The Ohio State University Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) is the hub for urban issues on campus. From analyzing market potential for government officials to mapping trees on the Oval, CURA engages in a wide breadth of research activities. Throughout the academic year CURA hosts speakers to engage students, staff and faculty. By connecting multiple areas of scholarship on urban topics, CURA seeks to be the locus of the university’s work around the emerging field of urban science.

CORE RESEARCH AREAS

URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POLICY
- Economic growth
- Housing market
- Transportation
- Innovation centers

PUBLIC HEALTH
- Built environment
- Physical activity
- Community health
- Environmental health

GIS & MAPPING
- Geospatial data infrastructure
- Geocoding
- Geolocating
- Data visualization

ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY
- Human dimensions of climate change
- Energy
- Sustainable urban development
- Urban change analysis

CONNECT WITH CURA

cura@osu.edu
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@OSUCURA

CURA’s mission is to serve as a bridge across academia, industry and the policy sector by providing spatial analysis of economic, social, environmental and health issues in urban and regional settings in Ohio and beyond. Students and faculty use CURA as a resource for mapping and spatial analysis projects, from doctoral dissertations to grant collaboration.

The center connects a group of scholars in social, natural and environmental sciences; applied economics; agriculture; engineering; health and medical professions; and the humanities.
URBAN CURRICULUM AT OHIO STATE

Urban science, urban studies, urban issues and urban life are expressed through numerous disciplines at Ohio State. With more than 200 majors and hundreds of specializations and minors, urban issues are found in the curricula of multiple colleges, schools, departments and centers.

CURA has launched an effort to collect and publicize courses that include the study and teaching of urban issues. From urban history to urban economics, the university has a wide variety of courses in multiple colleges and departments that teach students about the complexities of cities. Visit the “Urban Curriculum @ Ohio State” section of our website to learn more.

“CURA is actively adding collaborative research with colleagues from a wide variety of departments and other centers. These projects add spatial and mapping components to many topics, ranging from social science to public health.”

(Morton O’Kelly, CURA director)

A SAMPLING OF CURA PROJECTS

DATA HOSTING
CURA provides data infrastructure for Ohio State’s Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Garden’s Mobile Tree Mapping Project, helping staff manage a collection of more than 9,000 trees.

CARTOGRAPHY
CURA is collaborating with Ohio State’s Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity to digitize Ohio’s redlining maps from the 1930s, enabling researchers from around the country to utilize them in new ways.

SPATIAL ANALYSIS
CURA is working with the Mid-Ohio Foodbank and Ohio State’s Food Innovation Center to analyze spatial data and increase the equitable distribution of food resources.

DATA VISUALIZATION
CURA and its partner, Ohio State’s Center for Aviation Studies, are developing detailed maps of air service accessibility for more than 400 airports, which could have profound implications for government and industry decision making.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION
CURA is collaborating with Ohio State’s Facilities Operations and Development to create digital signage, maps and a website to track energy consumption in buildings on central campus and raise awareness of the need to reduce energy usage.