Public Administration & Policy Ph.D. Programs

As of July 1, 2014
American University

SPA: Public Administration
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016

More Information: dpap.phd@american.edu

PhD - Public Administration

The PhD program in the Department of Public Administration and Policy is a full-time, cohort-based degree that prepares students for careers in research and teaching. From the first day of orientation to the final dissertation defense, each student works one-on-one with a faculty mentor to develop the skills needed for a career in academia. By the time they graduate, virtually all of our students have presented their research at key conferences and published their work in peer-reviewed academic journals.

Our philosophy is that doctoral education should be about much more than coursework. Our program provides a comprehensive, multifaceted introduction to the research enterprise and what it means to be a scholar in public administration and public policy. The following are illustrative of the opportunities available to our students:

- Research assistantships that provide one-on-one interaction with faculty
- Weekly research seminars
- The annual Charles H. Levine Memorial Lecture and PhD Student Research Award
- Professional development workshops on publishing, grant-writing, and the job search
- University-wide teaching development opportunities, such as the Greenberg Seminars for Effective Teaching and Ann Ferren Teaching Conference
- For advanced students, the opportunity to teach an undergraduate course in public administration or public policy
- Funding for students to present their research at key professional meetings
Arizona State University

School of Public Affairs | College of Public Programs
411 N Central Avenue, Suite 400
Phoenix, AZ 85004

More Information: spa@asu.edu

PhD – Public Administration and Policy

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Administration and Policy is a theoretically grounded research degree designed to prepare students for an academic career. The degree is also appropriate for individuals who want to conduct high level research and policy development in public and nonprofit agencies, foundations, and research institutes. It is designed for students who seek full-time study.

Our goal is to develop well-rounded, independent scholars who are grounded in the classic and current literatures of public administration and public policy, skilled in research methods, and ready to make a positive and important contribution to the field through teaching and research.

We provide a balanced curriculum to ensure mastery of core ideas and materials, as well as the opportunity to develop specialized expertise in two specific subfields as determined by the student and his or her committee. These subfields can focus on any area related to public administration and public policy and can draw on faculty expertise from across the ASU campuses. The Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy with an concentration permits students to draw upon the extensive resources in urban affairs at ASU. As a result, upon graduation, our doctoral students are poised for success as productive and active scholars, researchers and teachers.
Brandeis University

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management
Brandeis University
415 South Street: MS 035
Waltham, MA 02454

More Information: helleradmissions@brandeis.edu

PhD – Social Policy

Our social policy doctorate program gives students many chances to connect with the broader Heller and Brandeis communities as well as the vibrant, intellectual community of university-rich Boston. Doctoral studies at Heller also provide a portal to diverse opportunities in the larger universe of social policy research.

As a PhD in Social Policy student, you will:

• **Master applied research methods taught by faculty with significant expertise** in econometrics, longitudinal and time series analyses, case study research, survey research, intervention studies and mixed-method research. The opportunities to work closely with talented professors and research staff are numerous. If you enjoy learning alongside others, and collaborating in teams, Heller is likely a place where you can flourish.

• **Connect with students who are committed to social justice** and to creating new insights to solve pressing societal issues within nine policy research institutes. Heller students have experience in a variety of fields, including nursing, public health, social work, law and economics, and often come to Heller from the not-for-profit sector. They share a commitment to acquiring the skills to analyze evidence for social change, and an eagerness to build a strong social policy knowledge base. If you have been frustrated by the limitations of your field or your own skill base, and want to use research skills to advance social justice, Heller may be the perfect place to begin.

• **Receive preparation to succeed in all sectors of the economy.** Heller alumni make a difference in every type of organization, including universities across the U.S. and around the globe, research collaboratives, think tanks and consulting firms. In all of these settings, alumni use the research skills acquired at Heller to contribute to solutions to social problems, particularly those affecting vulnerable populations.
Carnegie Mellon University

Heinz College
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Ave, Hamburg Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

More Information: Rahul Telang, Director - rtelang@andrew.cmu.edu

PhD – Public Policy and Management

The Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management at Heinz College trains students to do cutting edge scientific research on real world problems in public policy and management in an increasingly complex, multifaceted world. Students are trained in multiple disciplinary perspectives, advanced theoretical models, and frontier methodological and computer-based tools. This provides Heinz students with an advance “researcher’s toolkit” with which to rigorously address fundamental problems in public policy and management.

While the focus of our doctoral program is broad with policy and management focus, some key areas of strength are:

- **Health Policy**: Importance of healthcare policy cannot be overstated. Many faculty members are working on important role of competition, IT and regulations that affect the cost and quality of health delivery. Many of our faculty is widely recognized for their work both academically and in influencing policy making.

- **Crime and Drug Policy**: Analyzing and designing practical crime and drug policies is highly challenging. Many of our faculty have been working with sophisticated statistical and policy tools to understand the impact of various state and federal policies on crime rate and drug sale. The research then leads to recommendations on how the policies should be designed and updated. Many of our faculty is widely acclaimed for their work in this domain.

- **Organization Behavior and Management**: Understanding the role of social networks within organizations, role of teams and evidence based analysis is a key focus of this group. We have experts on network based analysis who examine how influence diffuses.

- **Management Science**: We have strong group of faculty interested in Management Science who use optimization/OR techniques to solve public policy problems. In particular faculty use these technique for problems related to urban planning and transportation research, policy analysis, data mining and so on.

Joint programs are also offered with other schools on the campus that allows our students to focus on various other policy/management issues. These areas include economics, machine learning, and statistics.
PhD – Political Science

The rigorous training and applied nature of the department’s core offerings and eight (8) doctoral fields provide the analytical expertise and practical experience for both academic and research-based positions.

These degree programs attract students interested in academic careers, teaching and research, government and public service, and positions in the private sector where an in-depth knowledge of domestic and international politics, economics and business is of importance.

Requirements of the Program

Students entering the PhD program select two fields of study from among the following:

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Political Philosophy
- Public Policy
- World Politics
- Methods

Students typically fulfill a standard set of core requirements, and qualify in two major doctoral fields. They will take core courses focusing on the embodiment of ideas, at least one course on statistical analysis, a transdisciplinary course, multiple topic-focused courses and electives totaling 72 units.
PhD – Urban Studies and Public Affairs

The Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Public Affairs program seeks to graduate scholars who are prepared to research, teach, and practice reflectively in positions related to urban studies and public affairs, in universities and public policy organizations. It aims for graduates to have a strong theoretical and methodological foundation within the field, together with the in-depth knowledge required to be able to recognize, identify and articulate the frontiers of scholarship within a specialization field. Successful completion of the degree means that the faculty has determined that you are able to construct, execute, and present scholastically sound, independent research of either a theoretical or applied nature that expands the frontiers of knowledge.

Many students in the program are returning to academia after significant experience in the workplace; many continue to work while pursuing their degree. Over half of our student body attends on a part-time basis. Nevertheless, the program places heavy emphasis upon continuing contributions by every student to the intellectual life of the program, the college, and the university. This includes participation in research projects, attendance at seminars, conferences, and workshops, and publication of ongoing research.

The program places a heavy emphasis upon theory, research methods and literature, effective professional communications to both expert and lay audiences, and an interdisciplinary approach that accounts for all of the significant dimensions of the issues and problems in the field of urban studies and public affairs. The student’s understanding is informed by political theory and philosophy, economics, statistical and mathematical model building, research methods, concentration in an important substantive domain of public concern, as well as real-world knowledge of specific circumstances, cases, and issues. The areas of specialization in the doctoral program include communication, public administration, and urban policy development.
Columbia University

Columbia University
School of International and Public Affairs
420 W. 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

More Information: sipa_phd@columbia.edu

PhD – Sustainable Development

The sustainability of development presents some of the most important policy challenges concerning the future of our planet. None of these central issues can be understood from the sole perspective of a traditional discipline, whether in the social, natural, engineering or health sciences. The PhD in Sustainable Development combines a traditional graduate education in the social sciences, particularly economics, with study in the natural sciences and engineering, to prepare scholars who are uniquely situated to undertake serious research and policy assessments in furthering the goal of sustainable development. The program includes a set of rigorous core requirements in the social and natural sciences designed to provide a deep understanding of the interaction between natural and social systems, and provides students with the flexibility to pursue in-depth research in a broad variety of critical policy areas. No other doctoral program produces graduates with the unique combination of diverse skills and deep insight into the most challenging problems of future human welfare. Together with experts and faculty at Columbia, students in the program conduct research in a wide variety of areas including climate change and its social consequences, causes and solutions to extreme poverty, energy systems, agricultural transitions, water resources, infectious disease, global demographic change, ecosystems, disasters and conflict. Students also benefit from being part of the Earth Institute's research and practice programs that focus on sustainable development.

Many graduates will pursue academic careers in interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate programs with a focus on policy and the environment as well as in the more traditional social science disciplines. Others will choose nonacademic positions, taking leadership roles in government ministries in the United States and throughout the world, working on environmental and sustainable development policy for NGOs; in international institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank; or in private firms engaged in environmental and development projects.
Cornell University

Policy Analysis and Management
2301 Martha Van Rensselaer Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

More Information: Rachel Dunifon, Director of Graduate Studies - red26@cornell.edu

PhD – Policy Analysis and Management

The multi-disciplinary faculty in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management (PAM) work with graduate students in the inter-disciplinary PAM Ph.D. program, and with graduate students in the Ph.D. programs in Economics, Sociology, Human Development and other graduate fields. The PAM Ph.D. program combines a focus on the substantive areas of education policy, family/social welfare policy, health policy and regulatory policy, with graduate level training in a social science discipline, empirical research methods, and an understanding of how multiple social science disciplines approach public policy research.

Over their first two years, PhD students take courses that cover the basic theoretical and methodological foundations of policy analysis. In the second year, students continue taking a variety of methodological courses and begin to focus on their major and minor areas of specialty in substantive policy areas (education policy, family/social welfare policy, health policy and regulatory policy). Students are also required to develop PhD-level competency in economics or sociology (or by petition, another social science) by taking at least two classes in the discipline of choice. Students normally choose to develop this competency in the same social science as their major faculty advisors. By the third year, students should be developing ideas for dissertation research. The course of study is accelerated for students who enter the PhD having already completed a master’s degree in a field related to policy analysis.
Duke University
Sanford School of Public Policy
Duke University
Box 90243
Durham, NC 27708

More Information: PPPhD@duke.edu

PhD – Public Policy

The PhD in Public Policy at Duke enables students to collaborate with Duke’s top-rated faculty in public policy and with Duke’s departments of economics, political science, and sociology, among others, all on the beautiful Duke campus. Duke University is located in Durham, N.C., close to both Chapel Hill (and UNC-Chapel Hill) and to the North Carolina state capital of Raleigh, in the dynamic Research Triangle Area.

Duke’s PhD in Public Policy is distinguished by its truly interdisciplinary nature; the program offers a unique balance of depth in a discipline such as economics, political science, psychology or sociology and the opportunity to focus on a particular policy area such as social policy, global policy, or health policy. The Sanford School is a national and international leader in the dynamic field of public policy studies, with numerous interdisciplinary centers exploring vital policy questions in the field and in the classroom. Members of our faculty are experts in fields ranging from aging, education and the environment to international affairs, media and democracy and welfare reform. In addition to working with Duke’s world-class faculties of public policy, economics, history, political science, psychology and sociology and psychology, PhD students interact with leading scholars from Duke’s Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke’s Fuqua School of Business, and Duke’s Law and Medical Schools.

The relatively low number of students matriculated each year (6-8) enables each public policy PhD student to receive individual faculty attention in courses and in research. Students also enjoy state-of-the-art academic and research facilities including newly-constructed Rubenstein Hall and the newly-expanded Perkins Bostock Library.

Most of our students pursue doctoral-level public policy research with the goal of working in domestic and international public agencies, research organizations and policy consulting firms. Some of our students will seek academic positions in public policy, public administration and policy-oriented schools. They are united by their passion for public policy and their desire to have a positive impact on the world.
Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University
School of Public Administration
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431


PhD – Public Administration

The School of Public Administration at Florida Atlantic University offers a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Administration with concentrations in Administrative Theory & Inquiry; Public Policy Studies, Organizational Studies, and Public Budgeting and Financial Administration. Also, students are allowed to assemble concentrations of their own devising. This doctoral program, while primarily designed to qualify students in research, university teaching and consultation, can accommodate a broad array of career goals and options.
To fulfill the Ph.D. degree in Public Affairs, admitted students must complete at least 60 credit hours beyond the Master’s degree or its equivalent. The credit hours include 45 hours of approved course work (including comprehensive examination) and 15 hours of dissertation work after admission to candidacy. In addition, there is a residency requirement of at least 18 semester hours in three consecutive semesters of study during the first year of enrollment, and a minimum of six hours in all subsequent semesters. Successful completion of course work and passing scores on the comprehensive examination are required in order for students to advance to Ph.D. candidacy and present a dissertation proposal. Students are advised to consult the doctoral program handbook for any additional information regarding benchmarks for student progress in grade point average, course completion, comprehensive examinations, and dissertation work. Admitted students may transfer a maximum of 12 semester credits (not included in another degree) from other institutions towards Ph.D. degree requirements, subject to the approval of the Ph.D. Program Committee. Admitted students must demonstrate competence in the following areas: American political economy, advanced statistical and qualitative research methods, international development administration, organizational theory and design, and local economic development and urban management. The Program Director may assign specific coursework to students with deficiencies in any of the above mentioned areas.
The Askew School is one of America's most prestigious doctoral programs, with a national and international reputation for teaching and scholarship.

In an article published in 2005 in the Journal of Public Affairs Education (drawing from articles published in the nineteen journals associated with sections of the American Society for Public Administration), researchers ranked the Askew School fourth in the country for faculty research productivity. We are also the only PA School in the country that houses two PA journals; both of the editors are top notch in their fields. Associate Professor Kaifeng Yang is managing editor for Public Performance & Management Review and Professor Jim Bowman edits Public Integrity covering issues of ethics in public service.

Our program is especially known for involving students in research. The above JPAE article also ranked the publishing prowess of graduate students in programs across the country; our students ranked third in the country. In a typical year, more than a dozen Askew School graduate students present their research papers at regional and national public affairs conferences, getting substantial funding from the Askew School to participate in these professional meetings. We also fund nearly thirty MPA and doctoral students as research and teaching assistants to enable them to focus on their graduate studies. Out of state students who are US citizens/residents can apply for in-state residency after living for one year in Florida which also lowers the cost of graduate education.

In 2012, a survey done by US News ranked the Askew School 16th among more than 260 programs nationally in the general category of ‘public affairs.'
George Mason University

George Mason University
School of Public Policy
3351 Fairfax Dr.
Arlington, VA 22201

More Information: Morgan Fisher, Asst. Director of Graduate Admissions – mfisherb@gmu.edu

PhD – Public Policy

The Ph.D. program at George Mason University’s School of Public Policy is one of the nation’s largest, and takes advantage of the school’s status as the leading university-based public policy institution in the Washington, D.C., metro area, to attract candidates who want the best education from experienced, national and international faculty.

Students and faculty advisors work together to design a personalized curriculum appropriate to each student’s academic and professional background and goals. This allows candidates to tie their doctoral studies directly to their current and future careers, while taking advantage of the extensive resources available in the nation’s capital.

The program’s flexibility also fosters a culturally and philosophically diverse community of policy practitioners and scholars, where the true marketplace of ideas is embraced and innovation is encouraged. It offers an unprecedented degree of academic freedom rooted in a shared commitment to making the world a better place.

And while certainly rigorous, the program operates on the principle that there are no preset fields of study or research, that there are always opportunities to improve current methods and explore new fields of study.

Students and faculty work side by side to explore the intersection of technology, culture, organizational dynamics, international affairs, and public policy, conducting research that influences decisions at the local, national, and multinational levels.

The Ph.D. program produces candidates who are able to tackle the full spectrum of public policy challenges, fully prepared for senior-level careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
**George Washington University**

The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration

Media and Public Affairs Building

805 21st St., NW, Suite 601

Washington, DC 20052

More Information: Bethany Pope, Asst. Director of Graduate Studies - bpope@gwu.edu

**PhD – Public Policy and Administration**

The Trachtenberg School’s PhD is designed to help you master subjects in multiple academic disciplines, including politics, economics and quantitative and/or qualitative methods in policy research. Built upon the diversity and strengths of academic departments and faculty within the Trachtenberg School and the University community, you will receive an exceptional education across these disciplines.

In addition to developing broad analytical skills in multiple subjects, students take courses designed to prepare them to undertake research in specific areas of public policy and administration. Through course work in each specialized field, students develop expertise for a variety of careers in the public and private sectors.

Approximately one-quarter of the Trachtenberg School’s PhD students come from outside of the United States. Most doctoral students already have a graduate degree and significant experience in a policy-related environment. Many students are mid-career professionals. The PhD Program may be completed on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Graduates of the doctoral program pursue careers in teaching and research related to public policy and administration and as policy researchers and analysts in government and the private sector. Some hold administrative positions in these sectors and many are closely involved in the development and evaluation of public policies.
PhD – Public Management and Policy

The Ph.D. in Public Policy prepares students for advanced professional work or for academic careers. The doctorate degree is based on a core curriculum that stresses intellectual and methodological rigor, using the theories and applications of quantitative analysis; political, economic, and organizational analysis; research design and execution. This core is supplemented with in-depth study of particular substantive areas of public policy. The program focuses on just three substantive concentrations, each a particular strength of the School, and each closely related to Georgia Tech's focus on technology-intensive research and education. These focal areas include science and technology policy, environmental and energy policy and economic development policy.
Societal needs—for economic growth, better health care, environmental protection, etc.—and resource limitations challenge policymakers to make difficult public policy choices. The doctoral program in public policy prepares its graduates to conduct original research to help scholars and policymakers understand the tradeoffs involved in such choices across a broad range of critical issues. In particular, students can focus on:

- **Policy analysis and program evaluation**: How can we predict the consequences of our policy choices? What values should drive those choices? How can we determine which government and nonprofit programs work—producing benefits that exceed their costs?
- **Public budgeting and finance**: How can governments raise the funds necessary to provide public services in as equitable a manner as possible without impeding economic growth? How should and do governments decide which services and programs to fund? How can taxes achieve socially desirable goals?
- **Public and nonprofit management**: How should functions be divided among the governmental, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors? How should managers allocate financial and human resources to meet public needs? How should managers balance equity and efficiency claims?

Students can also choose to focus on such substantive policy areas as health, education, economic development, social policy, and disaster management.

The doctoral program prepares its graduates to take positions as college professors or as research-oriented policy analysts in research centers, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. The program assumes that new students have a master’s degree in public policy, public administration, health policy, or a related field, but students may also fulfill master’s prerequisite courses after entering the program. The core courses in the doctoral program build on those master’s prerequisites, providing a strong foundation in policy analysis, program evaluation, microeconomics, quantitative methods, and research design and implementation. Students choose two fields of specialization in which to focus their coursework and research.
PhD – Public Policy

The PhD in Public Policy prepares qualified candidates to shape the direction of public policy research and to train the next generation of researchers, teachers, and leaders. It also qualifies individuals to perform high-level policy analysis in both national and international organizations.

The program offers a combination core requirements and concentrations in areas such as Environmental Policy, International Economic Policy, Decision Science, Science and Technology Policy, International Security Relations, Risk Assessment, Economic Regulatory Policy, International Development, and Judgment and Decision Making.

Recent recipients of the PhD in Public Policy degree have taken academic positions at Yale University, Penn State University, Columbia University, New York University, University of California San Diego, Duke University, Tufts University, and Dartmouth College. Other recent graduates have accepted policy and analyst positions with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme, NGOs, and in the private sector.
Indiana University

School of Public Affairs
1315 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, IN 47405

More Information: Sergio Fernandez, Director, PhD Programs – sefernan@indiana.edu

PhD – Public Policy; PhD – Public Affairs

The Joint Ph.D. in Public Policy Program is a collaborative endeavor between the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the Department of Political Science. Its emphasis is on the broad field of public policy, concerning the environment of public policy; the processes of policy formation, management, and implementation; and the analysis and evaluation of policy outputs and results. The unique structure of the program allows students to specialize in a major field within the discipline of political science along with a major field in public affairs. Students in the program receive rigorous social science training, gain knowledge of institutions, processes and behaviors in the public sector, and develop further understanding of the substantive aspects of public problems and their effects on individuals and organizations.

The Ph.D. in Public Affairs Program was created to take advantage of the unique strengths of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs’ interdisciplinary faculty and research programs, both of which have earned wide recognition from peer institutions, national and international agencies, and professional groups. The curriculum equips students with the necessary skills for independent research and analysis of problems, issues, and solutions in government and the nonprofit sector in four major fields:

- Public Finance: the theory and practice of fiscal administration, including public budgeting, revenue administration, and financial management
- Public Management: the design and operation of government institutions, including strategic/operations management, organizational behavior in the public sector, and interrelationships between public and private organizations
- Public Policy Analysis: research methods and quantitative techniques for policy analysis, including ex ante policy analysis and policy instruments, benefit-cost analysis, program evaluation, and applied econometrics
- Environmental Policy: the study of the content, design and effects of public policies regarding the environment, both domestic and international, including legal, economic, and other policy tools and approaches.

The National Research Council recently ranked the Ph.D. in Public Affairs Program as high as #1 among public affairs Ph.D. programs in the United States.
Mississippi State University
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
P.O. Box PC
Mississippi State University, MS 39762

More Information: Dr. Eddie French, Interim Director – efrench@pspa.msstate.edu

PhD – Public Policy and Administration

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration offers the PhD in public policy and administration with a diverse faculty maintaining a broad research agenda. In addition, a significant number of the department’s faculty members possess governmental service experience. The degree program has a favorable faculty-to-student ratio that permits close contact with faculty. Students are encouraged and given the opportunities to engage in a variety of research projects in many areas of public administration and public policy. PhD students are especially encouraged and allowed to do funded research work with faculty members and have opportunities to teach. Teamwork and collegiality are highly cultivated values in this environment.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration (PhD) concentrates on the application of theory to administrative practices in the public sector and nonprofit organizations and on the environment in which these organizations function.

Program graduates will possess the skills to delve into complex policy issues and create organizational conditions that enable public and nonprofit organizations to achieve their public policy objectives. Program graduates will be prepared to teach and conduct research in public policy, public administration and American politics. MSU’s program strives to increase the racial and gender diversity of governmental, nonprofit and academic organizations. Students complete 45 hours of course work beyond the master’s degree and a dissertation. The course work includes a nine-hour elective concentration. Extensive information about the program is available in our department’s PhD Manual.
False knowledge can be more dangerous than ignorance, as sages have noted. But much of what we think we know about public policy, finance, and management is based on exactly that – making well-designed research in these areas critical.

Through theoretical and methodological training, Wagner's doctoral students learn how to produce insights required for effective and equitable public and nonprofit programs and policies. Our program is interdisciplinary just like our faculty, so students can draw on economics, political science, sociology, psychology, organization studies and other fields, and it is flexible, allowing students to design a plan of study that takes advantage of the many courses offered at Wagner and NYU's other graduate schools.

We encourage students to study the questions that drive them, while providing the guidance necessary to have the greatest impact. And we emphasize research and teaching experience. Students have many opportunities to participate in research projects with individual faculty or through our affiliated research centers, as well as opportunities to lead classes as teaching colleagues and instructors.
North Carolina State University

School of Public and International Affairs
North Carolina State University
212 Caldwell Hall, Campus Box 8102
Raleigh, NC 27695

More Information: Dr. Jerrell Coggburn, Director of Graduate Programs – jcoggburn@ncsu.edu

PhD – Public Administration

The only program of its kind in North Carolina, the Ph.D. in Public Administration provides students with a strong foundation for teaching and research positions. It is led by a faculty recognized nationally for its research productivity. Since first enrolling students in 1998, the program has amassed a strong record of placement, with graduates holding faculty appointments in respected colleges and universities. As well as, research positions in policy institutes and government agencies.
Northeastern University

Northeastern University
School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs
310 Renaissance Park
Boston, MA 02115

More Information: Kathie Simmons - k.simmons@neu.edu

PhD – Law and Public Policy

We distinguish LPP from other public policy programs in two ways. First, while many public policy programs are mostly applied economics, economics is only one part of our curriculum. Our hallmark course, Strategizing Public Policy, illustrates our approach to the discipline. We use a case study method to analyze how policy is made at the local, state, and federal level through legislation, litigation, the ballot box, and civil action. Second, students interested in developing a more theoretical and empirical understanding of the law will appreciate our law and society focus.

Another unique aspect of the program is that students design their own interdisciplinary curriculum. After taking core courses in theory, research methodology and economics, students develop their own plan of study in their chosen policy field. Students take courses in the School of Law and other colleges at Northeastern. The law courses in the curriculum provide students with the foundation to conduct legal research, understand the legal aspects of their policy focus area, and understand how courts make policy.
PhD – Human Development and Social Policy

The Human Development and Social Policy (HDSP) doctoral program is grounded in the study of relations between public policy and human development. Faculty and students conduct research on how public policy affects human development and well-being, how research on human development across the life span informs policy, and how people affect policy.

In HDSP, the study of human development covers child, adolescent and adult development, focusing on key transitions across the life span as well as intergenerational issues. In HDSP, policy research spans the policy process examining how policies are developed, how they change incentives and infrastructures, and how they interact with contextual factors to influence behavior as well as how people affect policy through public opinion, civic engagement, political participation, policy implementation and research.

HDSP research questions are too big for any one discipline — they require insights from anthropology, economics, political science, psychology and sociology. So the HDSP approach to graduate education is designed to provide students with substantive knowledge of a discipline coupled with a rich appreciation for other disciplines. We aim to produce scholars who are boundary-spanners — who can contribute to the literatures in a chosen discipline while enriching that work with insights from other disciplines. We value multidisciplinary research.

HDSP faculty practice what they preach: We are a team of boundary-spanners ourselves. Our research programs frequently combine constructs from multiple disciplines to frame research questions at the intersection of human development and public policy. We employ multiple research methods, combining various quantitative and qualitative approaches to create cutting-edge social science research designs. Our research spans several institutional sectors including criminal justice, education, family, health and housing.

HDSP students are prepared through course work, participation in a vibrant community of scholars and active engagement in faculty research to conduct multidisciplinary research that combines cutting-edge empirical research methodologies. Students learn to span disciplinary and methodological boundaries by conducting research that crosses traditional academic disciplines and combines different research approaches. Students learn how to design research that links policy and development.
The Ph.D. in Public Administration and Urban Policy (PAUP) prepares graduates to become content area experts through doctoral level course work and successful completion of a doctoral dissertation. Students will learn a common body of knowledge in three areas: foundation in public and urban policy, one of two tracks with courses specific to public administration or urban policy, and a foundation in research. Each student will also complete a unique cognate area selected by the student with advice and consent of the PAUP Program Director. Through this approach, all program graduates will have the opportunity to develop a substantive knowledge of a body of work in public administration and urban policy, as well as to acquire analytical and research skills that will enable them to become educators, leaders, and researchers in their chosen specialty areas. The PAUP program focuses on: (1) developing effective public, non-profit sector and urban policy leaders throughout Hampton Roads, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation, who have both content knowledge and research skills; 2) educating individuals who intend to pursue teaching as a vocation in colleges and universities in Virginia as well as nationally and internationally; (3) building collaborative research and demonstration initiatives with community and state agencies that link research initiatives to public management and urban policy improvement and economic development; and (4) providing the linkages among content knowledge, research, and field experiences for all doctoral students.
Pardee RAND Graduate School

Pardee RAND Graduate School
1776 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90407

More Information: Rachel Swanger, Associate Dean – Rachel_swanger@rand.org

PhD – Public Policy Analysis

The Pardee RAND Graduate School aspires to be the world's leading Ph.D. program in policy analysis. Our goals are:

- **To produce Ph.D. graduates whose dissertations make important intellectual contributions to practical issues and whose careers distinguish them as powerful intellectual influences on public life.**

- **In conjunction with RAND, to develop new lines of teaching and research on some of the world's most difficult challenges in security, poverty, health and development.**

- **For the profession as a whole, to rethink what public policy means in a time when we no longer automatically turn to government to solve all problems but increasingly rely on partnerships between government, business, and civil society.**

The curriculum serves these goals, with a particular vision. PRGS should be a place where some of the world's most able graduate students come to work on some of the world's hardest problems, with the rigor, interdisciplinarity, and flair that characterize RAND. And so the PRGS curriculum tries to provide the best analytical tools from many disciplines, practice in applying them to real problems, and a creative, sometimes experimental approach that encourages new ways of thinking and doing.

Great courses are only part of a PRGS education. PRGS students also carry out policy research part-time with RAND mentors, in what we call "on-the-job training" or OJT. Working in interdisciplinary teams with clients in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, students develop skills and sophistication that couldn't be conveyed in a classroom. The late Carl Builder likened PRGS to a great arts academy. He pointed out that students leave PRGS with a remarkable portfolio of accomplishments, which range from proposals to briefings, from technical reports to policy memoranda, from teaching notes to reports on field work, and of course the Ph.D. dissertation. In creating this portfolio, courses and OJT combine in what we think is a unique experience in higher education.
PhD – Public Administration

The Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration provides a broad-based academic program combining conceptual foundations with research and analytical skills. The goal of the program is to educate professionals with the ability to create and apply knowledge through teaching, research, consulting, and management.

Graduates of the program work in such occupations as:

- university or college professor;
- president, community hospital;
- senior positions, state and federal government;
- senior training officer, national executive development institute;
- health care consultant;
- president, nonprofit organization

The program retains the traditional requirements of the Ph.D. degree – advanced course work, comprehensive examinations, residency, a research dissertation, final oral examination, and standards of excellence – in a program that allows students to combine study and work. Students may pursue the program on a full- or part-time basis. The emphasis is placed in critical thinking, research, writing, and mastery of a broad body of literature. In the emerging "information age," public administrators are both producers and consumers of research. The roles of administrator and scholar are increasingly blurred, as scientific reasoning and data gathering increasingly permeate public managerial decision-making. Creating and accessing knowledge that is useful to address organizational and policy issues is increasingly important.
Princeton University

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
Princeton University
Robertson Hall
Princeton, NJ 08544

More Information: wwsogcs@princeton.edu

PhD – Public Affairs

The Woodrow Wilson School’s Ph.D. in Public Affairs program is interdisciplinary in its approach. Ph.D. candidates undertake in-depth study of policy issues in conjunction with appropriate departments of the University.

The goal is to admit and enroll an incoming class of six students, each of whom brings distinctive qualities based on academic strengths, life and work experiences and commitment to excellence in research.

The program includes two academic clusters:

Security Studies

This cluster is designed to prepare Ph.D. students for rigorous, policy-relevant research of the major threats to international and national security in the 21st century and the relevant forces that will confront those threats.

The cluster will combine 1) social science training in international security politics and national defense policy; 2) focused study of specific regions of the world; and 3) exploration of the technical and scientific aspects of proliferation, weapons innovations, terrorist and counter-terrorist operations, and insurgency and counterinsurgency warfare.

Science, Technology and Environmental Policy (STEP)

This cluster focuses on applications of natural and social science methodology in the policy arena. Emphasis also is placed on the interactions among natural and social science in policy analysis.
Public Affairs takes place at the intersection of increasingly complex globalized economic, political, legal, and social systems. Our interdisciplinary program with an emphasis in Community Development brings together the perspectives of public policy, law, social science and the private sector.

This PhD program focuses on social capital, social justice, and social entrepreneurship leading to a Ph.D. with significant applied skills and policy expertise.

This is where it all starts to create your career in academia, public service, nonprofit advocacy, or public policy, centered on a commitment to making a difference in the world. Both international and domestic training in community development are available.

Rutgers-Camden has a unique offering of campus opportunities and resources including the School of Law, Rutgers–Camden Technology Campus business incubator, Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, Center for Strategic Urban and Community Leadership, affiliation with the LEAP Charter Schools, the Center for Urban Research and Education and top scholars and staff who are deeply focused on the issues of urban redevelopment, community development, immigration, international development, public health, entrepreneurship, and urban education.

As the southernmost of the three regional campuses that comprise Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey – an AAU institution noted worldwide for its scholarship – Rutgers–Camden is an urban research campus with a strong commitment to civic engagement with our community.
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Civic Square Building
33 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

More Information: ejb@policy.rutgers.edu

PhD – Planning and Public Policy

Rutgers’ Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy was founded in the belief that public universities have a responsibility to apply knowledge to social purpose.

The diverse student body at the Bloustein School is comprised of individuals who desire to make a difference in planning and public policy areas. Our students come from throughout the United States as well as many countries around the globe.

Through its academic programs and research centers, the Bloustein School is a unique combination of instruction and research, learning and application. The school has compiled a list of school-wide areas of expertise that offers a glimpse into the school's strengths and the specializations of the faculty.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree in Planning and Public Policy, offered through the Graduate School-New Brunswick, is an advanced scholarly degree appropriate for students seeking a career in university teaching and research or a leadership position in planning and public policy in the public, private or non-profit sector.
PhD – Public Administration

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program in Public Administration at Rutgers SPAA is a research degree. It trains prospective faculty and researchers. Before enrolling, applicants must have received an MPA or other relevant master's degree (e.g., political science, sociology, law, education and public health). The program gives special emphasis to training women and people of color.

Through disciplined research, the PhD in Public Administration seeks to expand the problem-solving capacities of universities, independent research organizations and government agencies. Such entities are routinely expected to conceptualize and carry out research relevant to the processes of:

- Acquiring human, fiscal, physical and informational resources;
- Utilizing those resources efficiently and effectively; and
- Producing desired social outcomes.

The above stated overall purpose is in accord with, and underscored by, the "Policy on Doctoral Education in Public Affairs/Administration" of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).

Most core curriculum classes meet on Monday through Thursday afternoons. Field courses and electives offered through other departments usually meet in the early evenings. Students may also take elective offerings at other Rutgers campuses, with permission of the PhD Director. Consideration of applications begins on February 1 for admission to the fall semester.

Admissions decisions are not made for the spring semester. It is particularly important for applicants to have taken the GRE before submitting an application.
The Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago

Chicago Harris
1155 East 60th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

More Information: Maggie DeCarlo – mdecarlo@uchicago.edu

PhD – Public Policy

The doctoral program (PhD) at Chicago Harris prepares qualified students interested in research-oriented careers involving the substantive and institutional aspects of public policy. The program emphasizes the acquisition of skills needed to design and conduct policy-relevant research, and allows students to develop individualized and innovative courses of study in which they work closely with faculty members of the School and the University.

Ph.D. students should expect to complete their program of study after a minimum of four to five years in residence. Ph.D. students must complete a minimum of 27 courses, including demonstrated mastery of the School's core subjects, unless they enter the program with a master's degree in the same or a related field, in which case the number of required courses may be reduced by up to 9 courses. Following completion of their coursework and examinations, Ph.D. students will be able to take advantage of opportunities to obtain financial support for their doctoral research from internal and external sources and to participate in research projects in the School and the University. Students receiving internal financial support will also serve as course assistants beyond their first year of study.
The Maxwell School at Syracuse University

Department of Public and International Affairs
Maxwell School at Syracuse University
215 Eggers Hall
Syracuse, NY 13244

More Information: Nell Silva Barkowiak, Assoc. Director, Graduate Student Services – nsbartko@maxwell.syr.edu

PhD – Public Administration

In a world of increasingly complex problems and resource limitations, there is a need for scholars who are qualified both to train the next generation of professionals for the public service and to expand society's store of knowledge about public management and public policy analysis. The Maxwell School's PhD Program in Public Administration is designed for those interested in scholarly careers as researchers and teachers. All aspects of the program are focused on providing Ph.D. students high quality research and teaching experiences. The curriculum is designed to assure that all students:

- Gain substantial competency in the core subject matter and methodologies that are central to preparation for the Ph.D. degree in Public Administration.
- Obtain a firm understanding of the broad intellectual tradition of public administration.
- Become active researchers beginning in their first year of the program.

Maxwell has one of the oldest doctoral programs in public administration in the country. Our alumni hold distinguished positions in academics, government, and business in the United States and in a number of other countries. Many attribute their success to the quality doctoral education they received at Maxwell.

Doctoral studies in Public Administration provide an interdisciplinary study of public management and public policy analysis. Students take core courses in both theories of public administration & management and on research methods. Faculty and students in the Public Administration program use a diverse range of both quantitative and qualitative research methods, and students can choose courses from a wide range of fields of specialization.
The New School

The New School for Public Engagement
66 West 12th Street
New York, NY 10011

More Information: David Howell, Professor – milanophd@newschool.edu

PhD – Public and Urban Policy

This PhD in Public and Urban Policy is interdisciplinary, and students have considerable freedom to design a course of study that fits their research and professional interests. We encourage the exploration of alternative theoretical perspectives and the use of a wide range of research methodologies in the search for solutions to tough policy problems. Our program is allied with the social science doctoral programs of The New School for Social Research, and the Milano School participates in the New York Inter-University Doctoral Consortium.

The Public and Urban Policy PhD program graduated its first class in 2004. Our graduates are working as tenure-track faculty members, researchers in leading consulting firms and international organizations, and policy analysts in local and national government agencies. While our current students have diverse backgrounds and research interests, they share a commitment to social change and to critical interdisciplinary approaches that enable the development and implementation of public policies.
Since its inception, the school has offered a selective, research-oriented doctoral program in public policy and management. This academically rigorous program is preparation for individuals pursuing university careers in teaching and research, and for senior-level research roles in government, consulting, and nonprofit organizations. The program is tailored to individual needs and interests and enrolls 25-30 students. Students work closely with faculty advisors in developing programs of study that allow students to attain:

- A basic knowledge of the public policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation processes
- A thorough preparation in analytical foundations and competence in advanced quantitative tools required for investigating public policy and management problems
- Competence in public sector economic theory and its application to policy analysis and management problems
- An understanding of the concepts, methods, and techniques of organization theory and administrative processes applicable to the public sector environment
- An intensive concentration in an advanced specialization field emphasizing multidisciplinary contributions to the solution of public sector problems

The John Glenn School of Public Affairs includes a core full-time faculty accompanied by other faculty members who divide their time between public policy and related academic disciplines. A wide range of academic disciplines and professional fields are represented on the faculty including public administration and public policy, economics, political science, law, history, geography, engineering, operations research, nonprofit management, food, environmental, and innovation policy, and quantitative methods. Many have experience in either government or private research organizations.
The University of Georgia

Department of Public Administration and Policy
School of Public and International Affairs
The University of Georgia
204 Baldwin Hall
355 South Jackson Street
Athens, GA 30602

More Information: Dr. Robert Christensen, PhD Program Director – rc@uga.edu

PhD – Public Administration

The Georgia PhD program in public administration is designed to prepare students for leading careers in teaching, research, and public service. The program has a strong research orientation and maintains high standards in the admission and evaluation of students.

Graduates of the program have received numerous national dissertation awards in public administration and public policy. They are placed in Research I institutions throughout the United States and in leading institutions of higher learning around the globe where they contribute to the expansion of knowledge in the fields of public management and policy analysis.

The Georgia Advantage

Our PhD students work closely with an award-winning, highly productive, and internationally recognized research faculty. The aim of the program is to educate professionals who can generate, share, and consume knowledge effectively in academic settings, and the curriculum is crafted with those objectives in mind. First, it provides an appreciation for the broad range of issues -- economic, institutional, normative, and political -- that surround public administration and public policy in the contemporary state. Second, it equips students with the research skills that are needed to conduct original investigations of questions central to these fields. Finally, it immerses students in the core issues, research traditions, and applied skills of a management or policy specialization of their choice.

Completion of the PhD program normally requires two years of course work and two years of work on the dissertation. Comprehensive examinations are taken at the beginning of the third year of the program, and the remainder of the third year should be devoted to the dissertation prospectus and dissertation research. Completion of the PhD degree may require more time for students who enter without significant previous graduate work in public administration and public policy or who fail to complete degree requirements in a timely fashion.
PhD – Public Policy & Administration

The PhD in Public Policy & Administration program is designed for highly qualified and motivated students who wish to acquire knowledge of the constantly evolving frameworks used to understand the dynamics of public policies, as well as cutting edge research skills used to evaluate both public policies and the social dynamics that are implicated in them. A key feature of the program is the combination of multi-disciplinary training in both theory and methods and an evidence-based approach. A core theme of the program is the implications of globalization and the need for an international comparative perspective for understanding policy formation, implementation, and outcomes. The program strives for maximum social relevance and emphasizes major and minor specializations that are highly appreciated for both academic and non-academic. Successful graduates will be uniquely qualified for high-level policy analysis in sub-national, national, and international organizations.

The program is organized around advanced study in two of four fields:

- **Economic and political institutions** field is designed for students interested in the impacts of politics on economics processes and outcomes and the complementary effects of economics on political processes. The program is particularly oriented to those interested in political and economic dynamics on a global scale and the importance of the international arena for policy development and implementation.

- **Health** field is designed for students interested in the complex interplay of social and political processes in shaping population health across the entire age-span. Particular emphasis is placed on the intersection of epidemiology, health management services, and health economics as the necessary lenses for understanding population health. Issues of global health are a particular focus of the program.

- **Social dynamics** field is ‘discipline-plus’ in its orientation with the objective of providing a solid disciplinary foundation in sociology and demography with an orientation to the key social issues of our generation. Here, special attention focuses on issues of work and education and opportunity, economic viability, family change, and immigration, and assessment of the institutional contexts that provide both challenges and opportunities for policies to enhance life

- **Public administration** field emphasizes the organization and inter-relations among public management organization and how these influence the delivery and efficacy of public policies. This field provides students with an opportunity to shape the direction of public policy research on issues such as the environment, international economics, science and technology, security, regulation, and development.
University at Albany

Rockefeller College
Milne Hall
University of Albany, SUNY
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12222

More Information: graduate@albany.edu

PhD – Public Administration & Policy

The PhD in Public Administration and Policy program offers students a balance between deep engagement with theory drawn from the primary literatures that inform public administration and public policy research (including public administration, economics, sociology, political science, psychology, and management) and intensive training in the use of a wide variety of methods, including econometrics, ethnography, computational modeling, system dynamics, and network analysis. We expect our students to emerge from the program with the skills and knowledge necessary to develop theory, test it rigorously, and derive implications that inform practice in the public sector.

The program offers a combination core courses and concentrations in five areas: public management (which includes a sub-concentration in nonprofit management), organizational behavior and theory, public finance, public policy, and politics and administration
The Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Studies and Public Affairs is a 64-credit-hour joint program of UA’s Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies and Cleveland State University’s Levin College of Urban Affairs.

This program prepares students for academic careers and for public service careers. Specializations in public administration and in public policy are available.

Students complete 25 credit hours of core classes, 27 credit hours of specialization classes, and 12 credit hours focusing on their dissertation.
University of Arizona

School of Government and Public Policy
315 Social Science Bldg.
Tucson, AZ 85721

More Information: Edella Schlager, PhD Program Director – schlager@email.arizona.edu

PhD – Public Policy & Management

Public Policy and Management prepares students for careers in a variety of academic and research settings. Students are trained broadly in comparative institutional analysis, organization theory, and public management. Students often specialize in a particular policy or organization field such as the environment, social services, health care, non-profits, and or social networks. Students take four required courses that provide a PhD-level understanding of the core literature in the subfield. Four additional courses in either public policy or public/nonprofit management and organizations are often taken outside of SGPP in departments like sociology, economics, management, renewable natural resources, and law. The goal is to prepare students for conducting independent research that will contribute to new thinking in either public policy or management and organizations.
University of Arkansas

Public Policy PhD Program
340 N. Campus Drive
Ozark Hall 213
1 University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

More Information: Dr. Valerie Hunt, JD, PhD, Assoc. Director Public Policy PhD – vhunt@uark.edu

PhD – Public Policy

An interdisciplinary group of faculty in the applied social sciences, behavioral sciences, agriculture, and the schools for the professions have come together to create an innovative educational and outreach program. Located in the Graduate School, our Public Policy PhD program draws upon the strength of many academic departments and disciplines to meet its education, outreach and service goals.

Our focus is on training leaders who will directly affect policy issues relevant to the people of Arkansas, the region, and the nation. As part of the educational and service mission of the University of Arkansas, the new PhD program provides a forum for the consideration of policy issues by students, faculty, and the larger community.

Graduates may pursue a variety of occupations. Policy PhDs work as legislative aides, program directors, policy analysts, budgeting and program analysts, teachers, researchers, advocates, lobbyists and in many other capacities in the public and private sectors. Faculty members will work with PhD students to further each individual’s career path.
University of California, Berkeley

Goldman School of Public Policy
University of California, Berkeley
2607 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94720

More Information: Martha Chavez, Asst. Dean of Academic Affairs - gsppadm@socrates.berkeley.edu

PhD – Public Policy

GSPP offers a doctoral degree program for students who seek careers in policy research with universities or research institutes. Usually only two or three PhD applicants are admitted each year, including those admitted from the School’s MPP students. Non-GSPP applicants who seek a policy research career and have completed graduate work in public policy comparable to our MPP are also eligible for admission consideration.

The PhD program emphasizes the generation of knowledge, theories, methodologies, and applications appropriate to the advancement of public policy analysis and management. Doctoral students pursue highly individualized programs of study and typically work closely with school faculty members who share the student’s subject matter interest.

A thorough preparation in policy analysis skills is a prerequisite for the doctorate. Because there is no core program of study, the PhD committee prefers applicants to have completed an MPP or equivalent, either from GSPP or a similar institution. Applicants with a master’s degree in some other field usually must complete the MPP program at GSPP before applying for admission to the doctoral program.

Applicants who have a master’s degree in public policy from another school may be partially exempt from this requirement but may be asked to take certain first-year master’s level courses at GSPP not offered in other such programs.
University of California, Irvine

Department of Planning, Policy, and Design
300 Social Ecology I
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697

More Information: Janet Gallagher, Graduate Coordinator – janetg@uci.edu

PhD – Planning, Policy and Design

Today’s complex urban, social and environmental issues can best be understood by researchers who can work across disciplinary boundaries, and who understand the relationship of research to action. The planning, policy, and design (PPD) doctoral program at the University of California, Irvine trains scholars for national and international prominence in the analysis of social problems related to the built, natural and institutional environments. Our faculty members and students combine perspectives from urban planning, public policy, and design behavior. The planning, policy, and design Ph.D. is based on the department's internationally prominent research and teaching strengths, including design-behavior research, environmental policy, health promotion and policy, and urban and community development.

Students in the Ph.D. program take a common core of classes, and then specialize in study related to their research interests. Students may design their own specialization or may follow the guidelines provided to specialize in Policy and/or Urban and Regional Planning. In either case, the elective courses need to be approved by the student’s faculty advisory committee.

These PhD program requirements represent the revised curriculum approved by the Academic Senate in Spring 2010, and will be the standard for all students admitted in Fall 2011. Current PhD students may choose to follow these requirements.

A typical pattern for completion of requirements is the following:

- **Years 1 and 2**: Take required departmental courses
- **September after year 2**: Take comprehensive exam
- **Year 3**: Finish all required coursework, write and defend dissertation prospectus and advance to candidacy
- **Years 4 - 6**: Dissertation research and writing (students are expected to complete and defend their dissertations within 9 quarters of advancing to candidacy)

In addition to completing these requirements, students may specialize in 1 (or more) of the following areas. The courses required in these specializations may be used as electives in fulfilling the course requirement:

- **Policy**
- **Urban and Regional Planning**
University of Central Florida

Doctoral Program in Public Affairs
College of Health and Public Affairs
University of Central Florida
12805 Pegasus Drive
PA 1 (Bldg. 80), room 220B
Orlando, FL 32816

More Information: Margaret Mlachak – Margaret.Mlachak@ucf.edu

PhD – Public Affairs

The Doctoral Program in Public Affairs prepares future leaders to deal with complex social, health and governance issues that cut across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

The program has a community-based focus with an emphasis on collaborate relationships across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of the community.

The curriculum comprises an interdisciplinary core with advanced studies in one of five tracks: Criminal Justice, Governance and Policy Research, Health Services Management and Research, Public Administration or Social Work.

Graduates possess the theoretical, analytical and ethical foundation to produce new knowledge that impacts policies and programs and enhances institutional and community performance.
PhD – Public Affairs

The PhD program requires an intensive commitment of time and effort. It is designed to serve:

- People who seek academic appointments to further the field of public administration, public policy and public management through teaching and research
- Scholar-practitioners working in government, private sector organizations concerned with government and nonprofit organizations
- Policy analysts in government, private sector organizations and nonprofit organizations.

In this program, you will acquire the skills for an expanded leadership role in public affairs. The program will help you master the scholarly theory, concepts and research skills required to teach other practitioners, and provide the skills necessary to research and analyze complex public sector challenges. As in every SPA program, theory is closely tied to practice and emphasizes skill development.

Upon completion of the program, you will have demonstrated:

1. The ability to effectively communicate your knowledge and skills orally and in writing;

2. Your ability to formulate and implement a high-quality research design and effectively analyze and communicate the results of your research to your peers and to faculty;

3. Extensive background knowledge and analytical skills in areas relevant to public administration, public management, and public policy, specifically:

   - The historical and comparative foundations of public administration
   - Contemporary literature, concepts, and theories of public management
   - Contemporary literature, concepts, and theories of public policy
   - Emerging topics of public administration, policy, and management
   - Advanced social science research methods and tools used in public affairs research
University of Delaware

University of Delaware
School of Public Policy & Administration
184 Graham Hall
Newark, DE 19716

More Information: sppa@udel.edu

PhD – Urban Affairs and Public Policy

The Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy is an interdisciplinary, research-oriented degree that focuses on analysis of the critical policy challenges of our times. Our program prepares scholars to create useable knowledge to inform decision making, and to positively impact the quality of life in communities at all scales, from cities to nations. Our doctoral students work alongside our faculty to create new knowledge that expands the possibilities for community enhancement and policy improvement across our nation and our world.

The challenges of our times are not neatly bundled in disciplinary packages as political, economic, or sociological problems. Our doctoral program prepares scholars to approach these multifaceted challenges from creative vantage points, reflecting diverse perspectives that transcend disciplinary views and reflect the highest standards of research and a truly global outlook.

We invite applications from students who have completed master's level programs in urban affairs, public policy, public administration, planning, or a related field of social science or professional practice. We place a premium on applicants who have been active in their field and demonstrate a desire to create and use knowledge to inform action.

Admission to the Ph.D. program is competitive and we limit the number of students admitted to ensure that each student has access to the full resources and benefits of the program. Full-time Ph.D. students are eligible for funding through a research or teaching assistantship for up to four years pending academic progress and the availability of resources. A research or teaching assistantship provides a nine-month stipend for work of up to 20 hours a week, and also provides a full graduate tuition scholarship.
University of Illinois

Department of Urban Planning & Policy
University of Illinois at Chicago
412 S. Peoria Street
Suite 215, MC 348
Chicago, IL 60607

More Information: upp@uic.edu

PhD – Urban Planning & Policy

The aim of the Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Policy is to train students for advanced research and faculty positions within institutions of higher education. It is intended to serve full-time students.

The Ph.D. program provides a unique and powerful resource for the advanced study of challenging urban problems and their complex remedies. Students participate in an interdisciplinary learning community of faculty and research staff conducting a mix of applied and theoretical studies. Graduates will leave as scholars well prepared for positions as university professors or conducting advanced research.
University of Kentucky

Martin School of Public Policy & Administration
University of Kentucky
415 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506

More Information: Sarah Lee – solee@uky.edu

PhD – Public Policy and Administration

The doctoral degree in public policy and administration offered by the University of Kentucky through the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration is an academic credential of the highest order. Since 1988, The Martin School has offered a doctoral degree in public administration (now public policy and administration) to prepare scholars and leaders for distinguished careers in public service. Students are expected to attend full-time.

The Ph.D. program is designed to provide knowledge of the principles of organizational behavior and administrative decision making in public and quasi-public organizations; an understanding of the public policy process, including the interrelationships of economic, political and social factors that facilitate and constrain change; an ability to apply research and analytical methods to the analysis of policy and administrative problems; and an in-depth understanding of policy issues and analytical approaches in a functional public affairs area.

Course work toward the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration is divided into four phases with a total requirement of 42 hours of graduate course work beyond the master’s level as well as the completion and successful defense of a dissertation of original research. Course work includes 12 credit hours of core courses, 9 hours of research methods, 3 hours of microeconomics, 3 additional hours of theory, and 15 hours in the area of concentration.
University of Louisville

PhD Program
Department of Urban and Public Affairs
University of Louisville
426 W. Bloom Street
Louisville, KY 40208

More Information: upa@louisville.edu

PhD – Urban and Public Affairs

The Department of Urban and Public Affairs offers a Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Public Affairs. The Ph.D. in Urban and Public Affairs is an interdisciplinary degree that prepares graduates for careers in teaching and research, policy analysis, public administration, land use and environmental planning, and economic development. A number of fellowships and assistantships for outstanding students are available.

The Program consists of a core curriculum and areas of specialization. The core provides a broad orientation and the specializations enable students to develop expertise in particular fields. The curriculum includes 48 credits: 18 credits of core courses, 18 credits of specialization courses, and 12 credits of dissertation research. Students qualify for official candidacy to the Ph.D. by satisfactorily completing all coursework and the qualifying examination. The field areas are: Urban Planning and Sustainable Development and Urban Policy and Administration.

Although full-time study is encouraged, a limited number of highly qualified part-time students are admitted. See Program's Student Guide for more details and requirements. The program has placed many of its recent graduates in teaching positions at respected universities across the U.S. and abroad.
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Department of Public Policy
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

More Information: gradpubpol@umbc.edu

PhD – Public Policy

The Ph.D. program requirements are designed to provide students with a solid, interdisciplinary foundation in public policy research and analysis. Students master a common set of concepts and analytical tools, and complete additional courses in a curriculum based on their intellectual and vocational goals.

The Ph.D curriculum for a student without a relevant master's degree requires 48 hours of coursework and 18 hours of dissertation research. The curriculum is divided into core courses, disciplinary foundation courses and courses in a specific policy area or discipline. Students with a master's degree will have fewer course requirements.
PhD – Policy Studies

The PhD program trains policy analysts who will make their marks in the practice and teaching of public policy. To this end, a limited number of applicants are admitted annually. In their first year, students develop and demonstrate proficiency in economic, normative, political, and quantitative analysis. They then pursue advanced study within their chosen specialization. Finally, they complete and defend a doctoral dissertation. Those awarded the degree move on to public policy careers in government, research, academia, and the private sector.

An applicant to the MSPP doctoral program in Policy Studies should have a strong academic record, including a master's degree in public policy or related field. (In the past, successful doctoral students have entered the program with graduate degrees in international relations, economics, mathematics, education, and philosophy, among other disciplines.) In rare instances, an applicant with an outstanding undergraduate record in a relevant subject but without additional graduate training may be considered. Admission is highly competitive. Full-time enrollment is strongly recommended; however, professionals working in fields related to public policy may apply to enroll as part-time students.
**University of Massachusetts at Boston**

Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs  
John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

More Information: [public.policy@umb.edu](mailto:public.policy@umb.edu)

**PhD – Public Policy**

Students and faculty in the program engage in research and policy projects closely connected with several University policy centers and institutes. These nationally and internationally known research centers provide students with opportunities for jobs, internships and other types of assistance including possible dissertation data. Students also have access to activities, events and presentations organized by these policy centers.

**Areas of Social Sciences for Student Research**

- children, youth and family
- community development
- disability rights and policy
- dispute resolution
- economic development
- education reform
- environmental policy
- health policy
- homelessness and housing
- human rights
- immigration policies
- labor policy
- law and public policy
- mental health policy
- minority issues
- nonprofit organizations
- poverty reduction
- regional development
- welfare reform
- women's issues
- and more

Our part-time program is open to applicants who are able to attend daytime classes on a part-time basis.

All core classes are held during the day and require students to have flexible work schedules. Due to the sequence of the curriculum, the first semester requires completion of three courses which is one and one-half days on campus. The remainder of part-time study requires the completion of three courses most semesters, which is typically two days on campus.
The Joint PhD Program in Public Policy is a collaborative effort between the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and the departments of Economics, Political Science and Sociology. The Joint PhD Program follows a discipline plus structure. The "discipline" means that all students complete a Ph.D. in a basic social science, and the "plus" means that they apply social science theory and knowledge to public policy problems. Joint PhD students will be awarded doctoral degrees in Economics and Public Policy, Political Science and Public Policy, and Sociology and Public Policy. These titles reflect a fundamental characteristic of the program: students are simultaneously full members of their disciplinary departments and participants in an interdisciplinary public policy community.

The program is designed to appeal to students who want to pursue research careers in a traditional social science discipline but who see themselves as deeply committed to the study of public policy. Our goal is for joint PhD students to bring the most rigorous tools of social science to bear on fundamental public policy questions.
University of Minnesota, The Humphrey School

Humphrey School
University of Minnesota
280 Humphrey School
301 19th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

More Information: hhhphd@umn.edu

PhD – Public Affairs

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Affairs offers students opportunities for rigorous, advanced study in the areas of public affairs, policy analysis, and planning. The goal of the PhD program is to train researchers who will enter academia or join highly respected public or nonprofit institutions involved in cutting edge research in public affairs, policy, planning, and management. Successful applicants to the program will be clear about the research they wish to undertake and why they think the Humphrey School is the best place to do that research. Students are expected to make original theoretical, methodological, or substantive contributions in the area of their specialization. Specializations are available in:

- Public Policy
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Public and Nonprofit Management
- Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

Students take a common set of core classes, choose one of the four academic sub-plans for specialization, select a customized set of courses within the sub-plan in consultation with their advisor, and complete a dissertation. Each sub-plan requires advanced training in theory, research design, statistics, and other quantitative and qualitative methods. Students will also complete training in pedagogy and gain experience in teaching.
University of Missouri – Kansas City

Henry W. Bloch School of Management
5110 Cherry Street
Kansas City, MO 64110

More Information: Nick Peroff, PhD, PAA, PhD Program Coordinator – peroffn@umkc.edu

PhD – Public Affairs and Administration

This degree program is part of UMKC’s Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program, which encompasses a wide range of disciplines from throughout the university. The Ph.D. program in Public Affairs and Administration is designed to prepare students for research careers in universities, public and nonprofit agencies, or for other roles in which research training is needed. This degree is designed for those with a strong interest in and ability to successfully engage in research and who exhibit promise as skillful teachers.

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program is housed in UMKC’s School of Graduate Studies. Complete information about the Ph.D. program in Public Affairs and Administration can be found in the UMKC catalog.
**University of Missouri – Columbia**

Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs
University of Missouri
101 Middlebush Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

More Information: **Nicole R. Harris**, Asst. Program Director for Student Services – harrisnr@missouri.edu

**PhD – Public Affairs**

This interdisciplinary degree prepares graduates for careers in universities, colleges and applied research settings in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Doctoral students complete core sequences in public policy and management as well as research methods and specializations tailored to their research interests.

Small classes, close relationships with faculty mentors and opportunities to participate in ongoing research make for a rich academic experience.
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

UNC College of Arts & Sciences
Public Policy
Abernethy 114; CB# 3435
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

More Information: Christine P. Durrance, Director of Graduate Admissions – Christine.durrance@unc.edu

PhD – Public Policy

Students are admitted to the doctoral program in public policy from diverse backgrounds in terms of both academic preparation and experience, and such diversity is strongly welcomed and encouraged. Once enrolled, each student is expected to complete a set of doctoral-level core courses in applications of economic, political and organizational theory to public policy issues, as well as a specialization in a particular subject area of public policy, research design and appropriate research methods courses.

In preparation for this course of study, applicants are expected to have taken a preparatory course in intermediate microeconomics and encouraged to take courses in basic statistics and quantitative analysis including calculus. All entering students also are required to take PLCY 700, a course in basic quantitative techniques for economic analysis preceding the beginning of their first semester. This required course begins in early August, two weeks prior to the start of the Fall academic semester.

In addition to completing PLCY 700, students need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Core Courses
- Policy Field
- Public Policy Research Seminar
- Sequencing of Classes
- Field Exam Paper
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

PhD in Public Policy Program
UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Boulevard
Fretwell 490M
Charlotte, NC 28223

More Information: Beth A. Rubin, PhD, Director, Public Policy – barubin@uncc.edu

PhD – Public Policy

The Ph.D. in Public Policy at UNC Charlotte prepares students to be researchers, decision makers and policy analysts in local, state or federal governments, not-for-profit agencies, for-profit institutions, and academia. The Program stresses applied and empirical policy research grounded in an interdisciplinary theoretical foundation. Students will become versed in analytical techniques suitable for research and policy analysis to address substantive issues and problems in varied geographic and political contexts. The intellectual focus of the Program is guided by three overarching themes:

1. **Interdisciplinary Perspective**: Effective policy analysis and policy formation are not informed by any single discipline. Rather, public policy requires knowledge of the historical, cultural, political, institutional, geographic, and economic dimensions of policy problems facing any community.

2. **Applied and Empirical Policy Analysis**: Public policy is an inherently applied endeavor that seeks practical solutions and cogent analysis. While theory informs all research and analysis, the purpose of policy research is to elevate public discourse and improve public decision-making.

3. **Place-Based Research**: To exercise applied policy analysis in an interdisciplinary context, policy research must be place-based. Real policy analysis, based on real data, applied to actual geographic and political settings is a strength of the Program.
University of Pennsylvania

Business Economics & Public Policy Department
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
1400 Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall
3620 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104

More Information: Beth Moskat, Program Coordinator – emoskat@wharton.upenn.edu

PhD – Business Economics & Public Policy

Wharton’s highly selective Ph.D. program in Applied Economics offers students many resources not available at other institutions, such as a 1:1 faculty to student ratio and an up-front guarantee of five years of funding with minimum teaching requirements. Jointly administered by the Real Estate department and the Business Economics and Public Policy department, Wharton’s Applied Economics program focuses on leveraging the considerable expertise of its faculty to prepare students for careers doing cutting edge theoretical and empirical research that has practical relevance to industry and government.

All admitted students are granted a fellowship, including tuition, fees, and stipend.
PhD – Public and International Affairs

The doctoral program in public and international affairs at GSPIA has been training outstanding students for more than fifty years. GSPIA ranks tied for second—behind only the Maxwell School at Syracuse University—in the number of NASPAA (National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration) dissertation awards won by its doctoral students, and a GSPIA student also recently won the APPAM (Association for Public Policy and Management) dissertation award. Senior alumni of the program hold leadership positions in academia, government and international organizations throughout the United States and around the world.

Over the past five years our doctoral graduates have received appointments at universities from coast to coast within the United States, at universities abroad from Korea and Singapore to the Netherlands and Lebanon, in government service from the U.S. Department of Defense to the Office of the President of the Republic in Mali, and in non-profit organizations from Pennsylvania to Morocco. The GSPIA faculty recently implemented several substantive and procedural changes to the doctoral studies program designed to strengthen its quality and expedite time to degree. First, we are admitting a smaller number of students in order to ensure that virtually all admitted students will receive at least four years of financial support, contingent on academic performance. Second, we are instituting a midpoint review of student progress, following the first year of study, to provide constructive feedback to students regarding progress to date and an appropriate strategy for completion of the program. Third, we are streamlining and clarifying the comprehensive exam format to expedite completion of this requirement so that students can move on to preparation of their dissertation proposals. Finally, we are developing stronger linkages with other academic units in the University of Pittsburgh to collaborate with them in offering a wider range of doctoral courses.

Our PhD program emphasizes interdisciplinary research and applied analysis of public policy issues. Students acquire the skills, tools, and knowledge necessary to conduct research in highly competitive environments such as leading universities, government agencies and nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations. Graduates are prepared to teach, conduct research, or work in a policy environment. PhD students take advantage of the extensive resources within GSPIA, as well as resources within the University of Pittsburgh’s highly regarded departments of political science, economics, history, and other related disciplines.
University of Southern California – Sol Price School

Graduate Programs in Public Policy
USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall 301 A
Los Angeles, CA 90089

More Information: Dr. Gary Painter, Director of Graduate Programs in Public Policy – gpainter@usc.edu

PhD – Public Policy and Management

The Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management (PPM) produces researchers and scholars who provide innovative solutions to societal problems and improve governance. Through a rigorous core of institutional, policy, and management theory and strong methodological training, PPM students develop the foundation to advance knowledge in public affairs.

Working closely with faculty mentors, PPM students develop substantive expertise in core areas within the Price School of Public Policy or within a related disciplinary field in another USC department. Examples include:

- Civic engagement
- Economic development
- Governance
- Health management and policy
- Homeland security
- International development
- Network theory
- Nonprofits and philanthropy
- Social policy
- Sustainability and the environment
- Transportation and infrastructure

Research and teaching seminars along with faculty/student workshops to support dissertation development ensure that graduates are prepared for positions at leading research universities and institutes through the US and the world. USC Price graduates hold tenure-track positions at University of Georgia, University of Kansas, University of Southern California, University of Texas-Austin, City University of New York, Peking University, Seoul National University and research positions at the Public Policy Institute of California, the USC Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (federally funded Homeland Security Center) and the Korean Institute for Public Administration.
The LBJ PhD in Public Affairs is a truly flexible program in which you will have the opportunity to develop in areas that are of especial interest to you both intellectually and professionally. No less than 15 hours of the total 36 are pure electives (9 credits are suggested to be methods courses specific to the individual student's research). The core is the heart of the program and covers both the theory and intellectual underpinnings of the field public policy, as well as a range of research methods and applications that you will need in your own research and career path. We teach the core very efficiently through a rigorous set of four courses in theories and methods. This core set of courses occurs over four semesters and is taken in tandem with the elective methods and field-specific courses so that a student can complete the course portion of the doctorate in two years. This is the second plus: the University is a major tier one research university, and with over 100 graduate programs and 12,000 graduate students there is a huge array of classes from which you can select core and electives, a process in which you may expect to will be closely advised and supported by LBJ faculty and your peers.

Third, is the excellence of the 50 plus faculty all of whom are closely engaged in the teaching and research life of the School. Their profiles speak to their national and international distinction and their far-reaching interests and expertise, both national and international. There are several major research centers in the School: Health and Social Policy; Politics and Governance; Philanthropy and Non Profit Management; International Security; Labor Economics. There are also research clusters working on Wage Inequality, Urban Policy, Sustainability, Technology and Innovation, Information Systems, and Environmental Policy. An exciting new addition in the past three years is that of international security and development, tied to the Strauss Center and more recently to the Clements Center. All of these Centers and clusters exist primarily as research foci, and our PhD students are central to that mission. This focus on research is a fourth significant aspect of the program.

A fifth major comparative advantage of our program is that you can move relatively quickly to your PhD. You will usually take your comprehensive examinations at the end of the fourth semester, and most students aim to get a dissertation proposal defended sometime in their third year and enter candidacy. If all goes well, they can graduate in their fourth or fifth years.
University of Texas at Dallas

School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences  
800 W. Campbell Road  
Richardson, TX 75080

More Information: Katie Doctor-Troup, Graduate Program Administrator - kld015500@utdallas.edu

PhD – Public Affairs

The doctor of philosophy in public affairs degree is an interdisciplinary doctoral program that prepares graduates to assume positions in academe, research organizations or public, quasi-public and nonprofit organizations. The degree combines innovative and traditional methods of educational delivery and emphasizes the integration and application of theory to practice.

The guiding philosophy of the program is that public affairs involves more than mere functional administration, policy implementation or quantitative policy analysis. Rather, doctoral education in public affairs requires an interface between the traditions of public management, decision science, and policy analysis and processes, with a practical appreciation for the challenges of maintaining and building institutions of governance and a civic culture in a complex, democratic society.

The PhD program in public affairs is a cohort program requiring 42 hours of coursework plus relevant doctoral dissertation hours. Well-prepared students may be able to complete the course requirements and the dissertation within three years from their initial enrollment. Students in each cohort take six hours of classes each fall, spring and summer semester, allowing them to complete the core courses and electives in seven consecutive semesters of enrollment.
University of Virginia

Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
Garrett Hall
235 McCormick Road
PO Box 400893
Charlottesville, VA 22904

More Information: James Wyckoff, Faculty Advisor – jhw4n@virginia.edu

Dual MPA/PhD – Public Policy

The University of Virginia Curry School of Education and Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy offer a dual degree program that leads to the completion of a PhD in Education Policy and MPP degrees in five-six years. There are a number of complementarities between Curry's PhD program and Batten's Master of Public Policy program. They both seek high quality students with a commitment to improving policy outcomes, and there is extensive overlap in the coursework in both programs. The goal of a dual PhD in Education Policy/MPP program is to leverage the comparative advantage of both schools toward these mutual interests.

The MPP-PhD in Education program is particularly demanding, and unless the students is clearly able to see the applicability of both degrees to future career plans, he or she should not assume that the chance to complete both degrees on a shortened timeframe is in itself a persuasive rationale for this undertaking.

Unique to the MPP-PhD, and unlike Batten's other joint degree programs, at the conclusion of the two years of study primarily in the Batten School, students will receive their MPP degree. At the conclusion of the fifth or sixth year of the program, students who have completed at least 72 credits in the Curry School will receive the PhD in Education degree. The MPP-PhD candidate is obligated to take, as part of these credits, all of the required curriculum in both graduate public policy and education. The remaining credits will be elective credits and can be chosen from the respective public policy and education curricula after consultation with the program committee.
University of Washington
Evans School of Public Affairs
University of Washington
Box 353055
Seattle, WA 98195

More Information: evansphd@uw.edu

PhD – Public Policy & Management

The Evans School Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management can prepare you for teaching at the university level or for conducting research at public and nonprofit institutions and think tanks.

We aim for our Ph.D. program to be one of the top public policy and administration doctoral programs regionally, nationally, and globally.

We offer our students:

- An integrated program focusing on both public policy analysis and management.
- Access to the Evans School’s research centers.
- The ability to enhance a chosen research specialization with courses in other departments at the University of Washington (UW), which ranks number one in the nation among public universities in attracting federal research dollars.
- Award-winning faculty with specializations in education, poverty and social issues, health policy, the environment, international development, public and nonprofit management, and more.
- Exposure to the broad array of domestic and international perspectives on public policy and problem solving accessible in the Seattle metropolitan area.
- The option to earn a Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Management after successful completion of the first two years of Ph.D. coursework, the first year qualifying exam, and the major area paper.
- Tuition and stipend assistance through fellowships and research and teaching assistantships at the Evans School and in other UW departments.

We enroll approximately five new Ph.D. students each year with the expectation that it will take four years to complete the degree.
Virginia Commonwealth University

L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs
PhD in Public Policy and Administration
PO Box 843061
Richmond, VA 23284

More Information: wsgradvise@vcu.edu

PhD – Public Policy and Administration

The purpose of Virginia Commonwealth University’s Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration is to prepare students for scholarly and leadership roles in government, universities, research organizations and other settings where knowledge and research skills in public administration and policy are needed.

The Ph.D. program is structured around a core curriculum and several areas of concentration. The curriculum is designed to provide a sound intellectual foundation for the pursuit of theoretical and applied research in administrative and policy studies. The program includes core courses in the following areas:

- Public policy and public administration
- Research methods
- Statistical data analysis
- Economic policy analysis
- Political institutions and processes
- Law and public policy

In addition to the core courses, students take courses in one of several concentration areas:

- Public management in state and local government
- Health policy
- Urban policy
- Criminal justice policy

Students can also develop an individualized concentration area in education policy, homeland security and environmental policy. These concentrations offer students the opportunity to build a tailored program of study within a broad area of scholarship. The range of core and affiliate faculty expertise from both campuses at VCU gives doctoral students considerable flexibility in designing their studies and research.

Course work in the Ph.D. program has a strong orientation toward research, both applied and theoretical. Where appropriate, course work may be linked to funded university projects or to external agency-based analytic work. Courses emphasize research, writing and presentation skills.
While the core of the Ph.D. program is the dissertation, the Doctor of Philosophy degree formally requires a minimum of 90 credit hours. CPAP Ph.D. students take a series of Foundation courses in five Core Areas: context of public administration, organization, policy, management, and ethics; and five advanced courses we call Advanced Topics courses and Capstone Seminars. At least six credit hours must be completed or transferred in at the Foundation level in each core area except Ethics, which requires three credits. Ph.D. students also participate in the Doctoral Mentoring Program (DMP). In the addition to course work and DMP sessions, several PhD milestones need to be completed.
The primary objectives of the Ph.D. program in public administration are:

- to provide doctoral students with the philosophical, theoretical, and substantive material necessary to acquire an advanced understanding of the field of public administration
- to provide an opportunity to conduct research in each of the courses offered
- to assist doctoral students in acquiring the methodological skills needed to complete a major independent research project
- to develop researchers proficient in undertaking major professional and scholarly research projects in social science in general and the public sector in particular

The mission and objectives of the program are met by delivering a theoretically and intellectually stimulating program in a manner that encourages integration of course materials and promotes reflection on them. A variety of pedagogical methods will be used to challenge the thinking and facilitate the continued professional development of mid-career students.

The School of Public Affairs and Administration offers Michigan's only doctoral education program specifically in public administration and this program has been graduating students for nearly three decades.