

# Public Policy

## Contact Information

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## Department Goals and Objectives

One distinct advantage of the program is its location in Springfield, affording opportunities to participate directly in public policy work. Cooperation between UIS and governmental and private agencies provides many opportunities for experiential learning in public affairs and public policy.

The Public Policy B.A. program at UIS is located within the department of Political Science and instructed by faculty and practitioners with diverse public policy expertise. The Public Policy Bachelor's Degree curriculum offers comprehensive training in the field of public policy, including applied policy implementation and program evaluation, which is especially important given the program's location in the state capital of Illinois.

Students interested in careers as lawmakers, policy analysts, legislative aides, community activists, lobbyists, graduate study of public policy, and attorneys are encouraged to apply.

The Public Policy Bachelor's Degree curriculum addresses questions surrounding the ethics of policy-making, the conditions in which policies are made, how programs should be implemented, and whether they are effective. Courses provide in-depth consideration of health, education, labor law, social welfare, environmental, or agricultural policy while equipping students with the tools to participate in the advocacy, drafting, and analysis of public policy.

Practical experience is enhanced by the degree requirement that students complete a six credit-hour internship with a local government or policymaking agency as part of the Public Policy Bachelor's Degree curriculum. Internships are designed to introduce students to various post-graduate professional options and can be tailored to students' unique policy interests. Students will be assisted in obtaining internship opportunities.

## Honors in Public Policy

Students with at least 15 completed hours in Public Policy courses with a minimum 3.50 GPA in those courses may apply for participation in the department's honors program. To graduate with Honors in Public Policy, students must successfully complete an independent research project in PSC 488. Students are also able to take a graduate-level course in Political Science as an elective. (Please be aware that any graduate-level course counted toward credit in a student's undergraduate degree cannot later be counted toward a graduate degree.)

## The Bachelor's Degree

### Advising

Entering students are assigned to our undergraduate college advisor when they declare Public Policy as their major field of study. They are also assigned a faculty advisor. After their first semester, when they are acquainted with the faculty and are more knowledgeable about the department and the campus, students may wish to select a specific faculty advisor. The course of study for the B.A. is planned jointly with the college advisor, so students should consult with their advisor before each registration and from time-to-time during the semester.

### Communication Skills

Both the study and the practice of public policy require that students/citizens speak, write, and read well. These skills are also critical for successful careers in government, law, and business.

### ECCE Requirements

Students are required to complete a minimum of 10 semester hours of Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) requirements in the areas of U.S. Communities, Global Awareness, Engagement Experience, and ECCE Speaker Series.

In Public Policy, all majors must complete six hours of Engagement Experience – an internship program which emphasizes improvement of the student's ability to learn from experience, career assessment, relationships between theory and practice, and realistic appreciation of public policy. The department requires that students use six hours of ECCE credit toward the Engagement Experience.

If a student can justify a different distribution of the 10-hour requirement, he/she may claim an exception to the rule by submitting a Student Petition to the Political Science department.

Students must also take a U.S. Communities course as a part of completing ECCE requirements.

### Grading Policy

The Public Policy program has no grading policy different from the University's undergraduate requirements.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are important components for all academic programs at the University of Illinois Springfield and are required by the Higher Learning Commission. Questions related to the learning outcomes for this program should be addressed to the applicable department/school.

### Requirements

#### Core Courses

PSC 311	Public Policy Fundamentals	3
PSC 326	Ideas, Ethics, and Public Policy	3
PSC 410	Policy Analysis and Implementation	3
PSC 451	Empirical Political Analysis	3
PSC 452	ECCE: Economic Analysis	3
PSC 487	Public Policy Closing Seminar / Capstone	2
or PSC 488	Honors Public Policy Closing Seminar / Capstone	

**Electives (Choose Five) 15**

PSC 334	ECCE: LGBTQ Law and Politics	
PSC 402	Legislative Politics	
PSC 403	Public Opinion	
PSC 406	The American Presidency	
PSC 409	Political Parties and Interest Groups	
PSC 415	The Supreme Court and Judicial Politics	
PSC 443	Religion, Politics, and Public Policy	
PSC 444	Gender, Politics, and Public Policy	
PSC 468	Foreign Policy Analysis	
PSC 470	Terrorism and Public Policy	
One Additional Elective (3 hours) may be from outside of PSC with approval		
IPL 300	ECCE: Internship Applied Learning <sup>1</sup>	6
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>38</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students are required to complete a six-hour public policy-related internship as part of the 10 hour ECCE general education requirement