

PUBLIC POLICY, CERTIFICATE

UW–Madison’s undergraduate certificate in public policy complements existing majors across campus and extends the La Follette School of Public Affairs’ mission to training and mentoring the next generation of leaders in their careers and communities.

The certificate program allows undergraduate students to apply a policy perspective to their major course of study and bolsters their skills for success in the workforce or in their graduate school coursework. Students build a strong foundation for careers in government, nonprofit organizations, or the private sector.

The undergraduate certificate in public policy is ideal for students seeking careers related to key domestic and international issues such as criminal justice, education, energy, environmental studies, finance, transportation, and poverty. It also prepares students to be engaged citizens, ready to use their talents to improve the world around them.

HOW TO GET IN

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To declare the certificate in public 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

Each year, the La Follette School invites students to declare the certificate in public policy. To declare the certificate:

- Review certificate requirements so that you are familiar with the program
- Declare the certificate (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate-in-public-policy/>)

REQUIREMENTS

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Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Course: 1 course required		3
PUB AFFR 200	Contemporary Public Policy Issues	
Analytical Tools for Policy Design, Implementation, and Evaluation: 1 course required		3
PUB AFFR 240	Evidence-Based Policy Making	
PUB AFFR 380	Analytic Tools for Public Policy	
Policy Specialization: 1 course from any of these areas		3
<i>Social Policy, Inequality Poverty</i>		
PUB AFFR 520	Inequality, Race and Public Policy	
A A E/ INTL ST 373	Globalization, Poverty and Development	

AMER IND/ CSCS 330	American Indian Communities: Sovereignty, Struggles, and Successes
ECON 370	Economics of Poverty and Inequality
ECON/REAL EST/ URB R PL 420	Urban and Regional Economics
ECON 455	Behavioral Economics
LEGAL ST/ RP & SE 135	Disability and the Criminal Justice System
POLI SCI 272	Introduction to Public Policy
PSYCH 401	Psychology, Law, and Social Policy
SOC WORK 206	Introduction to Social Policy
SOC WORK 420	Poverty and Social Welfare
<i>Public Management</i>	
PUB AFFR 278	Public Leadership
PUB AFFR 285	Strategic Public Management
PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI 419	Administrative Law
FINANCE 305	Financial Markets, Institutions and Economic Activity
L I S 661	Information Ethics and Policy
FRENCH/ INTL BUS 314	Contemporary Issues in Business, Government and NGOs
POLI SCI 405	State Government and Public Policy
<i>Health Policy</i>	
PUB AFFR 523	Policy, Privacy, and Personal Identity in the Postgenomics Era
A A E 352	Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy
NURSING 444	Health Systems, Policy, Economics, and Research
ECON/ POP HLTH/ PUB AFFR 548	The Economics of Health Care
GEOG 307	International Migration, Health, and Human Rights
R M I/ECON 530	Insuring Life’s Risks: Health, Aging, and Policy
SOC/ C&E SOC 533	Public Health in Rural & Urban Communities
<i>Environmental Policy</i>	
PUB AFFR 366	U.S. Environmental Politics and Public Policy
A A E 246	Climate Change Economics and Policy
A A E/ECON 371	Energy, Resources and Economics
A A E/ECON/ F&W ECOL 531	Natural Resource Economics
AGRONOMY/ DY SCI 471	Food Production Systems and Sustainability
CBE 512	Energy Technologies and Sustainability
CIV ENGR/ G L E 421	Environmental Sustainability Engineering
ENVIR ST 112	Environmental Studies: Social Science Perspectives

ENVIR ST/ ENGL 305	Rhetoric, Science, and Public Engagement
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 309	People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture Systems
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 333	Green Urbanism
ENVIR ST 349	Climate Change Governance
ENVIR ST 413	Preserving Nature
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 439	US Environmental Policy and Regulation
ENVIR ST/ ECON/POLI SCI/ URB R PL 449	Government and Natural Resources
ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL 515	Natural Resources Policy
REAL EST 651	Green - Sustainable Development
<i>Education Policy</i>	
ED POL 145	Introduction to Education Policy
ED POL 200	Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality in American Education
ED POL 237	Wealth, Poverty and Inequality: Transnational Perspectives on Policy and Practice in Education
ED POL 320	Climate Change, Sustainability, and Education
ED POL 510	Urban School Policy
ED POL 518	Introduction to Debates in Higher Education Policy
ED POL 300	School and Society
ED POL/ELPA/ LEGAL ST 542	Law and Public Education
ED POL/ GEN&WS 560	Gender and Education
ED POL 575	Education Policy and Practice
<i>Family Policy</i>	
CNSR SCI 575	Family Economics and Public Policy
CNSR SCI 579	Consumer Policy Analysis
HDFS 535	A Family Perspective in Policymaking
<i>International Policy</i>	
PUB AFFR 270	The Private and Public Sectors in Policymaking
CSCS 410	Human Trafficking: Global and Local Perspectives
CSCS 470	The Human Rights of Children and Youth: Global and Local Perspectives
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy
ECON 435	The Financial System
ECON/A A E 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas
ECON 661	Issues in International Macroeconomics

FINANCE/ INTL BUS 445	Multinational Business Finance
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East
HISTORY 434	American Foreign Relations, 1901 to the Present
INTL BUS/ FRENCH 314	Contemporary Issues in Business, Government and NGOs
INTL BUS 200	International Business
POLI SCI 324	Chinese Politics
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy
POLI SCI 343	Theories of International Security
POLI SCI 359	American Foreign Policy
Fieldwork and Internship: 1 course required	
PUB AFFR 327	Administrative Internship
POLI SCI 315	Legislative Internship
POLI SCI 402	Wisconsin in Washington Internship Course

Total Credits **12**

RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK

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

¹ Courses taken Pass/Fail do not meet certificate requirements or calculate in the GPA.

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. Students will demonstrate understanding of major current and past public policy debates, and how to approach questions and research with a public policy lens.
2. Students will gain knowledge and demonstrate application of methodological tools utilized in the public policy arena (e.g., policy memo writing, policy analysis, experience working with administrative data, program evaluation, cost-benefit analysis, performance management).
3. Students will demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge regarding the substantive policy area of interest of their choice (e.g., education, health, social, environmental, science).
4. Students will gain practical professional experience in a public policy work setting.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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The La Follette School of Public Affairs welcomes you to reach out to our student services team. Here are some quick steps toward getting what you need. Before getting in touch, be sure to visit our undergraduate certificate in public policy webpage (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate-in-public-policy/>) as many questions you may have may be answered there. It is updated regularly and just may hold the answers you seek!

- If you're interested in learning more about the certificate or would like guidance as a current certificate student, contact Kelly Otto at klotto@wisc.edu.
- If you're unable to get in touch with Kelly, contact Mary Michaud at mdmichaud@wisc.edu.
- If you're already a certificate student, you can connect with Marie Koko, our Career Services Coordinator, about careers and internships. Send her an email at marie.koko@wisc.edu.
- If you have a technical question about your DARS report, enrollment, or other things administrative, connect with David Wright-Racette at wrightracette@lafollette.wisc.edu.
- If you're interested in learning more about La Follette's graduate programs in public and international affairs, contact Mo O'Connor, our graduate advisor, at mcoconnor@lafollette.wisc.edu.
- If you're an alumnus, parent, or student who is curious about how to get involved or contribute to the mission of the La Follette School, please contact Associate Director Steve Kulig at skulig@lafollette.wisc.edu.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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SKILLS AND CAREERS

Given the increasing complexity in every realm of public policy, students in the undergraduate certificate in public policy program gain skills in quantitative analysis, communication, writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving that are in demand by more and more employers in almost every sector.

The certificate program focuses on evidence-based practices and provides students with the skills to gather data and information from various sources, analyze and synthesize the findings, and write a clear and concise report to illustrate the main points.

With the focus on evidence-based practices, the public policy certificate program provides research and data analysis skills that are transferrable to nearly any occupation. Students maximize their electives and earn a credential that highlights these highly sought-after skills in the context of real-world practice.

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.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
 - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
 - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
 - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)

PEOPLE

PEOPLE

FACULTY

The undergraduate certificate in public policy gives students access to the La Follette School's award-winning faculty members (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/faculty-staff/>). These interdisciplinary faculty have expertise in social policy, health policy and management, public management, policy analysis, environmental policy, poverty, and government finance.