

PUBLIC POLICY (BA IN PUBLIC POLICY)

Public Policy

Public Policy is an interdisciplinary major that focuses on analytical decision making to study diverse subjects ranging from the processes of making, implementing and evaluating government policies to the ethical evaluation of contemporary social problems. It emphasizes quantitative and economic analysis, the study of political institutions that produce policy, and the examination of specific domestic and international policy areas where governments, the non-profit sector, and the private sector collaborate to address pressing issues of public concern. The Public Policy major draws on coursework primarily from Economics and Government, but also on courses in Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, and others. Graduates from the undergraduate Public Policy program pursue a wide array of careers in public service, policymaking and politics, finding employment in governments at all levels, consulting firms that work with governmental clients, regulated industries as well as non-profits. Public Policy graduates regularly pursue graduate studies in business administration, economics, environmental studies, health policy and administration, law, political science, psychology, public administration, public policy analysis, social work, sociology and urban affairs. In addition to preparing Public Policy majors to be participants in the policy process, an important goal is also to teach students to be well-informed, capable citizens.

Accelerated Bachelor of Arts/Sciences and Master of Public Policy

W&M undergraduate students are able to earn both a Bachelor's degree in any undergraduate major (BA or BS) and a Master of Public Policy in five years. Candidates interested in this accelerated degree path must apply to and gain acceptance in their junior year. See the Graduate Program Catalog and the Public Policy Program website for details.

Course Requirements

Required Credit Hours: 42

Major Computing Requirement

The Major Computing Requirement is fulfilled by completion of one course listed under "Statistics" and one course listed under "Second Methods Course" in the Core of the Public Policy major.

Major Writing Requirement

The Major Writing Requirement is fulfilled either by:

- earning at least a C- in one of the courses listed under the "Capstone Experience" in the Core of the Public Policy major; or
- earning at least a C- in one course that fulfills the ECON writing requirement or GOVT writing requirement that has been approved by Public Policy.

Major Requirements

A major in Public Policy shall consist of a minimum of 42 semester hours selected from the courses listed below. Students take seven common core courses as follows:

Code	Title	Hours
Requirements for the major:		
PUBP 201	Intro to Public Policy	3
ECON 101	Principles: Microeconomics	3
ECON 102	Principles: Macroeconomics	3
ECON 303	Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	3
Political Institutions		
Select one of the following:		3
GOVT 351	Bureaucracy	
GOVT 353	The Politics of States and Localities	
GOVT 370	Legislative Process	
GOVT 371	The Presidency	
GOVT 372	American Legal Process	
Applied Economics		
Select one of the following:		3
ECON 321	Economics of the Public Sector	
ECON 322	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	
ECON 324	Economics of US Health Policy	
PUBP 324	Economics of US Health Policy	
Ethics		
Select one of the following:		3
PHIL 215	Right and Wrong in the Contemporary World	
PHIL 303	Ethics	
PHIL 305	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 310	Philosophy of Law	
Statistics		
Select one of the following: ¹		3
BUAD 231	Business Statistics	
ECON 307	Principles and Methods of Statistics	
MATH 351	Probability and Statistics for Scientists	
SOCI 303	Quant Research Methods	
Second Methods Course		
Select one of the following:		3
ECON 308	Econometrics	
GOVT 301	Research Methods	
GOVT 302	Quantitative Methods	
GOVT 307	Political Polling and Survey Analysis (Fall)	
SOCI 302	Research Design	
Electives		
Select 12 credits from the following: ²		12
CONS 370	Environmental Justice	
ECON 300	Topics in Economics (Economics of Crime)	
ECON 304	Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	
ECON 308	Econometrics (if not taken for core)	
ECON 311	Money and Banking	
ECON 321	Economics of the Public Sector (if not taken for core)	
ECON 322	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (if not taken for core)	
ECON 323	Economics of Climate Change	
ECON 325	Urban Economics	
ECON 341	American Economic History	

ECON 362	Regulation of Markets
ECON 407	Cross Section Econometrics
ECON 408	Time Series Econometrics
ECON 412	Empirical Microeconomics (Stabilization Policy)
ECON 451	Labor Market Analysis
ECON 452	The Economics of Gender and Work
ECON 456	Economics of Health and Health Care
ECON 460	Economic Analysis of Law
ECON 461	Industrial Organization: Theory, Evidence and Cases
ECON 475	International Trade Theory and Policy
ECON 476	International Finance and Open Economy Macroeconomics
EDUC 402	Urban Education: Policy, Practice and Leadership
EDUC 417	Topics in Educational Policy and Equity
GOVT 307	Political Polling and Survey Analysis
GOVT 322	Global Environmental Politics
GOVT 324	U S Foreign Policy
GOVT 328	International Political Economy
GOVT 329	International Security
GOVT 329	International Security
GOVT 339	Middle Eastern Political Systems
GOVT 351	Bureaucracy (if not taken for Core)
GOVT 353	The Politics of States and Localities
GOVT 355	Southern Politics
GOVT 360	Building the American Welfare State
GOVT 361	Future of U.S. Social Policy
GOVT 370	Legislative Process
GOVT 371	The Presidency
GOVT 372	American Legal Process (if not taken for Core)
GOVT 373	Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
GOVT 374	Political Behavior
GOVT 404	Seminar: International Politics
GOVT 435	Seminar: Political Economy of the Newly Industrializing Countries
GOVT 454	Seminar: The Politics of Metropolitan Areas
GOVT 455	Seminar: Education Policy and Politics in the United States
GOVT 465	Seminar: Public Opinion and Voting Behavior
GOVT 470	Seminar: Congress and the President
MATH 323	Operations Research: Deterministic Models
MATH 424	Operations Research: Stochastic Models
PSYC 350	Community Psychology and Prevention
PSYC 442	Psychology of Decision Making
PUBP 390	Topics in Public Policy ³
PUBP 405	Negotiation and Public Leadership
PUBP 419	Social Network Analysis
PUBP 490	Independent Study ⁴
PUBP 491	Advanced Topics in Public Policy
PUBP 495	Honors
PUBP 496	Honors
SOCI 302	Research Design
SOCI 305	Special Topics in Sociology

SOCI 311	Birth, Sex, Death: Population and Society
SOCI 333	Globalization and International Development
SOCI 351	Immigration, Assimilation and Ethnicity
SOCI 352	Sociology of Education
SOCI 353	Environmental Sociology
SOCI 357	Urban Sociology
SOCI 412	Sociology of Aging
SOCI 421	Crime and Justice in America
SOCI 423	Deviance and Social Control
SOCI 431	Migration in a Global Context
SOCI 433	Energy, Environment, and Development

Capstone Experience

Select three credits from the following:

3

PUBP 419	Social Network Analysis
PUBP 490	Independent Study
PUBP 491	Advanced Topics in Public Policy
PUBP 495	Honors
PUBP 496	Honors

Any GOVT or ECON 400-level class with the COLL 400 attribute.

Other approved capstone courses with permission of the Public Policy Director. Information on how to petition for approval appears on the Public Policy website.

Total Hours**42**

- ¹ Students who have taken MATH 106 Elementary Probability and Statistics may petition the Public Policy Program for placement out of the Statistics requirement. If approved, by earning a C- or better, then students will need to take an additional 3 elective credits from the "Electives" list appearing below.
- ² The list of electives changes over time. For the most up-to-date list, check DegreeWorks. In addition, students may petition the Public Policy Program to have a course that is not listed be approved for major elective credit, which can include topics courses and independent study in ECON, GOVT, SOCL, and other fields. Information on how to submit a petition appears on the Public Policy website.
- ³ as well as 300 and 400 level Topics courses in Economics, Government, History, Psychology and Sociology provided that the course has a strong public policy focus
- ⁴ as well as independent study in Economics, Government, History, Psychology and Sociology, provided that the project has a strong public policy focus