DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY (GRAD)

Contact Information
Department of Public Policy
Visit Program Website (http://publicpolicy.unc.edu)
Daniel P. Gitterman, Chair

UNC has a distinguished tradition in public policy as a charter member of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM). UNC Public Policy has faculty expertise in education and labor markets; environment and human welfare; innovation and entrepreneurship; science and technology policy; social policy and inequality; health policy, bioethics, and human rights; international development policy; global conflict and cooperation; and other policy areas.

In addition to the M.A. and Ph.D. degree, Public Policy offers a undergraduate major and minor in public policy and a graduate minor for interested students in other academic units. There is collaboration with graduate programs at the master’s and doctoral levels offered by the College of Arts and Sciences and UNC professional schools. Doctoral students in public policy may enroll in classes at Duke University (to which there is a regular free bus service) as well as North Carolina State University without additional cost.

Research and Faculty Expertise
UNC Public Policy faculty members have particular strengths in seven broad areas of policy research and application:

Education and Labor Markets
Public policy research in the area of education policy includes evaluation of policies, programs, and schools in K–12 education, early childhood education, and postsecondary education. In addition, faculty interests include how educational policies affect inequality in student, teacher, and school outcomes. Other topics on working families, tax policies, self-employment, professional/occupational licensing, and the link between higher education and the labor market. (Related faculty: Gitterman, Handa, Hemelt, Lauen, Moulton)

Environment and Human Welfare
Public policy research in the area of environment and human welfare (including health) focuses on climate change, energy policy, and environmental and natural resource management policies in national, state, and developing country contexts. (Related faculty: Handa; Hsu)

Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Science and Technology Policy; Social Entrepreneurship
Public policy research in this area focuses on regional clustering of scientific knowledge, innovation, and entrepreneurship; the commercialization of academic research; and factors that promote technological change and economic growth. Moreover, the Research Triangle Park (RTP) is itself internationally recognized as a premier example of knowledge-based economic development. (Related faculty: Bao, Feldman, Moulick)

Social Policy and Inequality
Public policy research focuses on the ways that social policies ameliorate or exacerbate disparities within and between groups. Specific research expertise include the United States’ social safety-net policies, innovative policy incentives (such as cash transfer incentives in developing countries), marriage, and women’s reproductive health and rights. This area also includes the study of politically relevant identity groups, such as racial and ethnic minorities groups, low-income individuals, women, members of LGBTQ* communities, and immigrants. (Related faculty: Gitterman, Gutierrez, Handa, Hemelt, Kreitzer, Moulton, Rubalcaba)

Health Policy, Bioethics, and Human Rights
Public policy research in health policy—domestically and globally—includes a focus on mental health and substance abuse; maternal, reproductive, and infant health; AIDS and infectious disease control; environmental health; health insurance and managed care; and biomedical and behavioral research. Much of this research is focused on improving health behaviors and outcomes, reducing health inequalities, understanding the economic and institutional basis of effective policies, and exploring ethical and rights-based approaches to health. (Related faculty: Gitterman, Gutierrez, Handa, Kreitzer, MacKay, Meier, Rubalcaba)

International Development Policy
Public policy research in this area explores the interplay between economics, politics, and human rights approaches in shaping development policy. Specific topics include the household and community determinants of human capital investment; the impact of social programs and policies on poverty, migration, and human development; household barriers to labor market participation; drivers of civil conflict; corruption; natural resource governance; poverty and environment trade-offs and synergies; energy poverty; aid accountability; public opinion regarding foreign direct investment; the human right to health. (Related faculty: Gutierrez, Handa, Meier, Seim, Sullivan)

Global Conflict and Cooperation
Public policy research in this area includes challenges where the causes and consequences extend beyond the borders of any one country. Faculty study how effectively national governments, transnational organizations, and the institutions of global governance respond to these global issues. Specific areas of expertise include the impact of international/regional economic integration on labor standards; the effects of foreign economic and military aid; external interventions into domestic armed conflicts; how international law affects public health, international accountability, and anti-corruption efforts; international migration; and international cooperation to address critical environmental issues. (Related faculty: Gitterman; Meier; Seim; Sullivan)

Admission
Students are admitted to the doctoral program in public policy from diverse backgrounds in both academic preparation and experience. In preparation for doctoral study, applicants should have some exposure to intermediate microeconomics, basic statistics, and quantitative analysis (including calculus); a master’s degree and some public policy-related work experience are desirable. All entering students are also required to take a math course (PLCY 700) immediately prior to the beginning of their first semester.

Applications for admission in the fall semester must be received no later than the posted deadlines for the following fall semester. Applications must be received by the December deadline to receive full consideration for Graduate School competitive awards. All prospective students must...
take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and applicants from non-English-speaking countries who do not have a degree from a U.S. institution must also submit results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Factors considered in the application review include the academic transcripts, GRE scores, class rank, references, statements of interest, fit with faculty research clusters, and professional experience.

Financial Assistance
Students who apply by the December deadline and who are admitted will be considered for a range of financial support, including Graduate School fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships. Many awards grant full tuition privileges and health insurance coverage and student fees, substantially increasing their value to the student. Prospective students are encouraged to contact faculty members whose research is in areas of their potential interest and experience.

Research Centers and Institutes
A range of University of North Carolina research centers and institutes, many of which conduct nationally and internationally distinguished policy-related research, also extends research opportunities. Examples include the following:

**Carolina Population Center**
Conducts internationally distinguished research to benefit world populations; train the next generation of population scholars; build skills, capacity, and improved methodologies; and disseminate data and findings to population professionals, policymakers, and the public.

**Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research**
Conducts interdisciplinary research to improve the health of individuals, families, and populations by understanding the problems, issues, and preferences, coastal zone management, and planning for natural hazards.

**Center for Community Capital**
Conducts research to help reduce poverty and inequality by creating more effective strategies to reintegrate America's disadvantaged communities and their residents into the market economy.

**Center for Urban and Regional Studies**
Conducts research on urban issues and processes of urbanization, such as new community development, housing market dynamics, and national home ownership policies, models of urban growth, residential preferences, coastal zone management, and planning for natural hazards.

**Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise**
Conducts research and technical assistance on projects to help businesses turn obstacles into opportunities and to help countries and communities identify their competitive advantages and develop innovative strategies and partnerships to achieve their goals.

**Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute**
Pursues research to create new knowledge to enhance the lives of children and their families.

**Howard W. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science (IRSS)**
The oldest institute in the United States for the cooperative study of problems in the general field of social sciences maintains extensive survey and census archives and assists in design and analysis of social research.

**The Institute for the Environment**
Organizes and supports interdisciplinary environmental science and decision-making research across and beyond the campus on global, national, and North Carolina environmental problems.

**Water Resources Research Institute**
Formulates research programs responsive to state water resources problems. Provides local, state, and federal agencies with research to make better decisions in managing water resources.

For more information, visit the Public Policy Web site (http://publicpolicy.unc.edu/), or contact Admissions, UNC Public Policy, CB #3435, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3435. Telephone: (919) 962-1600.

**Doctor of Philosophy**
UNC Public Policy offers the Ph.D. degree to students who aim to contribute new knowledge and address major domestic and global policy challenges. The Ph.D. in public policy combines core foundations in theory, empirical and normative analysis, and a policy field area. The core curriculum is designed to help each doctoral student develop and use appropriate theoretical and analytical approaches to address problems in policy areas such as education and labor markets; environment and human welfare; innovation and entrepreneurship/science and technology policy; social policy and inequality; health policy, bioethics, and human rights; international development policy; and global conflict and cooperation.

Graduates have earned faculty positions at academic institutions including Arizona State University, Brigham Young University, Brown University, Duke University, East Tennessee University, George Mason University, Indiana University–Bloomington, John Hopkins University, Leiden University (Netherlands), National Cung Chong University (Taiwan), National Open University (Taiwan), National University of Singapore, North Carolina State University, Saint Augustine’s University, San Francisco State University, Soo Chow University (Taiwan), Stony Brook University, Sungkyunkwan University (Korea), Tung Hai University (Taiwan), University of Alabama–Huntsville, University of Albany, University of California–Irvine, University of Colorado–Denver, University of Denver, University of Georgia, University of Missouri–Columbia, University of New Mexico, University of North Carolina–Asheville, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina–Greensboro, University of Oregon, University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, and Vanderbilt University.


of National Coordinator for Health IT, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the World Bank.

Degree Requirements

Core Courses

Once enrolled, each student completes a set of doctoral-level core courses in applications of interdisciplinary social science theory to public policy issues as well as research design, appropriate research methods (including econometrics), and a specialization in a particular subject area of public policy. Doctoral students are required to complete 47 hours of coursework, including 29 hours in core courses common to all students and 18 hours in a self-defined policy specialization field. Core courses include

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLCY 700</td>
<td>Mathematical Preparation for Public Policy and Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLCY 716</td>
<td>Politics and Public Policy Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLCY 717</td>
<td>Institutional Analysis for Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLCY 780</td>
<td>Normative Dimensions of Policy Analysis and Research: Theories, Methods, and Ethical Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLCY 788</td>
<td>Advanced Economic Analysis for Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLCY 789</td>
<td>Advanced Economic Analysis for Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLCY 801</td>
<td>Design of Policy-Oriented Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLCY 810</td>
<td>Public Policy Seminar (2 semesters)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPM 881</td>
<td>Linear Regression Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLCY 882</td>
<td>Advanced Panel Data Methodology for Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Hours 29

Students who have successfully completed graduate courses elsewhere that approximate these required courses may petition to have up to nine such hours counted toward the Ph.D. in public policy. Courses proposed for transfer must be approved as part of the student’s program within the department, and material from those courses may be included as part of the comprehensive doctoral examinations. Students normally spend two years in full-time course work, and somewhat longer if they enter the program without key prerequisite courses or a master’s degree in a related field. A dissertation is required.

Policy Field

Each student designs an individual course of study for a policy field. The 18-credit-hour requirement gives students rigorous training in the theory, methods, and subject matter within a substantive policy field. The field area course of study must include both doctoral-level understanding of the subject matter of the policy area and at least three hours of research methods, in addition to the econometrics sequence (HPM 881 and PLCY 882) and research design course (PLCY 801) required for the core. Students take no less than nine credit hours of courses related to the theory and subject matter of their policy field; up to six hours of credits may be taken as independent studies. The remaining six hours of the required policy field credits are normally completed as PLCY 992 and PLCY 994 during master’s and dissertation research. The student’s additional research methods course should provide her or him with the ability to design and carry out dissertation research and to continue making scholarly contributions in his or her chosen field. Each student is assisted by an individualized program committee in identifying courses, independent readings, and other sources of information to acquire both the substantive knowledge and the quantitative and other analytical skills appropriate for the student’s policy field.

Master’s Requirements

The M.A. in public policy is available as an option for students who are opting to exit the Ph.D. program prior to completing all requirements for the Ph.D. In such cases, the student must meet departmental and Graduate School degree requirements for a master’s degree, including 30 earned credit hours, two full semesters of residence credit, passing an exam requirement, and completing a thesis or (thesis substitute) project.

For students choosing to exit with the M.A., the 30 credit hours will be earned through core and elective courses, generally completed in the student’s first two years in the program. Students must take and pass the written core exam and complete a thesis to earn the M.A. credential.

Students nearing completion of their core courses and intending to exit the program without completing the Ph.D. may petition the director of graduate studies to write an approved thesis substitute with an oral exam defense.

The oral defense will occur before at least three committee members and will cover appropriate core course material from the program in lieu of sitting for the written core exam. The thesis substitute format will be determined by agreement between the student and the faculty committee and may include a literature review or discussion/research paper.

Students who decide to exit the program by completing these latter M.A. requirements may not later choose to continue for the Ph.D. without taking and passing the core written exam.

Graduate Minor

Doctoral and master’s students not enrolled in the Ph.D. program in public policy may elect to minor in public policy. Requirements for the minor include 15 hours of approved coursework in public policy for doctoral students, or nine credits for master’s students, approved by the director of graduate studies in public policy and the student’s major department. These credits may not be double-counted as courses required for the student’s major degree.

Professors

Maryann P. Feldman, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Higher Education and the Commercialization of Academic Research, Factors That Promote Technological Change and Economic Growth
Daniel P. Gitterman, American Politics and Public Policy, Social and Health Policy, Labor Market

Associate Professors

Christine Piette Durrance, Health Economics and Policy, Public and Applied Microeconomics, Industrial Organization/ Antitrust Policy
Steven Hemelt, Economics of Education, Education Policy, Labor Economics, Policy Design and Evaluation
Benjamin Mason Meier, Global Health Policy, Justice and Policy
Jeremy Moulton, Public Economics
Douglas L. Lauen, Education Policy, Organizational Theory, Stratification
Patricia Sullivan, International Relations, Comparative Politics, United States Security Policy
Assistant Professors
Carmen Gutierrez, Social Demography, Health Disparities, Inequalities Across Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship
Rebecca Kreitzer, American Politics and Public Policy, Public Opinion, State Institutions, Women and Politics, Interest Groups
Douglas MacKay, Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics and Public Policy, Bioethics, Philosophy of Law, Environmental Ethics
Joaquìn Rubalcaba, Labor and Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Public Economics, Environmental Economics
Brigitte Seim, Comparative Politics, Development Policy, Political Methodology

Teaching Associate Professor
Jeff Summerlin-Long, Immigration, Law, Social and Economic Inequality

Teaching Assistant Professor
Anna Krome-Lukens, History and Public Policy

PLCY
Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate-level Courses

PLCY 415. Advocacy for Policy Change. 3 Credits.
This experiential learning course will begin by exploring a number of policy domains where existing laws do not seem to produce positive outcomes for average citizens and state residents. We will then investigate potential ways to address the issue, and pursue a line of advocacy for a particular policy issue. Students will interact with state legislators and their aides as well as non-governmental organizations in order to uncover and employ strategies for policy advocacy.
Requisites: Prerequisite, PLCY 210 or 220.
Gen Ed: EE: Field Work.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 425. Risks, Shocks, and the Safety Net. 3 Credits.
Many risks and shocks can make individuals and families vulnerable to economic hardship. This course examines America's social policy regime through a wide-ranging investigation of the origins, development, and future of critical features of our social safety net. We pay particular attention to challenges emerging in the era of globalization.
Gen Ed: US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 430. Analysis of National Security Policy. 3 Credits.
Course explores contemporary threats to national security, approaches to national security strategy, policy instruments, the role of military force, and the policy-making process.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PWAD 430, POLI 430.

PLCY 435. Designing for Impact: Social Enterprise Lab. 3 Credits.
Focuses on the entrepreneurial process to solve social or environmental issues. Using modern methods and tools, students engage in experiments to test hypotheses around problem definition, opportunity recognition and solutions. Experience gained in this course enable students to launch their own social enterprise or join social enterprises in progress.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 450. Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy. 4 Credits.
Application of statistical techniques, including regression analysis, in public policy program evaluation, research design, and data collection and management. Honors version available
Gen Ed: QI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 460H. Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy. 4 Credits.
Application of statistical techniques, including regression analysis, in public policy program evaluation, research design, and data collection and management.
Gen Ed: QI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 470. Business, Competition, and Public Policy. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on competition policy in the United States using relevant Supreme Court decisions as well as economic and policy-related motivation for specific business behavior.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 475. The Political Economy of Food. 3 Credits.
This course examines the political and economic dimensions of the food we eat, how it is produced, who eats what, and related social and environmental issues, both domestic and international, affecting the production, pricing, trade, distribution, and consumption of food. Honors version available
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ENEC 475.

PLCY 475H. The Political Economy of Food. 3 Credits.
This course examines the political and economic dimensions of the food we eat, how it is produced, who eats what, and related social and environmental issues, both domestic and international, affecting the production, pricing, trade, distribution, and consumption of food.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ENEC 475H.

PLCY 480. Environmental Decision Making. 3 Credits.
Introduces factors shaping environmental decision making by individuals, businesses, governments, advocacy groups, and international institutions. Explores public policy incentives and action strategies for influencing them.
Gen Ed: SS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ENEC 480.

PLCY 485. Poverty, Health, and Human Development in Low Income Countries. 3 Credits.
This course provides an understanding of how poverty is defined, the consequences of poverty, and policies to reduce poverty. It explores the determinants of human development outcomes from an interdisciplinary perspective (with a heavy economics focus).
Requisites: Prerequisite, ECON 101.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 490. Special Topics in Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Special topics in public policy for undergraduate and graduate students.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.
PLCY 496. Independent Study/Reading in Public Policy. 1-6 Credits.
By special arrangement and permission of the instructor. Independent reading in public policy.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 520. Environment and Development. 3 Credits.
Reviews environmental problems in developing countries. Analyzes proposed solutions, such as legal remedies, market instruments, corporate voluntary approaches, international agreements, and development policies. Discusses the link between trade and environment, environmental cases from the World Trade Organization, and sustainable development.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 527. Applied Public Finance. 3 Credits.
This course provides a foundation in public finance theory and applications. Students learn to analyze taxation policies and expenditures on income redistribution, programs for the poor (e.g., TANF), and social insurance programs (e.g., Social Security). Honors version available
Requisites: Prerequisite, ECON 310 or 410, or PLCY 410 or 788.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 527H. Applied Public Finance. 3 Credits.
This course provides a foundation in public finance theory and applications. Students learn to analyze taxation policies and expenditures on income redistribution, programs for the poor (e.g., TANF), and social insurance programs (e.g., Social Security).
Requisites: Prerequisite, ECON 310 or 410, or PLCY 410 or 788.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 530. Educational Problems and Policy Solutions. 3 Credits.
Reviews current debates and policy solutions in education. Topics analyzed through three of the most commonly used evaluative criteria: equity, efficiency, and effectiveness. Topics: equality of educational opportunity, racial segregation, the black-white test score gap, school choice, and the use of incentives to promote increased performance. Lecture, case studies, discussion. Honors version available
Gen Ed: SS, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 530H. Educational Problems and Policy Solutions. 3 Credits.
Reviews current debates and policy solutions in education. Topics analyzed through three of the most commonly used evaluative criteria: equity, efficiency, and effectiveness. Topics: equality of educational opportunity, racial segregation, the black-white test score gap, school choice, and the use of incentives to promote increased performance. Lecture, case studies, discussion.
Gen Ed: SS, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 565. Global Health Policy. 3 Credits.
Coursework will focus on public policy approaches to global health, employing interdisciplinary methodologies to understand selected public health policies, programs, and interventions. For students who have a basic understanding of public health.
Gen Ed: GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HPM 565.

PLCY 570. Health and Human Rights. 3 Credits.
Course focuses on rights-based approaches to health, applying a human rights perspective to selected public health policies, programs, and interventions. Students will apply a formalistic human rights framework to critical public health issues, exploring human rights as both a safeguard against harm and a catalyst for health promotion.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HPM 571.

PLCY 575. Innovation, Science, and Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Introduction to analysis of science policy. Course explores how events transformed science's role in American life and how science relates to industry and economic development. Topics include the mechanisms of allocating scientific resources, the commercialization of academic discoveries, regulating emerging technology, and achieving consensus on controversial scientific issues.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 581. Research Design for Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Students will explore the scientific method as applied to policy research. They will formulate testable policy research questions, become familiar with methods for conducting policy research, and learn to think critically about causal inference.
Requisites: Pre- or corequisite, PLCY 460.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 585. American Environmental Policy. 3 Credits.
Intensive introduction to environmental management and policy, including environmental and health risks; policy institutions, processes, and instruments; policy analysis; and major elements of American environmental policy. Lectures and case studies. Three lecture hours per week.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ENVR 585, ENEC 585, PLAN 585.

PLCY 590. Special Topics in Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Special topics for undergraduate and graduate students.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 596. Independent Study/Reading in Public Policy. 1-6 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Independent reading in public policy.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 686. Policy Instruments for Environmental Management. 3 Credits.
Design of public policy instruments as incentives for sustainable management of environmental resources and ecosystems, and comparison of the effects and effectiveness of alternative policies.
Requisites: Prerequisite, ECON 410 or PLAN 710.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HPM 686, ENVR 686, PLAN 686.

PLCY 690. Special Topics in Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Special topics for graduate or undergraduate students.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.
PLCY 691H. Honors in Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. In preparing their honors theses, students will formulate a testable policy research question, design a study to answer this research question, and learn to think critically about causal inference.
Requisites: Prerequisites, PLCY 460 and 581.
Gen Ed: CI, EE- Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 692H. Honors in Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. For senior public policy majors. Directed research for the honors thesis. Students may only receive credit for one semester of this course. An application for enrollment must be completed by the student and approved by the director of the public policy honors program.
Requisites: Prerequisite, PLCY 691H.
Gen Ed: CI, EE- Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 696. Independent Study/Reading in Public Policy. 1-6 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Independent reading in public policy.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 698. Senior Capstone in Public Policy. 4 Credits.
Students apply knowledge and skills gained in the major to a real-world policy problem. In small teams, students produce actionable, client-centered, public policy analysis for a government agency or nonprofit organization. Students also develop skills in team work, leadership, communication, professional etiquette, and time management.
Requisites: Prerequisite, PLCY 460. Pre- or corequisite, PLCY 581.
Gen Ed: CI, EE- Mentored Research, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade.

Graduate-level Courses

PLCY 700. Mathematical Preparation for Public Policy and Economics. 3 Credits.
An intensive preparation course in mathematical and statistical analysis for public policy and economics. Reviews and introduces topics in linear algebra, calculus, optimization and mathematical statistics, and prepares students for PLCY 788 and PLCY 789. Also serves as a prerequisite for HPM 881, which satisfies one methods requirement in the Ph.D. program.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 710. Introduction to Public Policy. 3 Credits.
This course examines the history and development of the field of public policy and several theoretical frameworks that contribute to public policy analysis including welfare economics, theories of distributive justice, political science, and organizational theory.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 716. Politics and Public Policy Theory. 3 Credits.
Students build a theoretical foundation about the politics of policymaking. We examine the governmental institutions and actors that make policy decisions, incentive structures, and influences that shape these decisions as well as the macro-environment within which policy demands arise and policy decisions are made.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 717. Institutional Analysis for Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Course examines the role of institutions in the analysis of public policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Consider how institutions are used to address market failures, how formal and informal institutions form, persist, and change, and theoretical and empirical approaches for studying the role of institutions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 760. Migration and Health. 3 Credits.
With a focus on Latin American migration to the U.S., this course introduces students to the inter-relationships between migration and health. Students will gain an understanding of the theories of migration and the ways in which immigration and settlement policies influence the health and well-being of immigrant populations.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 780. Normative Dimensions of Policy Analysis and Research: Theories, Methods, and Ethical Foundations. 3 Credits.
Covers theories of distributive justice and how ethical arguments can be used as a basis for public policy decision-making.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 788. Advanced Economic Analysis for Public Policy I. 3 Credits.
This course introduces microeconomic theory using multivariate calculus and constrained optimization. Topics covered include consumer theory, producer theory, market equilibrium, taxes, and market power. Applied public policy examples are incorporated.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PLAN 788.

PLCY 789. Advanced Economic Analysis for Public Policy II. 3 Credits.
This course provides further applications of economic theory to public policy including risk and uncertainty, information economics, general equilibrium and welfare policy, externalities, public goods and taxation, and game theory.
Requisites: Prerequisite, PLCY 788.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PLAN 789.

PLCY 799. Selected Topics in Public Policy. 3 Credits.

PLCY 801. Design of Policy-Oriented Research. 3 Credits.
Logic of designing research for the analysis of planning problems and the formulation of public policies. Elements of research design, case study, survey research, quasi-experimental designs, and the social experiment are covered.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PLAN 801.

PLCY 802. Advanced Seminar in Research Design: Data, Methods, and Evaluation. 3 Credits.
Three main objectives: to deepen students' understanding of important issues and topics in the design of empirical research, to further develop students' ability to critically evaluate research designs and policy-related products, and to aid in developing a research paper, dissertation, or other product.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PLAN 802.

PLCY 805. Public Policy Workshop. 1-3 Credits.
For graduate students in Public Policy Analysis who are undertaking team projects under faculty supervision. Projects vary from year to year. All will relate to public policy and will involve interaction with real clients. The intent is to provide students with an opportunity to apply theory and techniques of policy analysis in actual problem situations.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 810. Public Policy Seminar. 1 Credit.
Weekly forum for public policy scholars and officials to discuss the relationships between policy research and policy outcomes. Presentations by invited speakers and doctoral students.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit.
Grading status: Letter grade.
PLCY 820. American Welfare State. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the American welfare state through a wide-ranging investigation of the origins, development, and future of the most critical features of United States politics, social policy, and law.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 830. Seminar in Education Policy I. 3 Credits.
Covers economic and sociological theories on the determinants of learning and the demand for schooling. Topics include stratification, school effects, schooling process and socialization, family, peer and contextual effects, and the education production function.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 831. Seminar in Education Policy II. 3 Credits.
Explores educational policy problems and the evidence and methods used to assess such problems. Topics include racial social gap, school choice, educational accountability, assessment, standard setting, teacher effects, resource allocation, and early childhood education.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 882. Advanced Panel Data Methodology for Public Policy. 3 Credits.
Students will apply models and statistical techniques to original PLCY research; understand major techniques used to estimate causal relationships in quasi-experimental designs, including panel data and simultaneous equations models; and gain intuition and skills about the art of econometrics, including techniques for using complex survey data and handling missing data.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 895. Topics in Poverty and Human Resources. 3 Credits.
Topics covered include poverty, welfare, and human resources from an economic perspective. For students wanting to specialize in social and behavioral approaches to the study of population and demographic phenomena.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 901. Independent Study. 1-15 Credits.
This course allows graduate students in public policy analysis to receive credit for work on individual projects, designed in conjunction with a faculty supervisor. It is intended for students who are interested in pursuing academic topics not covered in scheduled courses.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit.
Grading status: Letter grade.

PLCY 992. Master’s (Non-Thesis). 3 Credits.

PLCY 994. Doctoral Research and Dissertation. 3 Credits.