

PUBLIC POLICY, CERTIFICATE

The certificate in Public Policy complements 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 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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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 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

REQUIREMENTS

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Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Course (complete one):		3
PUB AFFR 200	Contemporary Public Policy Issues	
Analytical Tools for Policy Design, Implementation, and Evaluation (complete one):		3
PUB AFFR 240	Evidence-Based Policy Making	
PUB AFFR 380	Analytic Tools for Public 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	
POLI SCI 315	Legislative Internship	
POLI SCI 402	Wisconsin in Washington Internship Course	

Policy Specialization (complete one course from any one area below):

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
FRENCH/ INTL BUS 314	Contemporary Issues in Business, Government and NGOs
POLI SCI 405	State Government and Public Policy
<i>Technology</i>	
L I S 220	Digital Footprints: Privacy and Technology
L I S 461	Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy
L I S 510	Human Factors in Information Security
<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
ECON/ POP HLTH/ PUB AFFR 548	The Economics of Health Care
GEOG 307	International Migration, Health, and Human Rights
L I S/ NURSING 517	Digital Health: Information and Technologies Supporting Consumers and Patients
NURSING 444	Health Systems, Policy, Economics, and Research
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
CBE 512	Energy Technologies and Sustainability
CIV ENGR/ G L E 421	Environmental Sustainability Engineering
DY SCI 471	Food Production Systems and Sustainability
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</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 300	School and Society
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/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 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
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy
CSCS 410	Human Trafficking: Global and Local Perspectives
CSCS 470	The Human Rights of Children and Youth: Global and Local Perspectives
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

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. Demonstrate understanding of major current and past public policy debates, and how to approach questions and research with a public policy lens.
2. 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. Demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge regarding the substantive policy area of interest of their choice (e.g., education, health, social, environmental, science).
4. Gain practical professional experience in a public policy work setting.

- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

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

Looking for Advising?

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

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.

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/>)