

# Master of Public Policy

## Faculty

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**Associate Professors:** Bobby Alexander, Marie Chevrier, Simon Fass, Bruce Jacobs, Jennifer Holmes, Susan McElroy, Kevin Siqueira, John Worrall

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## Objectives

The Master of Science in Public Policy is an interdisciplinary graduate degree that is designed to develop those skill sets critical for a career in which a solid understanding of the public policy process and the analysis and evaluation of public policies are essential. Specific skills include knowledge of the policy process and related ethical concerns, rigorous research skills that provide students with an essential grounding in statistical and data analysis and research design, and effective communication skills. Students will be prepared for analytical and administrative positions and responsibilities in a wide array of professional settings in the public, non-profit, and private sectors.

Qualified students are encouraged to consider the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Economy (PPPE). Such students should meet with Program Director of PPPE as soon as possible to discuss options for further study.

## Facilities

Students have access to the computing facilities in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and the University's Computing Center. The School has two computing laboratories that have over 30 computers that are network linked and equipped with major social science software packages, including E-Views, R, Rats, SPSS, and STATA. A computerized geographic information system, the Lexis Nexis Database and WestLaw are also available for student use. The University's Computing Center provides personal computers and UNIX Workstations. Many important data and reference materials are also available online via the library and school's memberships in numerous organizations.

## Admissions Requirement

The University's general admission requirements are discussed [here](#).

The master's program in Public Policy seeks applications from students with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university or college. A 3.0 undergraduate grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), and a combined verbal and quantitative score of at least 1200 on the Graduate Records Examination (GRE). Students may also wish to consider submitting their score from the writing component of the GRE test as additional evidence of their writing skills. Standardized test scores are only one of the factors taken into account in determining admission. Students should also submit all transcripts, three letters of recommendation, and a one-page essay outlining the applicant's background, education, and professional objectives.

## Prerequisites

While there are no specific course prerequisites, entering students will benefit from exposure to undergraduate courses in the social science fields such as economics, political science, and sociology, as well as college algebra, social statistics, and research design.

## Transfer Policies

Students who have previous graduate work pertinent to the requirements of a master's program may be given up to 15 hours of transfer credit, and the hours of coursework required for the degree will be reduced accordingly. Students desiring to transfer graduate courses thought to be equivalent to core courses may be required to demonstrate competency through examination. The award of such transfer credit must be consistent with the University's "Transfer of Credit" policy.

## Degree Requirements

Students seeking a Master of Public Policy must complete at least 36 semester credit hours of graduate coursework in the program. The program has three components:

- (1) Twenty-one semester hours of required coursework
- (2) Nine semester hours of prescribed electives
- (3) Six hours of free electives

Students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to graduate.

### I. Required Core Courses

1. Policymaking and Institutions (Six hours)
  - POEC/PA 5303 Public Policymaking and Institutions
  - POEC/PA 5308 Ethics, Culture, and Public Responsibility
2. Methodology (Nine hours)
  - POEC/PA 5313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
  - POEC 5316 Advanced Regression Analysis
  - Select one of the following:
    - POEC 5310 Research Design I
    - POEC 6352 Evaluation Research
3. Economics (Three hours)
  - Select one of the following:
    - POEC/PA 5305 Microeconomics for Policy
    - POEC/PA 5307 Economics for Public Policy
4. Policy Workshop (Three hours)
  - Select one of the following:
    - POEC 7V45 Policy Research Workshop in Industry and Public Policy
    - POEC 7V47 Policy Research Workshop in Health Care Policy
    - POEC 7V62 Policy Research Workshop in Social Policy

### II. Prescribed Electives

Students complete nine hours in ONE of the following options. All courses must be approved by the Program Director.

- A. Business and Public Policy

- B. Criminology
- C. Social Policy
- D. Health

Students should consult the graduate catalog, and the Program Director, for additional information regarding those courses that would best satisfy the “Prescribed Electives” requirement.

### **III. Free Electives**

Students may select six hours of 5000 level or higher courses. Students may choose courses that are not selected under “Core Courses” to fulfill this requirement