The mission of the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs is to improve the design of public policy and the practice of governance. Faculty conduct innovative policy and management research and train, mentor and educate students to work in public affairs in the United States and around the world. The school’s faculty are economists, political scientists, sociologists, and public affairs scholars who are experts in government finance, social and poverty policy, education policy, emergency management, international dimensions of poverty, environmental regulation, international trade policy, program evaluation, the policy making process, public sector performance, and health care.

MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MPA)

Through the master of public affairs (MPA) degree program, students learn the skills needed to transform an interest in public affairs into serious careers. The program offers rigorous professional training across several disciplines and prepares graduates to take positions as managers and analysts in government at all levels, in the rapidly growing nonprofit sector, and in private consulting firms.

LAW AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Increasingly, careers in the federal, state and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations and private sector businesses require an understanding of public administration, policy analysis, and public affairs, as well as law. Many students choose to pursue the dual law and public affairs degree because of their interest in these organizations. A total of 111 credits, 75 credits at the Law School and 36 credits at the La Follette School of Public Affairs, are required for the dual degree program. The law and public affairs program generally takes four years to complete.

MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPA/MPH)

The master of public affairs and master of public health dual degree program prepares students for careers as policy analysts and public managers in the increasingly important area of health care. Dual degree MPA/MPH students develop a firm foundation in policy analysis and public management offered by public affairs experts and a deep substantive knowledge in public health that can only be offered through a program in the School of Medicine and Public Health.

NEUROSCIENCE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OR INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS (PH.D./MPA OR MIPA)

This dual degree program leads to the Ph.D. in neuroscience (awarded by the neuroscience training program) and a master of public affairs degree, (awarded by the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs). The program in neuroscience and public affairs will educate students who wish to use a critical understanding of neuroscience to inform public policy. In coming decades, advances in brain science promise to fundamentally transform our understanding of the human mind, behavior, and mental health, posing new challenges for policy in areas such as education, health, welfare, and security. Graduates pursue academic and policy careers.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING (MPA OR MIPA AND M.S. IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING)

A double degree in planning and public affairs is available from the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture the La Follette School of Public Affairs. The three-year, 66-credit program culminates in an M.S. degree in urban and regional planning and a master of public affairs or master of international public affairs degree. Admission must be secured from both departments, though application for admission need not be simultaneous. Students may apply for both programs using the same graduate school electronic application.

DEGREES/MAJORS, DOCTORAL MINORS, GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

- International Public Affairs, MIPA (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/lafollette-school-public-affairs/international-public-affairs-mipa)
- Public Affairs, MPA (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/lafollette-school-public-affairs/public-affairs-mpa)

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Blank, Cancian, Chinn, Haveman, Herd, Meyer, Moynihan (director), Smeeding, Weimer, Wolfe, Yackee; Associate Professors: Collins, Copelovitch, Fletcher, Nemet, Wallace; Assistant Professors: O’Brien, Tjernstrom