

Public Policy Studies

Program Co-Chairs: James Leitzel, j-leitzel@uchicago.edu, G-B 222, 702-8555; Richard P. Taub, rpt2@uchicago.edu, J 209, 702-7927
Program Administrative Assistant: Lee Price, lee@uchicago.edu, G-B 218B, 702-7134
Program Preceptors: G-B 218A, 834-9810

Web: www.college.uchicago.edu/Programs/CollegePublicPolicy

Program of Study

Public Policy Studies offers College students an opportunity to pursue interdisciplinary study of domestic and international policy issues. The primary disciplines among the teaching faculty are economics, political science, and sociology. Course work emphasizes the application of these disciplines to real-world policy issues.

The program of study for the B.A. degree in public policy studies is designed to introduce students to policy analysis and implementation, equip them to use quantitative and economic techniques and methods, train them in policy research, and give them a command of at least one particular policy area.

Students may focus their interests on domestic policy concerns or on international or foreign matters. Those interested in domestic issues can assemble an outstanding selection of courses from offerings in political science, economics, and sociology. For example, students can specialize in urban problems, the influence of the labor market, the family, and social attitudes on the status of various income and racial groups. As a further example, students can specialize in policy implementation, taking courses in the economics of public management, organizational decision-making, and complex organizations, among others.

The program also encourages students to have an internship experience either during the academic year or during the summer. PBPL 29600 offers academic course credit for students completing an approved, policy-oriented internship. Students may inquire about internship opportunities and requirements through the program's administrative assistant.

Program Requirements

First Year. During the first or second year, all students must take one full year of calculus.

Second Year. The following three-quarter sequence, which is usually taken in the second year, is required of all students in the program.

- PBPL 22100. Politics and Policy
- PBPL 22200. Public Policy Analysis
- PBPL 22300. Problems of Policy Implementation

Students are also required to take ECON 20000 (The Elements of Economic Analysis I) no later than the Autumn Quarter of their second year. Students are encouraged to also take at least one additional economics course; appropriate courses include ECON 20100, 20200, 27000, and 27100.

Third Year. Most students complete the courses below in their third year:

At least one course in statistics. Students are strongly encouraged to take STAT 22000, especially if they anticipate taking several economics courses or the more analytical political science courses. STAT 20000 is an acceptable substitute for STAT 22000. A second statistics course is recommended. Students should consult with the undergraduate program director for help in selecting appropriate courses from the many statistics courses offered by the University.

Courses in an area of specialization. Students are required to complete three substantive policy courses that make up a specialization in a public policy field. Students may meet the specialization requirement in one of two ways: (1) by taking three courses that logically connect (for example, courses in urban politics, urban economics, and urban society would count as an urban specialization; or courses in international relations, international finance, and history of the common market might be an international specialty); or (2) by taking three courses beyond the introductory course in one discipline other than public policy (e.g., economics, political science, sociology, statistics). Two of these courses should be taken in the third year.)

Research practicum. In Winter and Spring Quarters, students must participate in a two-quarter practicum (Field Research Project, PBPL 26200-26300). This is a group project that exposes students to real-world policy-making questions. Students are given responsibility for particular aspects of the research project, and the final report integrates the findings. In previous years, practicums have dealt with the employment and housing conditions facing Latinos in metropolitan Chicago, juvenile recidivism, and patterns of racial integration and segregation in the suburbs of Chicago.

Fourth Year. Students must write a B.A. paper in the fourth year. Ordinarily, the B.A. paper should not be an expansion of the third-year research study. Students wishing to graduate with honors should seek two faculty advisers for the project in the spring quarter of the third year or early in the fourth year. The instructor of PBPL 29800 serves as adviser for all other B.A. papers.

Further assistance is available in a seminar course (PBPL 29800) offered in the autumn quarter and required of all concentrators. The seminar informs students about sources and methods of research. During the second half of the course, students offer preliminary statements about the mode of inquiry, sources, and treatment of evidence for their B.A. papers. Students may take as many as two quarters of PBPL 29900 (B.A. Paper Preparation: Public Policy) for general elective credit.

Courses. Many policy-related courses in political science, economics, sociology, education, and history count towards the concentration requirements when used as "specialization" courses.

Summary of Requirements

General Education		MATH 13100-13200 or equivalent†
Concentration	1	MATH 13300 or equivalent†
	3	PBPL 22100-22200-22300
	1	ECON 20000
	1	course in statistics†
	3	courses in an area of specialization
	2	PBPL 26200-26300 (research practicum)
	1	PBPL 29800 (Senior Seminar)
	—	B.A. paper
	<hr/>	
	12	

† Credit may be granted by examination.

It is recommended that students take an additional course in economics (ECON 20100 or 20200) and an additional course in statistics.

Grading. All courses counting toward the public policy concentration must be taken for letter grades unless students have prior approval for *P/F* grading from the undergraduate program director.

Honors. All seniors are candidates for honors. Students are recommended for honors if their B.A. papers are of substantial quality and their GPA in the concentration is 3.25 or higher. Students wishing to graduate with honors must submit the final drafts of their B.A. papers to two faculty readers by the beginning of the sixth week of the quarter in which they wish to graduate.

Faculty

C. Bidwell, D. Coursey, D. G. Johnson, E. Laumann, J. Leitzel, H. Margolis, J. Padgett, H. Richman, L. Rudolph, D. Snidal, R. Taub, G. Tolley, R. Townsend

Courses

21800. Economics and Environmental Policy. (=ENST 21800) *PQ: ECON 19800 or higher.* For course description, see Environmental Studies. *Spring.*

22100. Politics and Policy. *PQ: PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in sequence or individually.* Public policy choices interact with politics in obvious ways (e.g., elections) but also in subtler ways, turning especially on how organizations work and what governs persuasion and belief. This course surveys some key aspects of these interactions. *H. Margolis. Autumn.*

22200. Public Policy Analysis. (=ECON 27800) *PQ: ECON 20000. PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in sequence or individually.* This course reviews and augments the basic tools of microeconomics developed in ECON 20000, and applies these tools to policy problems. We examine situations in which private markets are likely to produce unsatisfactory results, suggesting a potential rationale for government intervention. The goal is to allow students to comprehend, develop, and respond to economics arguments when formulating or evaluating public policy. *J. Leitzel. Winter.*

22300. Problems of Public Policy Implementation. (=SOC 30302) *PQ*: One 20000-level social sciences course. *PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in sequence or individually.* Once a governmental policy or program is established, there is the challenge of getting it carried out in ways intended by the policy makers. Obstacles emerge because of problems of hierarchy, competing goals, and cultures of different groups, as well as because of difficulties in achieving complex new patterns of change. We explore how these obstacles emerge and may be overcome particularly between groups; and between creators and those responsible for implementing programs. We also look at varying responses of target populations. *R. Taub. Spring.*

22500. Environmental Policy and Decision Making. (=ENST 24700, LLSO 28900) For course description, see Environmental Studies. *S. Trainor. Winter.*

22600. The Environment in United States Politics. (=ENST 24100, NCDV 24100) For course description, see Environmental Studies. *A. McCright. Autumn.*

23000. Organizational Analysis. (=SOC 20101/30101) For course description, see Sociology. *E. Laumann. Autumn.*

23100. Environmental Law. (=ENST 23100, LLSO 23100) *PQ*: *Third- or fourth-year standing, or consent of instructor.* For course description, see Environmental Studies. *H. L. Henderson. Autumn.*

23200. The Economics of Crime. (=ECON 28700) *PQ*: *ECON 20100 required; ECON 21000 or STAT 22000 strongly recommended.* For course description, see Economics. *S. Levitt. Spring. Offered 2003-04; not offered 2002-03.*

23600. Political Sociology. (=ENST 23500, PPHA 33600, SOC 20106/30106) *PQ*: *Completion of the general education requirement in social sciences.* For course description, see Sociology. *T. Clark. Spring.*

24100. Public Policy and the Arts. This course examines art in its social context from the perspectives of artists, patrons, experts, art institutions, the art market, and audiences. We address how public policy has shaped the arts in the U.S. in different eras, with a focus on the nature and significance of contemporary art controversies. *B. Farrell. Spring, 2003.*

24101. Public Policy and Wage Inequality. (=ECON 24101) *PQ*: *ECON 20100.* For course description, see Economics. *D. Neal. Spring.*

24300. Global Environmental Politics. (=ENST 24900, NCDV 21100) For course description, see Environmental Studies. *E. Tennant. Spring.*

24400. Is Development Sustainable? (=BPRO 23400, ENST 24400, HIPS 23400, NCDV 27300) *PQ*: *Third- or fourth-year standing.* For course description, see Environmental Studies. *T. Steck, Staff. Spring.*

24500. Economics of Urban Policies. (=ECON 26600/36500, GEOG 26600/36600) *PQ*: *ECON 20100.* For course description, see Economics. *G. Tolley. Winter.*

24600. Inner City Economic Development. (=SOC 20129/30129) *PQ: At least one prior course in economics, political science, public policy, or sociology.* This course explores conceptually what the issues are around the economic position of cities in the late twentieth century, and how to think creatively about strategies to generate economic growth that would have positive consequences for low income residents. We consider Community Development Corporations, empowerment zones, housing projects, and business development plans through credit and technical assistance. *R. Taub. Winter, 2003.*

24700. The Family and Public Policy. (=HUDV 24700) In this course we investigate changes in family life in the United States in historical and contemporary perspective, with an emphasis on the ways in which policy has been shaped by (and, in turn, affects) family norms and practices. Topics include gender roles, work patterns, and welfare policy; reproductive choices, parenting, and child care; and current family politics. *B. Farrell. Winter, 2003.*

24800. Urban Policy Analysis. (=SOC 20120/30120) For course description, see Sociology. *T. Clark. Autumn.*

25300. Social Welfare in the United States. (=SOSC 25300) For course description, see Social Sciences. *H. Richman. Spring.*

25800. Public Choice (=ECON 26900) *PQ: ECON 20100 or PBPL 22200, or consent of instructor.* This course is an introduction to major ideas in the literature that seeks to apply the economic notion of rational choice to the context of politics and social choice. Some of the authors covered are Samuelson, Arrow, Buchanan, Olson, and Downs. *H. Margolis. Winter.*

25900. Social and Cultural Dimensions of U.S. Education Policy. *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing.* This conceptually oriented course starts from the premise that policies are the product of social and cultural processes. The course uses ethnographic and historical readings as a focus for examining the taken-for-granted meanings and social processes that structure the creation and implementation of specific education policies in the United States. Challenging the common-sense view that education policy is the result of rational judgements and technical expertise, the course considers how policy processes are also connected to cherished values, cultural understandings, and social processes of conflict and competition. *L. Rosen. Spring.*

26200-26300. Field Research Project in Public Policy I, II. *PQ: Open to nonconcentrators with consent of instructor. Must be taken in sequence for two separate grades, one for each quarter.* Students work on a research team to prepare a report on an important public policy problem for a governmental agency, large public-interest group, or community-based organization. This project includes development and implementation of a research strategy designed to answer the policy questions. The objective is preparation of a publishable report. Projects in recent years have focused on refugee resettlement, welfare reform, and community development on the South Side of Chicago. *A. R. Datta. Winter, Spring.*

27000. Introduction to International Economics. (=ECON 27000) *PQ: ECON 20100 and 20200, or consent of instructor.* For course description, see Economics. *L. Sjaastad. Autumn.*

27100. Economies in Transition: China, Russia, and Beyond. (=ECON 27900) *PQ: ECON 20000 or consent of instructor.* The ongoing postsocialist transitions are examined (particularly those of Russia and China). The basic tool of analysis is the emerging "economics of transition." Various programs of macroeconomic stabilization, price liberalization, and privatization are analyzed, and their effects on inflation, unemployment, and living standards are assessed. We cover issues highlighted in the "post-Washington consensus" (e.g., corporate governance, competition policy, and the role of the state). *J. Leitzel. Winter.*

27200. Policy Reform. *PQ: ECON 20000 or PBPL 22200.* Policy makers are rarely in a position to design policy on a tabula rasa; rather, there is a preexisting policy in place, and the job of policy makers is to consider amendments to this status quo. Policy reforms exhibit similarities, and these general features can be identified and analyzed. Questions addressed include: What policies are selected for reform? Why are necessary reforms often delayed? What is the basis for frequent claims about the futility of proposed policy reforms? What role does the evasion of existing policies have on policy reform? How and, in what manner, does crisis engender reform? *J. Leitzel. Spring.*

27300. Regulation of Vice. (=ECON 27300) *PQ: ECON 20000.* This course concerns government policy with respect to the traditional vices of drinking, smoking, gambling, illicit sex, and the recreational use of drugs. Among the policies considered are prohibition, taxation, treatment, decriminalization, and legalization. The intellectual framework employed to evaluate various policies is primarily economic, though other disciplines are also drawn upon. *J. Leitzel. Spring.*

27900. Global-Local Politics. (=SOVI 20116/30116) For course description, see Sociology. *T. Clark. Winter.*

28300. Health Economics and Public Policy. (=ECON 27700, GSBC 85700, PPHA 38300, SSAD 47700) *PQ: ECON 20300 and 21000, and consent of instructor.* For course description, see Economics. *D. Meltzer. Spring.*

28600. Problems of Economic Policy in Developing Countries. (=ECON 25600, PPHA 37500) *PQ: ECON 20100 and 20200, or consent of instructor.* For course description, see Economics. *L. Sjaastad. Spring.*

29600. Internship: Public Policy. *PQ: Consent of program director. Open only to concentrators. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Must be taken for a P/F grade. Students must make arrangements with the program director before beginning the internship.* After working for a government agency or not-for-profit organization, students write a paper about the experience. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29700. Reading and Research: Public Policy. *PQ: Open only to concentrators. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29800. Senior Seminar. *PQ: Open only to concentrators with fourth-year standing. Must be taken for a letter grade. Autumn.*

29900. B.A. Paper Preparation: Public Policy. *PQ: Open only to concentrators with fourth-year standing. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*