

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC POLICY (PUB AFFR)

## PUB AFFR 200 – CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

3 credits.

Offers a general primer on large-scale policies directed by US federal and state governments, with specific examples in pressing policy areas. Takes existing policies and the policy process as a given, explains them in detail, and puts a policy focus on very specific contemporary questions of concern to policymakers. Gain a broad overall knowledge of how the majority of state and federal funding is spent and the policy outcomes associated with that spending.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate understanding of how the US federal budget is spent and US domestic policies.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Gain knowledge and demonstrate application of methodological tools utilized in the public policy arena (e.g., policy memo writing,).

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge regarding the policy, being able to apply basic policy concepts to practical cases drawn from the real-world.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Engage in knowledgeable discussions about policy with researchers and policy experts.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Assess and interpret empirical analyses of policies, and understand the effect of policy changes.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Persuasively advocate for a proposed policy change.

Audience: Undergraduate

## PUB AFFR 201 – INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES

3 credits.

Offers an introduction to health policy in the United States. Examines the ways in which government plays a role in the provision and regulation of health care. Explores key aspects of health policy including the economics of health care (e.g., paying for and access to health care; the health care workforce; the role of markets and consequences of market/government failures, public policy that supports or promotes health; health care outcomes, quality, and disparities; and tools for evaluation) and special topics of interest such as policy addressing risky health behaviors, aging, mental health, and the Affordable Care Act. Think critically about public and private health issues using the policy analysis process, including policy interventions and their justifications, and gain skills in articulating and communicating policy positions.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Describe the basic organization and financing of the US public health and health care systems.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain the biological, social, environmental, and economic determinants of population health.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss factors behind rising costs and approaches to health reform.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Begin to develop skills in the policy analysis process as it relates to health policy.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Analyze the effects of health policy at the local, state, and national level.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Analyze special topics in health policy.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 230 – ADVANCING PUBLIC POLICY IN A DIVIDED AMERICA**

3 credits.

America is divided: at home, at work, and even in the media. This is true politically, as well. Given this, public policy conflict is all around us. Seek to understand and contextualize the partisan conflict present in modern American politics and policymaking today and explore individual-level tactics that public policy leaders, practitioners, and advocates may use that acknowledge conflict and attempt to move public policymaking forward. Explore ways in which policy conflict can be understood, managed, and channeled for the betterment of public policy decision-making in a divided America.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Describe methods for navigating, interpreting, and contributing to effective public policy decision-making.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply several strategies for advancing public policy debates and discussions, including civility in dialogue and non-partisan policy analysis tactics.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Persuasively advocate for a proposed policy change using writing, analytic, and communication skills.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 240 – EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING**

3 credits.

Facilitates skill-building to answer questions such as how policymakers use research and evidence in their jobs, how researchers can make their work useful to policymakers, and how legislative support staff and other stakeholders use research and evidence to shape policy. Explore the definition of "evidence-based", learn about different kinds of evidence and how it is used, and learn strategies for judging the rigor of research evidence. Also explore the difference between an education-based approach to working with policymakers versus an advocacy-based approach, learn strategies for communicating research to policy makers (including written and oral presentations and data visualizations), research examples of successful evidence-based policymaking efforts, and understand the limits of using research in policymaking.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify and utilize high quality sources of policy research information

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Engage in discussions of policy issues with researchers and policymakers using an education (vs. advocacy) approach

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Translate policy research into accessible written deliverables for policymakers (e.g., issue briefs)

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Develop accessible, useful verbal presentations of policy research for policymakers.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 242 – FOUNDATIONS OF DATA ANALYSIS FOR HEALTH POLICY**

3 credits.

We have entered a new era of "big data." It is now possible to collect and analyze genetic information, digital health records, and many other types of data quickly, cheaply, and non-invasively from large numbers of people. This new wealth of information creates exciting opportunities for more targeted, individualized approaches to health care and better management of public health risks such as age-related diseases or pandemics. However, it also creates policy challenges such as privacy, discrimination, equality, and fairness. Covers what types of health-relevant data exist, how such data is typically analyzed and used, and discuss what types of applications this enables, what type of policy challenges this brings about, and which options policy makers have to deal with these challenges. Analytic methods will include regression, principal component and cluster analysis, statistical approaches for prediction, how to interpret the results of such analyses and their limitations.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science  
Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify data sources and data usage that have relevance for public health

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Know and understand basic statistical methods that are frequently used in this context and their limitations

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand ethical and policy challenges that different data sources and applications create in the realm of public health

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand how to apply policy analysis and policy research to key debates

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Use critical analysis, practical problem-solving, and work inter-professionally

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 270 – THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS IN POLICYMAKING**

3 credits.

In domestic and international policymaking, stark differences between the private sector (the market) and the public sector (the state) are dissolving. The private sector is being pushed to help achieve public policy goals, while the public sector is being pushed to be customer-oriented. Overall focus on the interplay of the public and private sectors in policymaking. Develops an analytic framework and historical context for understanding how the roles and interactions of states and markets have fluctuated across time. Examines how the policymaking "division of labor" between states and markets has differed across countries. Examines energy, health, telecommunications, finance, transportation, or other policy areas in which governments are wary about letting markets function without state intervention. Apply concepts from political science, economics, public administration, business, sociology, and other fields in order to understand actual policy choices for various policy issues.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science  
Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Understand the history, context, complexity, and limitations of business/government relations in the U.S. and elsewhere

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Draw on concepts from political science, economics, public administration, business, and other fields to explain why business/government relations fluctuate (both across time and across countries)

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Use their knowledge of specific policy areas to engage in rational public discourse about the appropriate policymaking "division of labor" between the private sector and the public sector

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 274 – TOPICS IN PUBLIC POLICY**

3 credits.

Intensive study of selected topics in public policy.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate understanding of a public policy issue or question.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Think critically about solutions to public policy issues.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Utilize knowledge of social, demographic, economic, and political contexts to analyze policies.

Audience: Undergraduate

### **PUB AFFR 278 – PUBLIC LEADERSHIP**

3 credits.

Aims to demystify the role of leadership in a public setting. Draw on research from public management, psychology and organization studies to help students learn how leadership manifests itself in the public sector. This means understanding how to set goals, the motivation of those around you, how to engage and negotiate with stakeholders, managing change, making decisions, and exhibiting ethical behavior. Mix research with practical examples. Starts with the assumption that while there are some general traits relevant across public, private and non-profit sectors, the nature of these sectors is different, and this affects how these traits function in practice.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2023

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate understanding of how leadership matters in current and past public policy debates

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate application of methodological tools utilized in the public policy arena (e.g., policy memo writing,).

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge regarding the leadership, but being able to apply basic concepts of leadership research to practical cases drawn from the real-world.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Are able to reflect upon their own leadership skills, including areas to improve.

Audience: Undergraduate

### **PUB AFFR 281 – DISCOVERING WHAT WORKS IN HEALTH POLICY**

3 credits.

Introduces the key conceptual and methodological tools used in public program evaluation, with an emphasis on understanding the forces that shape health and disease as well as various policy solutions. Introduces the Potential Outcomes Framework, also known as the Rubin Causal Model. Establishes the distinction between causation from correlation using counterfactual thinking. Explores a wide variety of experimental and quasi-experimental research methods used to estimate causal effects, including randomized experiments, regression, matching, instrumental variables, fixed effects, regression discontinuity, difference-in-differences, and synthetic control. Many of the causal inference methods that we discuss require statistical and computational training in order to implement. Focuses on the nontechnical conceptual, theoretical, and intuitive underpinnings of these methods that are most salient to policymakers.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Gain an understanding of relevant frameworks for counterfactual thinking, including the Potential Outcomes framework

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Evaluate the strength of evidence in press, policy and academic accounts related to health and health policy, especially correlation vs. causation

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Conceptually apply counterfactual methods to health and health policy issues

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Communicate and synthesize the strengths and weaknesses of current evidence for health and health policy interventions

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 285 – STRATEGIC PUBLIC MANAGEMENT**

3 credits.

Designed to teach the role that strategy plays in maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of a public organization. Work in a collaborative environment to learn how to design and implement strategic management plans with a specific focus on measurable goal setting through analytics, how to identify and mitigate organizational risks, motivate employees to execute strategy, and finally how to mobilize adequate financial resources through dynamic budgeting to ultimately achieve success. Learn about careers in the public sector and understand how strategic management will enhance individual performance and that of the public organization.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2024**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Learn the basic theory of strategic management in the public sector.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Build and apply targeted strategies to meet operational goals.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Measure and analyze the effectiveness of strategic management in the public sector.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 299 – DIRECTED STUDY**

1-3 credits.

Program of study devised by a student in collaboration with an instructor.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, for 3 number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate understanding of a public policy issue or question.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply knowledge of public policy issue to think critically about solutions to public policy issues.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze policies through knowledge of social, demographic, economic, and political contexts.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 327 – ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNSHIP**

3 credits.

Provides opportunities for learning and working in organizations that integrate knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Gain valuable applied experience and make professional connections in the field of public policy, apply concepts and practice problem solving-skills learned during the Certificate in Public Policy experience, build a network of contacts, and explore possible career choices. Engage with a wide range of people about their jobs, views, backgrounds, and experiences. Encourages active reflection on this experience and self-assessment through written assignments, reflections, and readings to help students make the most of their internships.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

Workplace - Workplace Experience Course

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Gain practical professional experience in a public policy work setting and actively reflect on that experience.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Improve understanding of public policy settings debates, and how to approach questions and research through the lens of public policy analysis.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge in a policy area of their choice.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Engage fellow classmates in discussion about types of professional work and skills.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Hone writing in the form of professional interviews, memos, and other papers.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Examine experiences in and observations of the internship and to share and reflect on these insights.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 335 – POLICY ACTORS, INSTITUTIONS, AND THE POLICY PROCESS**

3 credits.

Provides an overview of the variety of political actors (bureaucrats, elected politicians, courts, interest groups, media outlets, the public) involved in the policy process, and what's distinct about policymaking today; a focus on policy implementation, drawing on concepts, tools and theory from public administration, public management, and organizational behavior. Learn concepts and skills through hands-on activities such as case studies, simulations, policy writing, and debates.

**Requisites:** POLI SCI 104 and sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Describe the nature and origins of public policy.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify the key institutions that govern public policy in the United States and how those institutions shape processes and outcomes.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Articulate strategies for effective development and implementation of public policy.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 340 – INTERMEDIATE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING AND COMMUNICATION**

3 credits.

Many types of evidence can be incorporated into the policy process. Evidence is interpreted while considering quality and ethics, and effectively translated from scientific sources into useful communications and data visualizations. Evidence is examined from across a wide range of policy areas including healthcare, poverty, climate change, among others - all while considering the current reality of big data and algorithmic information environments. A broad understanding is required to translate evidence meaningfully and ethically into the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy.

**Requisites:** (ECON 101, 111, A A E 101, or 215 prior to Fall 2024) and (ECON 310, PSYCH 210, SOC/C&E SOC 360, STAT 240, 301, 324, or 371)

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify different types of evidence and evaluate their appropriateness for policy problems, with a focus on research design, data quality, and ethics.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critique the ways that evidence is used (or not used) in the policy process, including analyzing real world cases and decision-making under uncertainty.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Engage with researchers, policymakers, and the public in informed policy discussions using evidence and strategic communication approaches.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Synthesize evidence about complex policy problems into professional written and visual communications tailored to different audiences.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 352 – WOMEN, GENDER, AND PUBLIC POLICY**

3 credits.

Examine women, gender, and sex and their interactions with public policy. Learn about equality, liberty, feminism, and intersectionality, whether these concepts should be incorporated into policymaking, and if so, how that can be accomplished through gender mainstreaming and gender policy analysis. Examine specific policy areas focused on women's social, economic, and political citizenship to understand the causes and consequences of gender discrimination. These specific policy areas include poverty, women's labor market participation, immigration, reproductive rights, sexuality, gender-based violence, climate change, transportation, and peace and security. Understand how gender is embedded in the politics of policymaking, and what strategies have been successful in achieving more gender-equitable policies across the globe.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify the extent to which gender influences political and policy interests.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Illustrate the causes and consequences of current and historical inequities based on gender and sex, and how policymakers have tried to address them.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Compare similar gendered policy problems across diverse global contexts.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Apply concepts integral to intersectional gender policy analysis and critique current methods of policy analysis.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Summarize the role of equity and inclusion in the public policymaking process.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 360 – WORKSHOP IN HEALTH POLICY**

3 credits.

Provides opportunities to engage in research on health policy issues and possible solutions.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 201 and sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Navigate, interpret, and contribute to effective health policy through an applied project

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply analytical and methodological tools used in the health sector

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Write and present information with the goal of inspiring evidence based policymaking

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 366 – U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY**

3 credits.

Public policies to protect natural resources and the environment are among the most important and controversial issues in local, state, and national government. Social science theories and methods help explain why and how American governments regulate the environment.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2022**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Understand how public opinion and political institutions shape American environmental policy.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify the governance regimes that regulate air pollution, water quality, hazardous waste, endangered species, and greenhouse gasses in the United States.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Advocate effectively for sound governance of environmental quality.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 369 – WORKSHOP IN PUBLIC POLICY**

3 credits.

Provides opportunities to engage in research on public policy issues and possible solutions.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 200 and sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Navigate, interpret, and contribute to effective public policy through an applied project

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply analytical and methodological tools used in the public sector

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Write and present information with the goal of inspiring evidence based policymaking

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 380 – ANALYTIC TOOLS FOR PUBLIC POLICY**

3 credits.

Provides training in the analytical skills and tools needed to comprehend, assess, and address complex public policy decisions. Overview of the theory and application of quantitative and qualitative analysis methods relevant to public policy decision-making and policy analysis.

**Requisites:** ECON 101 or A A E 101 (215 prior to Fall 2024)

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Summarize foundational concepts in public policy analysis, including stakeholders, policy instruments, and evaluation techniques.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and apply methods for evaluating policy effectiveness, efficiency, and equity.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Illustrate rationales for and limitations to collective action and public policy.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Be proficient in critically analyzing examples of cost benefit analysis within the context of public policy.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Communicate complex analyses and policy recommendations clearly through professional writing and presentations.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR/POLI SCI 419 – ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

3-4 credits.

Delegation of powers, elements of fair administrative procedure, judicial control over administrative determination. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 420 prior to fall 2017

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 184, or LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 217)

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2021

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Examine the role that federal administrative agencies play in the U.S. political and legal system.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Investigate the institutional context and ideological character of administrative law and agency practices.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine classic debates over the origins of regulation.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand competing legal philosophies about democratic administrative regulation.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Examine political struggles to control the bureaucracy.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Understand how agencies use adjudication and rulemaking to effectuate their policies.

Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR 520 – INEQUALITY, RACE AND PUBLIC POLICY**

3 credits.

Explore the impact of public policies and programs on the distribution of income, wealth and opportunity in the United States. Examines inequalities across various social dimensions with a focus on disparities across racial and ethnic groups. Begin with an introduction to key concepts in the measurement of inequality and poverty and an overview of recent trends. Systematically examine how public policy shapes inequality across a range of topical areas including labor markets, education, taxation, health, housing and criminal justice.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**PUB AFFR 523 – POLICY, PRIVACY, AND PERSONAL IDENTITY IN THE POSTGENOMICS ERA**

3 credits.

Social genomics integrates theories and methods in the genomic, social, and population health sciences to answer questions relevant to public health and social well-being. Research topics in social genomics and their implications for social and public policy are covered in this course. Key concepts in human genetics, population genetics, and statistical genetics are introduced, as well as historical and contemporary policy debates surrounding scientific advances in genomics. Fundamental questions include social repercussions of genomics research, the rationale for government intervention, and how to approach policy analysis in an era where the genomic revolution is changing how we think about privacy and personal identity.

**Requisites:** Junior standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Advanced

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2021

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Use knowledge of human genetics to engage in rational public discourse on policy issues surrounding genetic discoveries.  
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Consider the history, social context, limits, and complexity of genomics research when framing policy problems or making policy recommendations.  
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand how and to what extent social forces influence the interpretation of scientific findings and policy recommendations.  
Audience: Undergraduate

**PUB AFFR/ECON/POP HLTH 548 – THE ECONOMICS OF HEALTH CARE**

3-4 credits.

Analysis of the health care industry. Markets for hospitals and physicians' care, markets for health manpower, and the role of health insurance.

**Requisites:** ECON 301, ECON 311, or PUB AFFR 880**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Specify the types of economic decisions health care players make in different markets.  
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Apply micro economic models and tools to study economic decisions in the healthcare system and understand their implications.  
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Evaluate empirical evidence from health care literature that involves cost, access, and quality of care considerations for the different health care players.  
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Describe the basic institutional structure of the US healthcare market and how it compares to markets in other countries.  
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Identify types of data necessary for testing specific hypotheses involving health care player behavior.  
Audience: Graduate

**PUB AFFR/CIV ENGR 694 – MANAGEMENT OF CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS**

3 credits.

Comprehensive systems approach to civil infrastructure and asset management with emphasis on transportation facilities. Social, political, economic factors that influence transportation planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation. Needs assessment, information management, performance measurement, life cycle cost and benefits analysis, prioritization and optimization, budgeting and finance.

**Requisites:** CIV ENGR 494, or graduate/professional standing, or member of Engineering Guest Students**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2019

**PUB AFFR/ECON/URB R PL 734 – REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEM ANALYSIS**

3 credits.

Examination of major theories of regional economic development, with special emphasis upon the evolution and amelioration of regional economic problems. Selected techniques of regional analysis, including economic base multipliers, input/output models, and shift-share analysis are used in the context of setting regional development goals.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2022

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Explain regional economic theory, empirical justification/application, and relevant impacts of planning in the context of addressing local economic, social, and environmental problems.

Audience: Graduate

2. Understand the theoretical basis of regional science.

Audience: Graduate

3. Describe and apply basic empirical tools.

Audience: Graduate

4. Explain relevant consequences of regional policies that target economic, social, and environmental change.

Audience: Graduate

**PUB AFFR/ED POL/ELPA 765 – ISSUES IN EDUCATIONAL POLICY ANALYSIS**

3 credits.

Theory, research, and practical experience in educational policy analysis, including the social construction of policy problems in education; the design, implementation, and evaluation of policy responses; and the practical and ethical dilemmas of the policy analyst.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**PUB AFFR 799 – INDEPENDENT READING**

1-3 credits.

Program of study devised by a student in collaboration with an instructor.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**PUB AFFR 800 – PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

1 credit.

Includes sessions on professional writing, presentations, and job search skills training related to policy internships and jobs. Includes presentations from practitioners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

**Requisites:** Declared in Public Affairs MPA or International Public Affairs MIPA

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**PUB AFFR 802 – PUBLIC AFFAIRS SEMINAR SERIES**

1-2 credits.

Provides an opportunity to cross disciplinary boundaries to review and discuss the latest research by top public management, policy, and poverty scholars from on and off campus. The seminar series provides new and unpublished research on these issues as well as practitioner insight.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**PUB AFFR/ED POL/GEN&WS 805 – GENDER ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY**

3 credits.

Exploration and analysis of recent debates related to gender issues in international educational policy, including the intersection of education and demographic processes, the play of history and culture, and the social construction of gender.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2024

**PUB AFFR/ENVIR ST/URB R PL 809 – INTRODUCTION TO ENERGY ANALYSIS AND POLICY**

3 credits.

Strategy and policy problems in energy policy, both national and international.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**PUB AFFR/ENVIR ST/URB R PL 810 – ENERGY ANALYSIS AND POLICY CAPSTONE**

3 credits.

Interdisciplinary application of energy knowledge to an analysis project for a real-world client. Integrate and apply technical, economic, political, and social factors in energy decision-making.

**Requisites:** Declared in Energy Analysis and Policy Graduate/Professional Certificate or Doctoral Minor

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Conduct an original analysis by collecting and interpreting data on an energy-related issue for areal-world client.

Audience: Graduate

2. Integrate and apply multiple disciplinary perspectives such as technical, economic, socio-political, and environmental factors in the context of complex energy problems.

Audience: Graduate

3. Prepare for energy-related careers by: planning and managing a project over multiple months; interacting professionally with client; working effectively in multidisciplinary teams; and producing professional-quality deliverables such as presentations and reports in accordance with scope of work.

Audience: Graduate

4. Analyze the causes and solutions for the sustainability challenge of affordable and clean energy.

Audience: Graduate

5. Analyze sustainability issues and/or practices using a systems-based approach.

Audience: Graduate

**PUB AFFR 818 – INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICAL METHODS FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS**

3 credits.

An introduction to the statistical methods used in public policy. Covers the basics of probability, statistics, and quantitative methods in public policy analysis. Stresses interpretation and presentation of data as well as theory.

**Requisites:** Declared in Public Affairs MPA or International Public Affairs MIPA

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**PUB AFFR 819 – ADVANCED STATISTICAL METHODS FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS**

3 credits.

A review of intermediate statistics, and an introduction to analytical, quantitative and computer techniques applicable to the analysis of public policy.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 818

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**PUB AFFR 820 – COMMUNITY ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

3 credits.

Economic theory (location and growth) applicable to community economic development; the role of private and public sector in local economic development, and techniques for economic analysis of community.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**PUB AFFR 827 – ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNSHIP**

1-3 credits.

Provides opportunities for learning and working in organizations that integrate knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting.

**Requisites:** Declared in Public Affairs MPA or International Public Affairs MIPA

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**PUB AFFR 850 – INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE**

3 credits.

Examines influences arising from international environment on policy makers and those seeking to influence policymaking. Considers role of global economic forces, international and regional organizations, international civil society reflected in non-governmental organizations, and flow of policies across borders.

**Requisites:** Declared in Public Affairs MPA or International Public Affairs MIPA

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**PUB AFFR 854 – MACROECONOMIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REGULATION**

3 credits.

An introduction to international macroeconomic and financial policies with an emphasis on the interaction between domestic policies, and international financial markets, regulations and institutions.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 880 and declared in International Public Affairs MIPA

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**PUB AFFR 856 – TRADE, COMPETITION, AND GOVERNANCE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY**

3 credits.

Policy oriented course in international micro-economics and trade theory; including economic and institutional analysis of U.S. trade policy and the world trading system; issues covered include regional trading average; labor standards, income distribution and the environment.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 818 and 880

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2022

**PUB AFFR 857 – POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CORRUPTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

3 credits.

Surveys wide range of multidisciplinary research on causes and consequences of widespread corruption and experiences of anticorruption reform strategies, with focus on developing countries. Considers role of international organizations, multinational companies, and regional agreements in building good governance globally.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2023

**PUB AFFR 860 – WORKSHOP IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

3 credits.

Workshop in program evaluation and policy analysis taught through student teams working on real-world international issues for agencies in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Teaches analytical skills, report preparation and writing, and presentation of results.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 873 and declared in International Public Affairs MIPA

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**PUB AFFR 863 – HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICY**

3 credits.

Explore factors that influence health outcomes in the United States. Review policies that affect the organization and financing of health care and public health systems. Apply systems approaches to evaluate health policy and health outcomes in the United States. Apply practical strategies to understand and communicate about health challenges and policy approaches to improve population health within complex, dynamic systems.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Describe key historical patterns, events, and groups that have shaped medical care and public health organization, financing and delivery in the US.

Audience: Graduate

2. Identify key factors that influence population health outcomes, and compare those to other industrialized countries.

Audience: Graduate

3. Understand how policy analysis can contribute to advancing approaches to key debates in health policy.

Audience: Graduate

4. Gain skills to approach problems that emerge out of complex, dynamic systems.

Audience: Graduate

5. Build skills in critical analysis, communication, and working interprofessionally.

Audience: Graduate

**PUB AFFR 864 – HEALTH POLICY AND POLICY DESIGN**

3 credits.

Survey health care policy in the United States, including examination of the design of health policy and the politics of health care reform.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2019

**PUB AFFR/ENVIR ST/POLI SCI 866 – GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

3 credits.

In-depth examination of the political and policy challenges posed by global environmental degradation. Analysis of international institutions for managing the global environment.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2024

**PUB AFFR 869 – WORKSHOP IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

3 credits.

Workshop in program and policy analysis taught through student teams working on real problems for public agencies and organizations; teaches analytical skills, report preparation and writing; and presentations of results.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 873 and declared in Public Affairs MPA

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills by examining strengths and weakness of public policy literature, evaluating evidence for and against hypotheses, synthesizing knowledge, and developing conclusions.

Audience: Graduate

2. Effectively summarize and clearly communicate data, real world policy problems, and policy literature for a general audience or policy audience.

Audience: Graduate

3. Apply tools of policy analysis to investigate a policy problem and provide advice to a client audience to mitigate the problem while maintaining fidelity to objective social science-based research methods.

Audience: Graduate

4. Identify and appropriately respond to scenarios involving the ethical and professional responsibilities of public administration and adhere to high levels of professional conduct, ethical decision making and legal and regulatory compliance.

Audience: Graduate

5. Demonstrate the ability to maintain human subject protections when designing studies, collecting data and reporting results.

Audience: Graduate

6. Demonstrate effective project management and teamwork.

Audience: Graduate

**PUB AFFR/POLI SCI 871 – PUBLIC PROGRAM EVALUATION**

3 credits.

Compares the conceptual, statistical, and ethical issues of experimental, quasi-experimental and non-experimental designs for program evaluation. Definitions of outcomes, sample size issues, statistical biases in measuring causal effects of programs, and the reliability of findings will be emphasized using case studies selected from current public programs.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 818

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**PUB AFFR 873 – INTRODUCTION TO POLICY ANALYSIS**

3 credits.

Develops skills in policy analysis in two ways. First, sets out the conceptual foundations for understanding the role of policy analysis in democratic politics. Second, provides training and experience in policy analysis craft.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 880 and declared in Public Affairs MPA or International Public Affairs MIPA

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**PUB AFFR/POLI SCI/URB R PL 874 – POLICY-MAKING PROCESS**

3 credits.

Examines the political, social, and economic contexts that shape and are shaped by policy making processes. Though the focus is on the US, international comparisons will be made, and students are encouraged to think about the American context through comparative and international perspectives. Familiarizes students with dominant theories and models of policymaking process and policy change, starting with the model of the policy cycle. Focuses in on key topics and issues in policy making, specifically, agenda setting, implementation, and the relationships between policymaking and democracy. Reflects on contemporary and emerging issues and dilemmas of the politics of policy making.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify important contextual aspects of policy making processes, of dominant theories, models and conceptual frameworks of policy processes, and of key issues and topics in policy making.

Audience: Graduate

2. Critically analyze theories and evidence presented in readings and describe debates, past and present, surrounding public policy making processes.

Audience: Graduate

3. Read and comprehend academic research, data, and writing as well as journalistic writings on relevant issues of public policy processes and politics.

Audience: Graduate

4. Communicate summaries and analyses of topics, issues and key readings in class discussions, presentations, and writing assignments. Use clear written language and draw on theories, concepts, and evidence to support their arguments and ideas.

Audience: Graduate

5. Maintain fidelity to objective social science-based research methods.

Audience: Graduate

6. Prepare a high-quality presentation and communicate effectively as a speaker.

Audience: Graduate

**PUB AFFR/POLI SCI/URB R PL 878 – PUBLIC MANAGEMENT**

3 credits.

Role of administration in American government; problems of organization, bureaucracy and control; public policy as the output of the administrative process.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**PUB AFFR 880 – MICROECONOMIC POLICY ANALYSIS**

3 credits.

The tools and techniques used in the economic approach to policy analysis. Emphasis is on applying these methodological tools to evaluating existing public policies and policy alternatives, as well as providing a deeper understanding of how the economy operates.

**Requisites:** Declared in Public Affairs MPA or International Public Affairs MIPA**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**PUB AFFR/A A E/ENVIR ST/POP HLTH 881 – BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS**

3 credits.

Presents the welfare economics underpinnings for evaluating the social benefits and costs of government activities. Issues such as uncertainty, the social discount rate, and welfare weights will be discussed; case studies from the environmental, social policy, and agricultural areas will be studied.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing and (PUB AFFR 818 and 880), or POP HLTH/I SY E 875, or A A E 635**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Explain the basic mechanics of performing a Cost Benefit Analysis, including methods for valuing costs and benefits, aggregating over time, and analyzing uncertainties.

Audience: Graduate

2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different CBAs and propose strategies to address any shortcomings.

Audience: Graduate

3. Debate the advantages and limitations of CBA for public policy and compare it to other approaches.

Audience: Graduate

4. Create a CBA for a real-world client from beginning to end, including scoping, background research, valuation of costs and benefits, uncertainty analysis, and interpretation.

Audience: Graduate

**PUB AFFR/POLI SCI 885 – ADVANCED PUBLIC MANAGEMENT: CRAFT, CONSTRAINTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

3 credits.

Examines how managers in public and not-for-profit agencies can secure and utilize legal authority, human resources, and funds to accomplish organizational goals. Includes strategies for establishing and maintaining effective external relations and for working through other organizations to accomplish objectives.

**Requisites:** URB R PL/POLI SCI/PUB AFFR 878**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2023

**PUB AFFR 888 – COMPARATIVE AND NATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY**

3 credits.

An overview of the American system of public policy toward human resources, with an emphasis on how the American system compares with other nations' approaches to social welfare policy. Other nations include OECD nations as well as emerging middle income countries in Asia and Latin America. Social welfare policy is analyzed as three major branches: health, education and welfare.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**PUB AFFR 891 – STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

3 credits.

Explores the spending and tax policies of state and local governments. Focus on factors influencing the mix and level of public spending and the choice of revenue sources. Issues to be studied include the fiscal relations between governments and property tax.

**Requisites:** PUB AFFR 880

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**PUB AFFR 892 – PUBLIC BUDGETING**

3 credits.

Provides an understanding of budget preparation, adoption and execution; proposed reforms of the budget process; and competing theories of the politics of budgeting. Focuses on the expenditure aspect of budgeting.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**PUB AFFR 974 – TOPICS IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

3 credits.

Current issues in the formulation, implementation, and analysis of public policy.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026