

PUBLIC POLICY MINOR

The core curriculum in public policy includes courses on policy innovation and analysis, politics of public policy, applied philosophy, applied economics, research design and statistics. Our experiential education (EE) courses develop students' teamwork, leadership, and communication skills as they produce actionable, client-centered research. UNC Public Policy offers multiple courses on both global and domestic policy issues including courses on education, immigration, the environment, health and human rights, and history and public policy.

The undergraduate minor in public policy consists of five courses. Students gain knowledge, skills, and experience to improve the lives of others.

Knowledge

Students think and learn across academic disciplines with a diverse faculty with degrees in business, economics, history, law, philosophy, political science, public policy, sociology, and sociomedical sciences.

Skills

Students gain an ability to think critically and independently; to write, reason, and communicate clearly; and to develop research methods and quantitative analysis skills.

Experience

Students apply knowledge and skills in real world environments beyond the classroom. Students in our clinic, intersector, and internship courses address contemporary policy challenges by providing innovative analysis to clients in the nonprofit and public sector.





Requirements

In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must:

- take at least nine hours of their minor "core" requirements at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the minor core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for minor or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/>).

First-year and sophomore students considering a minor in public policy are encouraged to complete PLCY 101 or PLCY 110.

Code	Title	Hours
Requirements		
Students must complete at least four of the following core courses: 12		
PLCY 210	Policy Innovation and Analysis ^H	
PLCY 220	 The Politics of Public Policy ^H	
PLCY 340	 Justice in Public Policy ^H	
PLCY 460	 Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy ^H	
PLCY 581	 Research Design for Public Policy ^H	
PLCY 310	Microeconomic Foundations of Public Policy ¹	
or ECON 410	 Intermediate Microeconomics	

One elective course selected from the following options:	3
Any PLCY course at the 100 level or above (not including PLCY 130, PLCY 291, or PLCY 293)	
A course from the approved list in the major (see below)	

Total Hours 15

^H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

¹ ECON 101 is a prerequisite for PLCY 310 and ECON 410.




Public policy (PLCY) course descriptions (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/public-policy/#coursestext>).

The regulations governing a minor, as set forth in this catalog, apply to the minor in public policy.


Public Policy Elective Course List

The following courses satisfy the electives requirement and optional policy field concentration. Please note that some of these courses may have enrollment restrictions, including being restricted to students enrolled in certain majors or minors. Please check for enrollment restrictions before trying to enroll:

Code	Title	Hours
Any PLCY course at the 100 level or above, except PLCY 130, PLCY 291, PLCY 293, PLCY 393, or PLCY 394		
AAAD 307	21st-Century Scramble for Africa	3
AAAD/POLI 333	 Race and Public Policy in the United States	3
AAAD 488	 Human Rights and Democracy in African Diaspora Communities	3
AAAD 485	 Transnational Black Feminist Thought and Practice	3
AMST 390	Seminar in American Studies	3
AMST 486	 The Jewish South: Race, Region, and Religion	3
ANTH 312	From the Equator to the Poles: Case Studies in Global Environmental Change	3
ANTH 318	 Human Growth and Development	3
ANTH 319	 Global Health	3
ANTH 350	Anthropology of the State, Civil Society, and Politics	3
ANTH 355	 Life, Society and Work in the Globalized City	3
ANTH 360	Latin American Economy and Society	3
ANTH 377	European Societies	3
ANTH 380	Anthropological Perspectives on Cultural Diversity	3
ANTH 422	Anthropology and Human Rights	3
ANTH 429	 Culture and Power in Southeast Asia	3
ANTH 439	 Political Ecology	3
ANTH 441	The Anthropology of Gender, Health, and Illness	3
ANTH 460	Historical Ecology	3
ANTH 470	Medicine and Anthropology	3
ANTH 502	Globalization and Transnationalism	3
ANTH 537	Gender and Performance: Constituting Identity	3

ANTH 585	Anthropology of Science	3	EDUC 533	 Social Justice in Education	3
BUSI 404	Business Ethics	1.5	EDUC 535	Teachers and Schools	3
BUSI 405	 Leading and Managing: An Introduction to Organizational Behavior	3	EMES 314	 Earth Systems in a Changing World	3
BUSI 500	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning ^H	3	ENGL 164	 Introduction to Latina/o Studies ^H	3
BUSI 503	Family Business I: Introduction to Family Enterprise	1.5	ENGL 279	Migration and Globalization	3
BUSI 504	Startup UNC	1.5	ENEC 463	 Corporate Environmental Stewardship	3
BUSI 506	Entrepreneurial Strategy: How to Think Like a Venture Capitalist	3	ENEC 307	Energy and Material Flows in the Environment and Society	3
BUSI 512	Family Business II: Governance and Ownership	1.5	ENEC 308	Environmental History	3
BUSI 610	Global Environment of Business	3	ENEC 309	Environmental Values and Valuation	3
BUSI 611	International Development: Focus on Indigenous Issues	3	ENEC 330	Principles of Sustainability	3
COMM 312	Persuasion	3	ENEC 350	 Environmental Law and Policy	3
COMM 325	 Introduction to Organizational Communication ^H	3	ENEC 351	Coastal Law and Policy	3
COMM 372	The Rhetoric of Social Movements	3	ENEC 352	Marine Fisheries Ecology	3
COMM 375	Environmental Advocacy	3	ENEC 370	Agriculture and the Environment ^H	3
COMM 470	Political Communication and the Public Sphere	3	ENEC 462	Ecosystem Management	3
COMM 521	Communication and Social Memory	3	ENEC 474	Sustainable Coastal Management	3
COMM 524	 Gender, Communication, and Culture	3	ENEC 586	Water Quality Policies and Planning	3
COMM 525	Organizational Communication	3	ENEC 685	Environmental and Resource Economics	3
COMM 571	Rhetorical Theory and Practice	3	ENEC 698	Capstone: Analysis and Solution of Environmental Problems	3
COMM 572	 Public Policy Argument	3	ENEC/ENVR 470	Environmental Risk Assessment	3
COMM 574	War and Culture	3	ENEC/PHIL 368	 Living Things, Wilderness, and Ecosystems: An Introduction to Environmental Ethics	3
COMM 575	Presidential Rhetoric	3	ENVR 600	Environmental Health	3
COMM 576	Making and Manipulating "Race" in the United States	3	GEOG 281	Ethnographies of Globalization: From 'Culture' to Decolonization	3
COMM 624	 Hate Speech	3	GEOG 370	 Introduction to Geographic Information	3
COMM 625	 Communication and Nonprofits in the Global Context	3	GEOG 391	Quantitative Methods in Geography	3
COMM 652	Media and Difference	3	GEOG 414	 Climate Change	3
ECON 320	Macroeconomics: Theory and Policy	3	GEOG 416	 Applied Climatology: The Impacts of Climate and Weather on Environmental and Social Systems	3
ECON 325	Entrepreneurship: Principles, Concepts, Frameworks, and Fluency ^H	3	GEOG 423	Social Geography	3
ECON 345	 Public Policy Toward Business	3	GEOG 428	 Global Cities: Space, Power, and Identity in the Built Environment	3
ECON 380	The Economics of Labor Relations	3	GEOG 430	Global Migrations, Local Impacts: Urbanization and Migration in the United States	3
ECON 423	Financial Markets and Economic Fluctuations ^H	3	GEOG 435	 Global Environmental Justice	3
ECON 440	Analysis of Public Finance	3	GEOG 446	Geography of Health Care Delivery	3
ECON 445	 Industrial Organization	3	GEOG 447	Gender, Space, and Place in the Middle East	3
ECON 450	Health Economics: Problems and Policy	3	GEOG 448	Transnational Geographies of Muslim Societies	3
ECON 455	Environmental Economic Theory	3	GEOG/ENEC 451	 Population, Development, and the Environment	3
ECON 460	 International Economics	3	GEOG 457	 Rural Latin America: Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources ^H	3
ECON 465	 Economic Development	3	GEOG 458	Urban Latin America: Politics, Economy, and Society	3
ECON 480	Labor Economics	3	GEOG 460	 Geographies of Economic Change	3
ECON 511	Advanced Game Theory in Economics ^H	3	GEOG 470	 Political Ecology: Geographical Perspectives	3
EDUC 401	 Childhood Development: Prenatal Birth to Age 12	3	GEOG 480	Liberation Geographies	3
EDUC 506	 Politics, Policymaking, and America's Schools	3	GEOG 491	Introduction to GIS	3
EDUC 521	Schools, Cultures, and Communities I: Youth	3			

GEOG 541	GIS in Public Health	3	PHIL 698	 Philosophy, Politics, and Economics: Capstone Course	3
GEOG 542	Neighborhoods and Health	3	PLAN 330	Principles of Sustainability	3
GLBL 382	Latin American Migrant Perspectives: Ethnography and Action	3	PLAN 574	Political Economy of Poverty and Inequality	3
GLBL 390	Current Topics in Global Studies	3	PLAN 636	Urban Transportation Planning	3
HIST 238	 The American Revolution, 1763-1815	3	PLAN 637	Public Transportation	3
HIST 365	The Worker and American Life	3	PLAN 641	Watershed Planning	3
HIST 385	 African American Women's History	3	PLAN 651	Urban Form and the Design of Cities	3
HIST 510	Human Rights in the Modern World ^H	3	PLAN 685	Water and Sanitation Planning and Policy in Less Developed Countries	3
HIST 566	The History of Sexuality in America	3	POLI 400	Executive Politics	3
HIST 568	Women in the South	3	POLI 401	Political Economy I: The Domestic System	3
HIST 577	United States Foreign Relations in the 20th Century	3	POLI 406	State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy	3
HIST 584	The Promise of Urbanization: American Cities in the 19th and 20th Centuries	3	POLI 410	The Constitution of the United States	3
HIST 589	Race, Racism, and America: (United States) Law in Historical Perspective	3	POLI 411	Civil Liberties under the Constitution ^H	3
HPM 310	 Introduction to Health Law and Ethics	3	POLI 412	United States National Elections ^H	3
HPM 330	Introduction to Health Organization Leadership, Management, and Behavior	3	POLI 416	Constitutional Policies and the Judicial Process	3
HPM 340	Foundations of Health Care Financial Management	3	POLI 418	Mass Media and American Politics	3
HPM 350	Introduction to the U.S. Health System I	3	POLI 419H	Race and Politics in the Contemporary United States	3
HPM 351	Politics, Public Health, and Health Policy	3	POLI 420	Legislative Politics ^H	3
HPM 352	 Introduction to the U.S. Health System II	3	POLI 431	African Politics and Societies	3
INLS 382	Information Systems Analysis and Design	3	POLI 433	Politics of the European Union ^H	3
INLS 515	Consumer Health Information	3	POLI 434	Politics of Mexico	3
MEJO 340	Introduction to Media Law: Journalism Focus	3	POLI 438	 Democracy and International Institutions in an Undivided Europe	3
MEJO 441	Diversity and Communication	3	POLI 442	 International Political Economy	3
MEJO 442	Gender, Class, Race, and Mass Media	3	POLI 443	American Foreign Policy: Formulation and Conduct	3
MEJO 443	Latino Media Studies	3	POLI 444	 Terrorism and International Peace	3
MEJO 445	Media Effects on Audiences	3	POLI 457	International Conflict Processes	3
MEJO 446	 Global Communication and Comparative Journalism	3	POLI 470	Social and Political Philosophy ^H	3
MEJO 458	Southern Politics: Critical Thinking and Writing	3	POLI 472	Problems of Modern Democratic Theory ^H	3
MEJO 541	Reporting & Writing About the Economy	3	PSYC 467	The Development of Black Children	3
MEJO 560	Environmental and Science Journalism ^H	3	PSYC 469	Evolution and Development of Biobehavioral Systems	3
MEJO 652	Digital Media Economics and Behavior ^H	3	PSYC 471	The Study of Adolescent Issues and Development	3
MNGT 345	 Public Policy Toward Business	3	PSYC 500	Developmental Psychopathology	3
MNGT 365	The Worker and American Life	3	PSYC 502	Psychology of Adulthood and Aging	3
MNGT 380	The Economics of Labor Relations	3	PSYC 504	Health Psychology	3
MNGT 410	 Formal Organizations and Bureaucracy	3	PSYC 514	Mania and Depression	3
MNGT 412	Social Stratification	3	PSYC 530	Design and Interpretation of Psychological Research	3
MNGT 415	Economy and Society	3	PSYC 531	Tests and Measurement	3
MNGT 427	 The Labor Force	3	PSYC 532	Quantitative Psychology ^H	3
PHIL 364	 Ethics and Economics	3	PSYC 565	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination	3
PHIL 370	 Authority, Freedom, and Rights: Advanced Political Philosophy	3	PSYC 601	Psychology and Law	3
PHIL 384	 Gateway to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics ^H	3	PWAD 250	 Introduction to Peace and Security Studies	3
PHIL 473	American Political Philosophy	3	PWAD 368	War and American Society to 1903	3
PHIL 480	Philosophy of Law	3	PWAD 416	Constitutional Policies and the Judicial Process	3
			PWAD 443	American Foreign Policy: Formulation and Conduct	3
			PWAD 444	 Terrorism and International Peace	3

PWAD 453	 Political Geography	3
PWAD 460	 International Economics	3
PWAD 469	Conflict and Intervention in the Former Yugoslavia H	3
PWAD 574	War and Culture	3
PWAD 575	Presidential Rhetoric	3
PWAD 577	United States Foreign Relations in the 20th Century	3
RELI 423	Ethnicity, Race, and Religion in America	3
RELI 443	Evangelicalism in Contemporary America ^H	3
STOR 305	 Introduction to Decision Analytics	3
STOR 358	Sample Survey Methodology	4
STOR 415	Introduction to Optimization	3
STOR 455	Methods of Data Analysis	3
SOCI 410	 Formal Organizations and Bureaucracy	3
SOCI 412	Social Stratification	3
SOCI 415	Economy and Society	3
SOCI 418	Contemporary Chinese Society	3
SOCI 420	Political Sociology	3
SOCI 422	 Sociology of Mental Health and Illness	3
SOCI 423	 Sociology of Education, Experiential Education	3
SOCI 424	Law and Society	3
SOCI 425	Family and Society, Junior/Senior Section	3
SOCI 426	Sociology of Education	3
SOCI 427	 The Labor Force	3
SOCI 431	Aging	3
SOCI 444	Race, Class, and Gender	3
SOCI 468	United States Poverty and Public Policy	3
SOCI 469	Health and Society	3
SPHG 350H	Introduction to Public Health	3
WGST 368	Women of Color in Contemporary United States Social Movements	3
WGST 388	 The International Politics of Sexual and Reproductive Health	3
WGST 410	 Comparative Queer Politics	3
WGST 662	Gender Issues in Planning and Development	3

H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

See the program page here (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/public-policy-major-ba/>) for special opportunities.

Department Programs

Major

- Public Policy Major, B.A. (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/public-policy-major-ba/>)

Minor

- Public Policy Minor (p. 1)

Professional

- M.P.P. (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/public-policy/>)

Graduate Programs

- M.A. in Public Policy (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/public-policy/>)
- Ph.D. in Public Policy (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/public-policy/>)

Contact Information

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