

Public Policy Studies

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Program of Study

Public Policy Studies offers College students an opportunity to pursue the interdisciplinary analysis of domestic and international policy issues. The primary disciplines among the teaching faculty are economics, political science, and sociology. Course work emphasizes the application of these disciplines to real-world policy issues.

The program of study for the B.A. degree in public policy studies is designed to introduce students to policy analysis and implementation, equip them to use quantitative and economic techniques and methods, train them in policy research, and give them a command of at least one particular policy area.

Students may focus their interests on domestic policy concerns or on international or foreign matters. Those interested in domestic issues can assemble an outstanding selection of courses from offerings in political science, economics, and sociology. For example, students can specialize in urban problems; health care; education; or the influence of the labor market, the family, and social attitudes on the status of various income and racial groups. As a further example, students can specialize in policy implementation, taking courses in the economics of public management, organizational decision-making, and complex organizations, among others.

The program also encourages students to have an internship experience either during the academic year or during the summer. PBPL 29600 offers academic course credit for students completing an approved, policy-oriented internship. For more information about internship opportunities and requirements, students should consult the program administrator.

Students should contact the program director or the program administrator with questions about meeting requirements for the public policy studies degree.

Program Requirements

The suggested sequence described below is typical, but many other variations are possible. There is flexibility within the program regarding when required courses can be taken.

First Year. During their first or second year, students must choose one of the following two options: (1) one full year of calculus or (2) two quarters of calculus

plus one other quantitative course (e.g., upper-level statistics class; computer science courses at the level of CMSC 10100 or above; or a social sciences quantitative or “methods” class, such as CHDV 21100 or PSYC 21100).

Second Year. Students typically take the following required three-quarter sequence in their second year. However, taking the courses in the same year is *not required*, and they may be taken in any order.

PBPL 22100. Politics and Policy

PBPL 22200. Public Policy Analysis

PBPL 22300. Problems of Policy Implementation

Students are also required to take PBPL 20000 (Economics for Public Policy) or ECON 20000 (The Elements of Economic Analysis I); either course satisfies the economics prerequisite for PBPL 22200. PBPL 20000 assumes no prior economics course, whereas ECON 19800 is required of all students taking ECON 20000 without a prior microeconomics course.

NOTE: Students who plan to study abroad in Winter or Spring Quarter of their third year are strongly urged to complete the required two-quarter practicum (PBPL 26200-26300 [Field Research Project]) in their second year. Another reason that some students take the practicum in their second year is to gain early exposure to hands-on policy work. Other students, however, complete the practicum in their fourth year.

Third Year. Students typically complete the courses that follow in their third year.

At least one course in statistics. Students are strongly encouraged to take STAT 22000, especially if they anticipate taking several economics courses or the more analytical political science courses. STAT 20000 is an acceptable substitute for STAT 22000. A second statistics course is recommended.

Courses in an area of specialization. Students should identify their area of specialization and submit a proposal for their program of study to the program administrator by the end of Winter Quarter in their third year. Students are required to complete three substantive policy courses that make up a specialization in a public policy field. Students may meet the specialization requirement in one of two ways: (1) by taking three courses that logically connect (e.g., courses in urban politics, urban economics, and urban society would count as an urban specialization; or courses in international relations, international finance, and history of the European Union might be an international specialty); or (2) by taking three courses beyond the introductory course in one discipline other than public policy (e.g., economics, political science, sociology, statistics). Students should take two of these courses in their third year. Courses that satisfy the area of specialization requirement do not have to be listed or cross listed as public policy courses. However, these courses should involve a substantial policy component.

Research practicum. In Winter and Spring Quarters, students must participate in a two-quarter practicum (PBPL 26200-26300 [Field Research Project]). The field research practicum is a two-quarter course designed to teach research methods in a hands-on way. Students in the practicum work collectively on a real-world policy problem, with a focus on Chicago. Recent projects have included developing and testing measures of the impact of cultural organizations on local communities for the city of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, examining the impact of welfare reform on former welfare recipients entering the labor market under Welfare-to-Work programs, and assessing barriers to citizenship. Each year, the class project results in a final report prepared for the client, and often a public presentation of the findings is made as well. The research practicum is generally taken by students in their second or third year.

Fourth Year. Students must write a B.A. paper in their fourth year. The B.A. paper typically is not an expansion of the third-year research study. Students wishing to be considered for honors should choose a faculty adviser for the project. The instructor of PBPL 29800, the public policy preceptor, serves as a reader for all other B.A. papers.

Further assistance is available in a seminar course (PBPL 29800) offered in Autumn Quarter and required of all public policy students. The seminar informs students about sources and methods of research. During the second half of the course, students offer preliminary statements about the mode of inquiry, sources, and treatment of evidence for their B.A. papers. Students work throughout Winter and Spring Quarters with the Public Policy Senior Preceptors revising the B.A. paper. Students may take as many as two quarters of PBPL 29900 (B.A. Paper Preparation: Public Policy) for general elective credit.

This program may accept a B.A. paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest B.A. proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, when neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

Courses. Many courses in related disciplines (e.g., Anthropology; Economics; History; Law, Letters, and Society; Political Science; Sociology) count toward the major when used as "specialization" courses.

Summary of Requirements

<i>General Education</i>		MATH 13100-13200 or higher*
<i>Major</i>	1	MATH 13300 or equivalent*
	3	PBPL 22100-22200-22300
	1	ECON 20000 or PBPL 20000
	1	course in statistics*
	3	courses in an area of specialization
	2	PBPL 26200-26300 (research practicum)
	1	PBPL 29800 (Senior Seminar)
	–	B.A. paper
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* *Credit may be granted by examination.*

It is recommended that students take an additional course in economics (ECON 20100 or 20200) and an additional course in statistics.

Grading. All courses counting toward the public policy major must be taken for quality grades unless students have prior approval for *P/F* grading from the undergraduate program chair.

Honors. Fourth-year students are eligible for honors if their GPA is 3.0 or higher overall and 3.25 or higher in the major. Those students are recommended for honors if their B.A. papers are of substantial quality. Students wishing to be considered for honors must submit the final draft of their B.A. paper to the public policy preceptor and faculty readers by the beginning of sixth week of the quarter in which they wish to graduate.

Faculty

C. Broughton, E. Carter, D. Coursey, B. Farrell, E. Laumann, J. Leitzel, S. Levitt, R. Lodato, J. Ludwig, R. H. Margolis, O. McRoberts, D. Neal, J. Padgett, H. Richman, S. Shaikh, D. Snidal, T. Steck, R. Taub, G. Tolley, R. Townsend

Courses: Public Policy Studies (PBPL)

20000. Economics for Public Policy. *PQ: Completion of two quarters of calculus required; prior knowledge of economics not required. PBPL 20000 or ECON 20000 is required of all students who are majoring in public policy. PBPL 20000 may be substituted for the ECON 20000 prerequisite for PBPL 22200 and in the Public Policy Studies degree program.* This course develops the microeconomic theories of consumer and producer choices, as well as demonstrates the application of these theoretical tools to policy problems. Supply, demand, and competitive markets are examined, along with the conditions under which government policy can increase efficiency. *S. Shaikh. Autumn.*

21800. Economics and Environmental Policy. (=ENST 21800, LLSO 26201) *PQ: ECON 19800 or higher.* For course description, see Environmental Studies. *S. Shaikh. Spring.*

22100. Politics and Policy. *PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in or out of sequence.* Public policy choices interact with politics in obvious ways (e.g., elections) but also in subtler ways, turning especially on how organizations work and what governs persuasion and belief. This course surveys some key aspects of these interactions. *H. Margolis. Autumn.*

22200. Public Policy Analysis. (=ECON 17800) *PQ: PBPL 20000 or ECON 20000. PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in or out of sequence.* This course reviews and augments the basic tools of microeconomics developed in ECON 20000 and applies these tools to policy problems. We examine situations in which private markets are likely to produce unsatisfactory results, suggesting a potential rationale for government intervention. Our goal is to allow students to comprehend, develop, and respond to economics arguments when formulating or evaluating public policy. *J. Leitzel. Winter.*

22300. Problems of Public Policy Implementation. (=SOC 30302) *PQ: One prior 20000-level social sciences course. PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in or out of sequence.* Once a governmental policy or program is established, there is the challenge of getting it carried out in ways intended by the policy makers. We explore how obstacles emerge because of problems of hierarchy, competing goals, and cultures of different groups. We then discuss how they may be overcome by groups, as well as by creators and by those responsible for implementing programs. We also look at varying responses of target populations. *R. Taub. Spring.*

23000. Organizational Analysis. (=SOC 20101/30101) For course description, see Sociology. *E. Laumann. Autumn.*

23100. Environmental Law. (=ENST 23100, HIPS 28801, LLSO 23100) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing, or consent of instructor.* For course description, see Environmental Studies. *Autumn.*

23200. The Economics of Crime. (=ECON 28700) *PQ: ECON 20100 required; ECON 21000 or STAT 22000 strongly recommended.* For course description, see Economics. *S. Levitt. Spring.*

23600. Political Sociology. (=ENST 23500, SOC 20106/30106) *PQ: Completion of the general education requirement in social sciences.* For course description, see Sociology. *T. Clark. Spring.*

23605. Culture and Politics. (=SOC 20146/30146) For course description, see Sociology. *T. Clark. Autumn.*

24101. Public Policy and Wage Inequality. (=ECON 24101) *PQ: ECON 20100.* For course description, see Economics. *Spring.*

24400. Is Development Sustainable? (=BPRO 23400, ENST 4400, HIPS 23400, NCDV 27300) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing.* For course description, see Environmental Studies. *Spring.*

24500. Economics of Urban Policies. (=ECON 26600/36500, GEOG 26600/36600, LLSO 26202) *PQ: ECON 20100.* For course description, see Economics. *G. Tolley, J. Felkner. Spring.*

24600. Economic Development in the Inner City. (=SOC1 20129/30129) *PQ: At least one prior course in economics, political science, public policy, or sociology.* For course description, see Sociology. *R. Taub. Winter.*

24701. U.S. Environmental Policy. (=ENST 24701, LLSO 24701) Making environmental policy is a diverse and complex process. Environmental advocacy engages different governmental agencies, congressional committees, and courts, depending on the issue. This course examines how such differentiation has affected policy making over the last several decades. *R. Lodato. Winter.*

24800. Urban Policy Analysis. (=SOC1 20120/30120) For course description, see Sociology. *T. Clark. Autumn.*

24900. Work, Trade, and Globalization. Using the United States and Mexico as case studies, this course explores the economic, ethical, and sociopolitical dimensions of globalization. In particular, we examine the changing nature of work in advanced and developed economies; the trade and immigration policy; and the cultural, social, and political implications of the rapid changes wrought by economic globalization. This course is offered in alternate years. *C. Broughton. Winter.*

24901. Trade, Development and Poverty in Mexico. Taking the past twenty years as its primary focus, this course examines the impact of economic globalization across Mexico with particular emphasis on the border region and the rural South. We explore the impact of NAFTA and the shift to neoliberal policies in Mexico. In particular, we examine the human dimension of these broad changes as it relates to social development, immigration, indigenous populations, and poverty. While primarily critical, the primary objective of the course is to engage in an interdisciplinary exploration of the question: Is trade liberalization an effective development strategy for poor Mexicans? *This course is offered in alternate years. C. Broughton. Winter.*

25200. Poverty in the United States. This course examines poverty and inequality in the United States from a sociological perspective, drawing upon the rich social history of Chicago as a case study. We explore race, class, gender, and other perspectives on poverty, drawing especially from ethnographic and historical accounts. *C. Broughton. Winter.*

25300. Social Welfare in the United States. (=SOSC 25300, SSAD 45001) For course description, see Social Sciences. *H. Richman. Spring.*

25305. Anti-Poverty Policy in the United States. *PBPL 25200 helpful but not required.* This course uses a sociological perspective to examine the ways in which anti-poverty policy has been conceived, implemented, and reformed in the United States. We consider the current cash assistance program, in-kind benefits, health care for the poor, living wage initiatives, and other anti-poverty policies. *C. Broughton. Spring.*

26200-26300. Field Research Project in Public Policy I, II. *PQ: Open to nonmajors with consent of instructor. Must be taken in sequence for two separate grades, one for each quarter.* This is a group project that exposes students to real-world policy-making questions. Students work together on designing the research project, gathering information, and analyzing the data. Practicums have dealt with the employment and housing conditions facing Latinos in metropolitan Chicago, juvenile recidivism, and patterns of racial integration and segregation in the suburbs of Chicago. *C. Broughton. Winter, Spring.*

26400. Quantitative Methods in Public Policy. This course involves a problem-by-problem investigation of how to apply the right statistics to contemporary public policy issues (in contrast to the method-by-method approach traditionally used to teach statistics). Quantitative public policy involves the use of four core methodologies: analysis of cross-tabulations, ordinary least squares regression, logistic regression, and analysis of variance. This course prepares students to understand scholarly articles using these four methods. We use a case analysis approach teaching specific decision algorithms in the application of the four methods. We also conduct analyses in SPSS using General Social Survey data and write up the results. *W. Carter. Autumn.*

27000. Introduction to International Economics. (=ECON 27000) *PQ: ECON 20300 or consent of instructor.* For course description, see Economics. *S. Kortum. Winter.*

27105. Housing Segregation in the United States. (=CRPC 28108, PBPL 27105) For course description, see Comparative Race Studies. *T. Mah. Winter.*

27300. Regulation of Vice. (=ECON 27300) *PQ: ECON 20000 or PBPL 20000.* This course discusses government policy regarding traditional vices (i.e., drinking, smoking, gambling, illicit sex, recreational drug use). Among policies considered are prohibition, taxation, treatment, decriminalization, and legalization. The intellectual framework employed to evaluate various policies is primarily economic, though other disciplines are also drawn upon. *J. Leitzel. Spring.*

27900. Global-Local Politics. (=SOCI 20116/30116) For course description, see Sociology. *T. Clark. Winter.*

28300. Health Economics and Public Policy. (=ECON 27700, GSBC 85700, PPHA 38300, SSAD 47700) *PQ: ECON 20300 and 21000, and consent of instructor.* *D. Meltzer. Spring.*

28605. Introduction to the Economic Analysis of Law. (=ECON 28600) PQ: *ECON 20100.* For course description, see Economics. J. Leitzel. Autumn.

29600. Internship: Public Policy. PQ: *Consent of program chair. Open only to students who are majoring in public policy. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Must be taken for P/F grading. Students must make arrangements with the program chair before beginning the internship. Students write a paper about their experience working for a government agency or nonprofit organization. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29700. Reading and Research: Public Policy. PQ: *Open only to students who are majoring in public policy. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29800. Senior Seminar. PQ: *Open only to fourth-year students who are majoring in public policy. Must be taken for a quality grade. Autumn.*

29900. B.A. Paper Preparation: Public Policy. PQ: *Open only to fourth-year students who are majoring in public policy. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*