

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MPA

The Master of Public Affairs (MPA) Program provides education in public management and policy analysis that prepares students for careers in public policy and administration within the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

The award-winning La Follette School faculty includes economists, political scientists, sociologists, and public affairs scholars who teach the skills and tools needed for a career in public affairs. They are experts in social policy, health policy and management, public administration, public policy analysis, environmental policy, poverty, and tax policy and government finance.

Beyond campus, the city of Madison, as the state capital, provides a wealth of opportunities for La Follette School students to participate in outreach and acquire practical experience as professional project assistants or interns with public and private entities. Students benefit from the strong relationships that La Follette School faculty have with these organizations, in keeping with the Wisconsin Idea of public service. This includes the Family Impact Seminar and Committee Connect—opportunities that use evidence-based research to inform policymakers and improve public policy.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMBINED DEGREES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Some students earn additional credentials while they work toward their public affairs degrees. Students must follow double degree (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/?policy=doubleddegrees>) and dual degree (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/?policy=dualdegreesgradprof>) policies. The following combined degree and certificate programs have been established, though students choose to do double-degrees and graduate certificates beyond those listed below:

- Law (Juris Doctorate)
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning
- Doctorate in Neuroscience
- Energy Analysis and Policy Certificate through the Nelson Institute in Environmental Studies
- Business, Environment, & Social Responsibility; Entrepreneurship; or Strategic Innovation offered through the Wisconsin School of Business.

Law and Public Affairs (MPA/J.D.)

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 employment in government agencies, government relations law practice, or in other policy-oriented firms and organizations.

For most students the dual degree program will add about a year of study to the three years it takes to complete law school, but will save approximately one year of study compared to doing the two programs separately.

Public Health and Public Affairs (MPA/MPH)

The Master of Public Affairs (MPA) and Master of Public Health (MPH) dual-degree program prepares health policy professionals as policy

analysts and public managers in the increasingly important area of health care. Dual-degree MPA/MPH students develop a solid foundation in policy analysis and public management offered by La Follette faculty and substantive knowledge in public health offered through the School of Medicine and Public Health.

The dual degree program generally takes between two and one-half years to three years to complete, including summers.

Neuroscience and Public Affairs (MPA/Ph.D.)

Advances in neuroscience have important policy implications for child welfare and education, community development, mental health and health care, bioethics and aging, environmental risks and national security. The Neuroscience and Public Policy Program (NPP) and the La Follette School of Public Affairs courses prepare students to work in the growing array of domestic or international policy jobs involved in the management of science and its integration into policy analysis and design. Students become good scientists and effective communicators, managers, and advocates of good public policy.

The double degree program typically takes five years to complete, including summers. Degree requirements are completed in the first three years. The focus of the fourth year is on research and thesis development, as well as completion of the Ph.D. Preliminary Exam. Students continue doing research and defend their thesis in the fifth year.

Urban and Regional Planning and Public Affairs (MPA/M.S. in URPL)

The La Follette School and the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture offer a three-year double-degree program in Urban and Regional Planning and Public Affairs that culminates in two degrees: a Master of Public Affairs degree and a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning.