life major must devote 12 hours each week for one term to service as a community organizer, research assistant, or an administrative intern with a local public or private agency under the combined supervision of the University of Dayton Practicum coordinator, and an agency staff member.

Another opportunity offered by the program is the 12 credit hour European Urban Affairs Study Tour. This allows a student to participate in a seven weeks third trimester program abroad involving seminars by European experts and/or field trips in the areas of Urban Planning, social services, and cultural anthropology.

Four main categories of courses will be combined for the 120 credit hour multidisciplinary degree program. The first category will be general B.A. degree requirements. Another will be research tools, involving a choice of foreign language, statistics, and computer science. The third category will be urban-related courses, both required and elective. General electives will make up the fourth category.

Majors in other departments of the University may earn a Certificate in Urban Life in lieu of a Sociology minor. The 21 credit hour certificate program is comprised of the following six courses: Perspectives in Urban Man, Urban Sociology, Urban Anthropology, Urban Politics, Urban Economics and Finance, and the Urban Life Practicum.

Both the Bachelor of Science degree and the Certificate in Urban Life programs will be offered for the first time during the Fall Term of the 1972-73 academic year. By preparing students for a wide variety of careers with various public and private employers, including welfare and service organizations, urban planning bodies, law enforcement agencies, and state and municipal governments, the two career-oriented programs are designed to provide a more definitive direction to the curriculum of Sociology majors and minors.

For those students who choose to pursue graduate study after securing the B.A. or certificate in Urban Life, there are approximately 60 M.A. and 10 Ph.D. programs available in the United States at the present time.

Although the number of undergraduate urban affairs programs in the country now exceeds 100, this situation has developed largely within the past three to four years—quite significantly since the last of the long, hot summers of urban rioting (1967) and since passage of the 1968 and 1970 Housing Acts. With these Acts, Congress agreed to make loans and grants available to both public and private agencies for the construction of 100 new towns for 100,000 people each, and 10 for 1,000,000 each by the year 2,000 in accord with a 1968 recommendation by the National Urban Growth Policy Committee.

"Commitment to the theme "man and his environment," is becoming increasingly prevalent as more and more people throughout the world are becoming urbanized," according to Dr. Huth. "Moreover, as the problems of the urban milieu multiply correspondingly, the demand for scientific knowledge concerning the nature and causes of these problems, as well as for persons professionally trained to cope with them, has become extremely urgent. It is not surprising, therefore, that the discipline of Urban Affairs has suddenly emerged as a firmly established and highly respected academic pursuit at all levels of American higher education."