

# Public Policy Studies

*Program Director: James Leitzel, G-B 222, 702-8555,  
j-leitzel@uchicago.edu*

*Program Administrator: Lee Price, G-B 218B, 702-7134, lee@uchicago.edu*

*Program Preceptors: G-B 218A, 834-9810*

*Web: <http://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; health care; education; or 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 administrator. Students planning to major in public policy should meet with the program administrator by Autumn Quarter of their third year.

## Program Requirements

The suggested sequence described below is typical, but many other variations are possible. There is flexibility within the program regarding when required courses can be taken.

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

**Second Year.** Students typically take the following required three-quarter sequence in their second year. However, taking the courses in the same year is *not required*, and they may be taken in any order.

PBPL 22100. Politics and Policy

PBPL 22200. Public Policy Analysis

PBPL 22300. Problems of Policy Implementation

Students are also required to take PBPL 20000 (Economics for Public Policy) or ECON 20000 (The Elements of Economic Analysis I); either course satisfies the economics prerequisite for PBPL 22200. PBPL 20000 assumes no prior economics course, whereas (effective 2006-07) ECON 19800 is required of all students taking ECON 20000 without a prior microeconomics course. Students are encouraged to take at least one additional economics course; appropriate courses include ECON 20100, 20200, 27000, and 27100.

NOTE: Students who plan to study abroad in Winter or Spring Quarter of their third year are strongly urged to complete the required two-quarter practicum (PBPL 26200-26300 [Field Research Project]) in their second year.

**Third Year.** Students typically complete the courses that follow 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 chair to select appropriate courses from the many statistics courses offered.

*Courses in an area of specialization.* Students should identify their area of specialization and submit a proposal for their program of study to the program administrator by the end of Winter Quarter in their third year. 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 (e.g., 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). Students should take two of these courses in their third year.

*Research practicum.* In Winter and Spring Quarters, students must participate in a two-quarter practicum (PBPL 26200-26300 [Field Research Project]). The field research practicum is a two-quarter course designed to teach research methods in a hands-on way. Students in the practicum work collectively on a real-world policy problem, with a focus on Chicago. Recent projects have included developing and

testing measures of the impact of cultural organizations on local communities for the city of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, examining the impact of welfare reform on former welfare recipients entering the labor market under Welfare-to-Work programs, and assessing economic development in the South Shore neighborhood. Each year, the class project results in a final report prepared for the client, and often a public presentation of the findings is made as well. The research practicum is generally taken by students in their second or third year. Students who plan to study abroad during Winter or Spring Quarter of their third year are strongly encouraged to complete the practicum in their second year.

**Fourth Year.** Students must write a B.A. paper in their fourth year. The B.A. paper typically is not an expansion of the third-year research study. Students wishing to be considered for honors should choose a faculty adviser for the project in Spring Quarter of their third year or early in their fourth year. The instructor of PBPL 29800, the public policy preceptor, serves as a reader for all other B.A. papers.

Further assistance is available in a seminar course (PBPL 29800) offered in Autumn Quarter and required of all public policy students. 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 work throughout Winter and Spring Quarters with the Public Policy Senior Preceptors revising the B.A. paper. Students may take as many as two quarters of PBPL 29900 (B.A. Paper Preparation: Public Policy) for general elective credit.

This program may accept a B.A. paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest B.A. proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, when neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

**Courses.** Many policy-related courses in political science, economics, sociology, education, and history count towards the major when used as “specialization” courses.

### Summary of Requirements

<i>General Education</i>		MATH 13100-13200 or equivalent*
<i>Major</i>	1	MATH 13300 or equivalent*
	3	PBPL 22100-22200-22300
	1	ECON 20000 or PBPL 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
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\* *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 major must be taken for quality grades unless students have prior approval for *P/F* grading from the undergraduate program chair.

**Honors.** Fourth-year students are eligible for honors if their GPA is 3.0 or higher overall and 3.25 or higher in the major. Those students are recommended for honors if their B.A. papers are of substantial quality. Students wishing to be considered for honors must submit the final draft of their B.A. paper to the public policy preceptor and faculty readers by the beginning of sixth week of the quarter in which they wish to graduate.

### Faculty

C. Bidwell, D. Coursey, B. Farrell, E. Laumann, J. Leitzel, S. Levitt, R. Lodato, R. H. Margolis, O. McRoberts, D. Neal, J. Padgett, H. Richman, S. Shaikh, D. Snidal, T. Steck, R. Taub, G. Tolley, R. Townsend, Z. Usiskin

### Courses: Public Policy Studies (PBPL)

**20000. Economics for Public Policy.** *PQ: Completion of two quarters of calculus required; prior knowledge of economics not required. PBPL 20000 or ECON 20000 is required of all public policy majors. PBPL 20000 may be substituted for the ECON 20000 prerequisite for PBPL 22200 and in the Public Policy Studies degree program.* This course develops the microeconomic theories of consumer and producer

choices, as well as demonstrates the application of these theoretical tools to policy problems. Supply, demand, and competitive markets are examined, along with the conditions under which government policy can increase efficiency. *S. Shaikh. Autumn.*

**21800. Economics and Environmental Policy.** (=ENST 21800, LLSO 26201) *PQ: ECON 19800 or higher.* For course description, see Environmental Studies. *S. Shaikh. Spring.*

**22000. Environmental Policy.** This course takes a detailed look at the differences in environmental policy making based on the distinctions noted above. We examine how policy making takes place on both public lands and pollution control issues and in each branch of the federal government. We also take a detailed look at policy making on pesticides and clean air, and the differential impact of environmental policy making upon racial minorities. The role of environmental groups in advocating for environmental policies is also examined. *R. Lodato. Winter.*

**22100. Politics and Policy.** *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 17800) *PQ: PBPL 20000 or 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, as well as 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 prior 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. We explore how obstacles emerge because of problems of hierarchy, competing goals, and cultures of different groups. We then discuss how they may be overcome by groups, as well as by creators and by those responsible for implementing programs. We also look at varying responses of target populations. *R. Taub. Spring.*

**22600. U.S. Environmental Politics.** (=ENST 24101, HIPS 28301) For course description, see Environmental Studies. *Autumn.*

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

**23100. Environmental Law.** (=ENST 23100, HIPS 28801, LLSO 23100) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing, or consent of instructor.* For course description, see Environmental Studies. *G. Davis. 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.*

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

**24301. Global Environmental Politics.** (=ENST 249001, HMRT 24911) For course description, see Environmental Studies. *S. Pieck. Spring.*

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

**24500. Economics of Urban Policies.** (=ECON 26600/36500, GEOG 26600/36600, LLSO 26202) *PQ: ECON 20100.* For course description, see Economics. *G. Tolley, D. Barker. Spring.*

**24600. Economic Development in the Inner City.** (=SOC 20129/30129) *PQ: At least one prior course in economics, political science, public policy, or sociology.* For course description, see Sociology. *R. Taub. Offered 2007-08; not offered 2006-07.*

**24701. U.S. Environmental Policy.** (=ENST 24701, LLSO 24701) Making environmental policy is a diverse and complex process. Environmental advocacy engages different governmental agencies, congressional committees, and courts, depending on the issue. This course examines how such differentiation has affected policy making over the last several decades. *R. Lodato. Winter.*

**24900. Work, Trade, and Globalization.** Using case studies of the United States and Mexico, this course explores the economic, ethical, and sociopolitical dimensions of globalization. In particular, we examine the changing nature of work in advanced and developing economies; trade and immigration policy; and the cultural, social, and political implications of the rapid changes wrought by economic globalization. *C. Broughton. Winter, 2007.*

**25200. Poverty in the United States.** This course examines poverty and inequality in the United States from a sociological perspective, drawing upon the rich social history of Chicago as a case study. We explore race, class, gender, and other perspectives on poverty, drawing especially from ethnographic and historical accounts. *C. Broughton. Winter, 2007.*

**25300. Social Welfare in the United States.** (=SOSC 25300, SSAD 45001) For course description, see Social Sciences. *H. Richman. Spring.*

**25800. Public Choice.** (=ECON 16900) *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. Authors include Samuelson, Arrow, Buchanan, Olson, and Downs. *H. Margolis. Winter.*

**25901. Education Policy and Practice.** From the broad perspective, we examine the ways policies are formulated, individuals who help set policies and who have to implement them, the consequences of implementation, and the kinds of evidence employed to determine the consequences. For policies that we examine in some detail, we also study the historical context that led to them, the issues surrounding their implementation, and data to shed light on the value of the policy. *Z. Usiskin. Winter.*

**26200-26300. Field Research Project in Public Policy I, II.** *PQ: Open to nonmajors with consent of instructor. Must be taken in sequence for two separate grades, one for each quarter.* This is a group project that exposes students to real-world policy-making questions. Students work together on designing the research project, gathering information, and analyzing the data. 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. *E. Carter. Winter, Spring.*

**26400. Quantitative Methods in Public Policy.** *PQ: STAT 20000 or higher.* The overarching goal of this course is to provide students with a working understanding of the role of quantitative methods and data in the work of public policy professionals. Course work emphasizes the skills necessary to analyze and interpret data related to public policy, evaluate the reputation/objectivity of various data sources (e.g., a report from the U.S. Department of Labor vs. data published on the Internet by a group of indeterminate reliability), and determine the statistical integrity of the data. Students also learn to use data to develop descriptive and analytic reports and to use such data to support policy positions. *Spring.*

**27000. Introduction to International Economics.** (=ECON 27000) *PQ: ECON 20300 or consent of instructor.* For course description, see Economics. *Autumn.*

**27100. Economics 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, the role of the state). *This course is offered in alternate years. J. Leitzel. Winter.*

**27300. Regulation of Vice.** (=ECON 27300) *PQ: ECON 20000.* This course concerns government policy with respect to the traditional vices of drinking,