

HEALTH POLICY, CERTIFICATE

The certificate in Health Policy offered through the La Follette School of Public Affairs prepares undergraduate students to navigate and shape health policy in Wisconsin and in the United States. Coursework covers key concepts and contemporary issues relevant to work within the complex world of U.S. health policy. Courses also build familiarity with analytic methods and approaches used to foster evidence-based health policy, focusing especially on policy levers that influence health equity.

UW–Madison graduates occupy a wide range of professional roles in the health sector, such as health care providers, accountants, IT professionals, small business owners, researchers, human resources specialists, engineers, and advocates. Across these roles, a foundational understanding of health policy has emerged as a key professional competency. Recognizing that leaders in this realm must engage diverse perspectives to successfully address complex issues, required courses are designed to foster interdisciplinary discussion and analysis, and a fieldwork experience will deepen learning in a professional setting.

HOW TO GET IN

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No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, see Advising & Careers.

To declare the Certificate in Health Policy through the La Follette School of Public Affairs, students must:

- Hold UW–Madison sophomore standing or above and be in good academic standing, according to the rules of your school or college
- Have taken, are enrolled, or are registered for at least one class that meets certificate requirements

REQUIREMENTS

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Students must complete a minimum of four courses, one from each area listed below, and a minimum of 12 total credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Course (complete one):		3
PUB AFFR 201	Introduction to Health Policy in the United States	
Analytic Tools for Health Policy (complete one):		3
PUB AFFR 242	Foundations of Data Analysis for Health Policy	
PUB AFFR 281	Discovering What Works in Health Policy	
Internship/Fieldwork Experience (complete at least 3 credits)		3
PUB AFFR 327	Administrative Internship	
PUB AFFR 360	Workshop in Health Policy	

PUB AFFR 369	Workshop in Public Policy	
INTL ST 523	International Internship	
LEGAL ST 473	Health Impacts of Unmet Social Needs	
POLI SCI 402	Wisconsin in Washington Internship Course	
Policy Specialization (complete one course from any one area below):		3
<i>Social Policy, Human Services, Demography and Health</i>		
PUB AFFR 520	Inequality, Race and Public Policy	
PUB AFFR 523	Policy, Privacy, and Personal Identity in the Postgenomics Era	
AFROAMER/ HIST SCI 275	Science, Medicine, and Race: A History	
AFROAMER/ HIST SCI/ MED HIST 523	Race, American Medicine and Public Health	
ANTHRO 265	Introduction to Culture and Health	
CHICLA/ COUN PSY 331	Immigrant Health and Wellbeing	
COUN PSY/ CHICLA 525	Dimensions of Latin@ Mental Health Services	
COUN PSY 531	Prevention and Intervention in Mental Health Across the Lifespan	
CSCS 410	Human Trafficking: Global and Local Perspectives	
CSCS 470	The Human Rights of Children and Youth: Global and Local Perspectives	
GEN&WS 523	Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health	
GEN&WS 534	Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives	
GEN&WS/ INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	
GEN&WS 538	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Health	
GEOG 307	International Migration, Health, and Human Rights	
HDFS/ CNSR SCI 465	Families & Poverty	
MED HIST/ HIST SCI/ HISTORY 508	Health, Disease and Healing II	
MED HIST/ HIST SCI/ HISTORY 564	Disease, Medicine and Public Health in the History of Latin America and the Caribbean	
PHILOS/ MED HIST 505	Justice and Health Care	
PSYCH 401	Psychology, Law, and Social Policy	
PSYCH 526	The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives	
SOC/ C&E SOC 343	Sociology of Health and Medicine	
SOC/ C&E SOC 532	Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society	

SOC 575	Sociological Perspectives on the Life Course and Aging
SOC/AMER IND/ C&E SOC 578	Poverty and Place
SOC WORK 206	Introduction to Social Policy
SOC WORK 420	Poverty and Social Welfare
SOC WORK/ SOC 422	Social Issues in Aging
<i>Life Sciences Communication</i>	
LSC 251	Science, Media and Society
LSC/COM ARTS/ JOURN 617	Health Communication in the Information Age
COM ARTS 318	Introduction to Health Communication
<i>Economics and Health</i>	
ECON/A A E/ ENVIR ST 343	Environmental Economics
A A E 352	Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy
ECON/ POP HLTH/ PUB AFFR 548	The Economics of Health Care
ECON 448	Human Resources and Economic Growth
R M I/ECON 530	Insuring Life's Risks: Health, Aging, and Policy
ACT SCI 655	Health Analytics
R M I 660	Risk Analytics and Behavioral Science
<i>Environment and Health</i>	
ENVIR ST/ ATM OCN 355	Introduction to Air Quality
AGROECOL 377	Global Food Production and Health
ENVIR ST/ POP HLTH 471	Introduction to Environmental Health
ENVIR ST/ POP HLTH 502	Air Pollution and Human Health
LAND ARC 321	Environment and Behavior Studio - Designing Health Promoting Environments
<i>Medical Care Systems</i>	
I SY E 417	Health Systems Engineering
MED HIST/ PHILOS 558	Ethical Issues in Health Care
DS 341	Design Thinking for Transformation
<i>Public Health</i>	
HIST SCI/ MED HIST 509	The Development of Public Health in America
NUTR SCI 540	Community Nutrition and Health Equity
SOC/ C&E SOC 533	Public Health in Rural & Urban Communities
C&E SOC/ SOC 532	Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society

MED HIST/ PHILOS 515	Public Health Ethics
Total Credits	12

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- At least 6 certificate credits must be completed in residence.
- Minimum 2.000 GPA on all certificate courses.

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Demonstrate understanding of major underpinnings and challenges of contemporary U.S. health policy, and how to approach issues using a public policy lens.
2. Gain knowledge and demonstrate application of analytical and methodological tools used in the health sector (e.g., policy writing, analysis, familiarity with data used in health policy and clinical research, and quantitative and qualitative methods used in social policy).
3. Demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge regarding a substantive health policy interest of their choice, such as health care policy and innovation, social determinants of health, reproductive health policy, social policy, analysis of health behaviors, and others.
4. Gain applied experience in a setting relevant for navigating, interpreting, and contributing to effective health policy throughout their careers.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS CERTIFICATE

Please follow the process described on the La Follette School of Public Affairs website (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate-in-health-policy/>).

Please visit our undergraduate advising page (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/students/advising/#undergrad>) to connect with our team.

CAREERS

Health policy issues affect every resident and community in the United States. Because of its complexity, people working in the health sector benefit from understanding specific terminology, issues, and systems involved in policymaking. Through the certificate in health policy, students will build the knowledge base for this work while also gaining skills in quantitative analysis, communication, writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving. More and more, employers across the health sector value this combination of skills and insights.

Students interested in health care, advocacy, business, or research will earn a credential highlighting highly sought-after skills that, through the

fieldwork component of the certificate, they have applied in the context of real-world practice. Focused on evidence-based health policy and practice, courses help students hone skills to gather data and information from a variety of sources, analyze and synthesize the findings, and communicate key insights using clear, concise communication strategies.

Career development is an integral part of the La Follette School experience, with staff members and alumni eager to support and mentor students with diverse interests. Students benefit from networking opportunities, employer visits, professional development seminars, and other services.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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Empathy and humility. The effects of health policy reach into every corner of life, including access to health care and the rising costs of health benefits. To address complex issues, students in health policy learn to value and engage diverse perspectives and question their own biases and assumptions.

Relentless curiosity. Like peeling an onion, the study of health policy invites learners to uncover layers of data and history to explore root causes of poor health outcomes. Why does a person’s zip code predict so much about their health outcomes? Why is U.S. health insurance largely tied to a person’s employment status? What drives the high cost of health care, and what are options for reform? For those with an insatiable curiosity, health policy offers endless discoveries and an ever-changing landscape.

Intellectual confidence. In many cases, great leadership emerges when leaders themselves have the confidence to say “I don’t know.” Public policy studies include deep analysis of the stakeholders in systems, the relationships among those actors, and the incentives that drive behavior. Because of this, students learn to define problems in new ways, ask better questions, and use data to drive insight.

Purposeful action. Health policy has broad implications for the distribution of resources across the public and private sectors. As we learn more about addressing the “upstream” factors that influence health,

students gain insights about how to build more prevention-oriented health policy.