

# PUBLIC POLICY, BA

## REQUIREMENTS

### UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

### CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

**Civics & Perspectives** 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

**Communication & Literacy** 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

**Humanities & Arts** 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

**Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning** 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

**Natural Science & Wellness** Complete both:

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

**Social & Behavioral Science** 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

**Total Credits** 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

**Total Degree** 120 degree credits.

**Residency** Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

**Quality of Work** Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

**Math** Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.

**English Language** If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

**Language** Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

**Major Declaration** Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

## COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Communication** Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and</li> <li>• Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation</li> </ul>
Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
Language	Complete either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the fourth unit of one language other than English; or</li> <li>• the third unit of one language other than English and the second unit of an additional language.</li> </ul>
L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Natural Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science designations, which must include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one 3+ credit course with the Biological Science designation, and</li> <li>• one 3+ credit course with the Physical Science designation.</li> </ul>
Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	at least 120 credits
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 credits in residence, overall; and</li> <li>• 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit</li> </ul>
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison</li> <li>• 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison</li> </ul>

## NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their School/College to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students must complete 30 credits from the list below:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses (complete all)</b>		
PUB AFFR 200	Contemporary Public Policy Issues	3

PUB AFFR 230	Advancing Public Policy in a Divided America	3
PUB AFFR 335	Policy Actors, Institutions, and the Policy Process	3
PUB AFFR 340	Intermediate Evidence-Based Policymaking and Communication	3
or PUB AFFR 240	Evidence-Based Policy Making	
PUB AFFR 380	Analytic Tools for Public Policy	3
<b>Internship Course (complete at least 3 credits)</b>		<b>3</b>
PUB AFFR 327	Administrative Internship	
PUB AFFR 369	Workshop in Public Policy	
PUB AFFR 360	Workshop in Health Policy	
INTER-LS 260	Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences	
INTL ST 523	Study Abroad: International Internship or Research in the Sciences	
POLI SCI 315	Legislative Internship	
POLI SCI 326	Beyond the Internship: Career Exploration & Development	
<b>Policy Electives</b>		<b>12</b>
PUB AFFR 285	Strategic Public Management	
PUB AFFR 366	U.S. Environmental Politics and Public Policy	
PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI 419	Administrative Law	
PUB AFFR 520	Inequality, Race and Public Policy	
PUB AFFR 523	Policy, Privacy, and Personal Identity in the Postgenomics Era	
CSCS/ AMER IND 330	American Indian Communities: Sovereignty, Struggles, and Successes	
CSCS 460	Civil Society and Community Leadership	
CSCS 470	The Human Rights of Children and Youth: Global and Local Perspectives	
CSCS 510	Design & Write Grant Proposals	
CNSR SCI 579	Consumer Policy Analysis	
ECON 370	Economics of Poverty and Inequality	
ECON/REAL EST/ URB R PL 420	Urban and Regional Economics	
ECON 435	The Financial System	
ECON 455	Behavioral Economics	
ECON/R M I 530	Insuring Life's Risks: Health, Aging, and Policy	
ECON/ POP HLTH/ PUB AFFR 548	The Economics of Health Care	
ECON 661	Issues in International Macroeconomics	
ED POL 300	School and Society	
ED POL 320	Climate Change, Sustainability, and Education	
ED POL/ HISTORY 412	History of American Education	

ED POL 435	Education in Emergencies
ED POL 460	Immigration, Education, and Equity
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
ED POL 595	Language Politics and Education
ENVIR ST/ ENGL 305	Rhetoric, Science, and Public Engagement
ENVIR ST 349	Climate Change Governance
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 439	US Environmental Policy and Regulation
ENVIR ST 417	Sustainability Science, Technology and Policy
ENVIR ST/ ECON/POLI SCI/ URB R PL 449	Government and Natural Resources
ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL 515	Natural Resources Policy
FRENCH/ INTL BUS 314	Contemporary Issues in Business, Government and NGOs
GEOG 307	International Migration, Health, and Human Rights
HDFS 535	A Family Perspective in Policymaking
HISTORY 434	American Foreign Relations, 1901 to the Present
L I S 407	Data Storytelling with Visualization
L I S 461	Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy
L I S 510	Human Factors in Information Security
L I S/ NURSING 517	Digital Health: Information and Technologies Supporting Consumers and Patients
L I S/ LEGAL ST 663	Introduction to Cyberlaw
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
POLI SCI 405	State Government and Public Policy
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East
PSYCH 401	Psychology, Law, and Social Policy
SOC WORK 420	Poverty and Social Welfare

**Total Credits****30**

## RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK

- Minimum 2.000 GPA in all PUB AFFR and major courses
- Minimum 2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major, in residence\*
- Minimum 15 credits in PUB AFFR courses taken on the UW-Madison campus

\*Upper-level course work is defined as all Intermediate and Advanced courses in the major and electives