

Policy Studies

The School of Social Sciences

Director

Donald Ostdiek

Degree Offered: B.A.

This interdisciplinary major focuses on policy issues that are of public interest. Students in policy studies evaluate and analyze both the determinants and the effects of policy decisions, gaining an understanding of the policy-making process and acquiring an intellectual base for policy-making skills. The course of study addresses theoretical issues as well as applied and prescriptive policy questions.

Students may take policy studies *only as a second major*. It complements majors in any university department. For instance, engineering or science majors who are contemplating careers in business or government can investigate how technical innovations or regulations are adopted and implemented as matters of public policy, and humanities majors can explore career options where language skills are particularly valuable.

Students are encouraged to investigate research opportunities with Rice faculty. Students may also elect to participate in the Washington Semester Program at American University, which includes both course work and an internship within the federal government. See the policy studies director for more information.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in Policy Studies

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 16–18). Students may take the policy studies major only as a second major (their first major cannot also be in an interdepartmental program). The major contains 11 courses divided into the following elements: a basic curriculum, an area curriculum, and a research requirement.

The policy studies **basic curriculum** introduces students to the basic concepts and tools needed to understand and study policy, regardless of the policy area they choose to focus on. The four courses ensure that all policy studies majors have a common professional vocabulary and conceptual frame of reference. The policy studies **area curriculum** provides specialized training that builds on students' work in the basic curriculum.

Students are required to take 6 courses from one of the following areas of specialization:

- Environmental policy
- Government policy and management
- Healthcare management
- International affairs
- Law and justice
- Business policy and management
- Urban and social change

Policy studies students must also engage in a **research project** in their area of interest. In consultation with the policy studies director, each student must select a research seminar or complete an approved research project through independent study or other credit. The Policy Studies Research Seminar (SOSC 400) also counts for this requirement.

4 Basic Curriculum CoursesPOLI 338/SOSC 301 *Policy Analysis*ECON 211 or 212 *Principles of**Economics I or II*POLI 337 *Public Policy and Bureaucracy* or SOSC 300 *Social Science and Public Policy* or POLI 436 *Politics of Regulation*

1 advanced analysis or methods course approved by the policy studies director

6 Area Curriculum Courses**6 courses from one of the following seven groups:****Core Courses (Choose at least 3)****1. Environmental Policy**ECON 480 *Environmental and Energy Economics I*POLI 331 *Environmental Politics and Policy*SOC 367 *Environmental Sociology*ENVI 306 *Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*ENVI 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*HIST 330 *U.S. Environmental History***Electives (Choose up to 3)**ARCH 313 *Sustainable Architecture*ANTH 468 *Palaeoclimate and Human Response*BIOS 322 *Global Ecosystem Dynamics*BIOS 324 *Wetland Ecosystems*BIOS 325 *Ecology*ENGL 478 *Literature and the Environment*ENVI/HPHS 201 *Introduction to Environmental Systems*ENVI 445 *Natural Environmental Factors*GEOL 326 *Environmental Geology*GEOL 341 *The Oceans*GEOL 345 *Geology of National Parks*POLI 336 *Politics of Regulation*RELI 362 *Environmental Ethics*SPAC 203 *Atmosphere, Weather, and Climate*SPAC 443/ENVI 443 *Atmospheric Science*UNIV 303 *Environmental Problem Solving***2. Government Policy and Management**ECON 436 *Government Regulation of Business*ECON 461 *Urban Economics*ECON 483 *Public Finance*POLI 300 *Federalism and Intergovernmental Politics*POLI 301 *State Politics*POLI 332/432 *Urban Politics*POLI 436 *Politics of Regulation*ANTH 344 *City/Culture*ECON 438 *Economics of the Law*ECON 480 *Environmental and Energy Economics I*HIST 337 *Gender and Politics in the West*POLI 330 *Minority Politics*POLI 331 *Environmental Politics and Policy*POLI 335 *Political Environment of Business*POLI 458 *Property Rights and Privatization*ENVI 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*HIST 468 *Women and the Welfare State*SOSC 330 *Healthcare Reform in the 50 States*SOSC 430 *The Shaping of Health Policy in the United States*SOC 308 *Houston: The Sociology of a City*SOC 331 *Politics and Society in Texas*SOC 370 *Sociology of Education*SOC 350 *Sociological Approaches to Poverty*SOC 399 *Immigration and Public Health*SOC 411 *Social Change*SOC 441 *Minorities in the Schooling Process***3. Healthcare Policy and Management (Choose 6)**ANTH 381 *Medical Anthropology*ANTH 386 *Human Nutrition*ANTH 388 *Life Cycle: A Biocultural View*HEAL 212 *Consumer Health*HEAL 350 *Understanding Cancer*HEAL 407 *Epidemiology*HEAL 410 *Program Development in Health Education*PHIL 315 *Ethics, Medicine, and Public Policy*RELI 462/463 *Medical Ethics and American Values I and II*

SOSC 330 *Healthcare Reform in the 50 States*
 SOSC 420 *Healthcare: Competition and Managed Care*
 SOSC 430 *The Shaping of Health Policy in the United States*
 SOCI 334 *Sociology of the Family*
 SOCI 345 *Sociology of Medicine*
 SOCI 399 *Immigration and Public Health*
 SOCI 433 *Sociology of the Life Cycle: Death and Dying*
 SPAN 307/308 *The Language of Healthcare*

Core Courses (Choose at least 2)

4. International Affairs

ECON 420 *International Economics*
 POLI 372 *American Foreign Policy*
 POLI 376 *International Political Economy*
 POLI 378 *The Politics of American National Security Policy*
 POLI 462 *Comparative Public Policy*

Electives (Choose up to 4)

ANTH 360 *Modernity and Social Space*
 ECON 421 *International Finance*
 ECON 430 *Comparative Economic Systems*
 ECON 451 *Political Economy of Latin America*
 HIST 232 *The Making of Modern Africa*
 HIST 353 *The Cold War*
 HIST 394 *War in the Modern World*
 HIST 464 *Foreign Policy of Nixon and Kissinger*
 HIST 469 *US–Latin America Relation*
 POLI 354 *Latin American Politics*
 POLI 355 *Government and Politics of the Middle East*
 POLI 356 *Politics of Latin American Economic Development*
 POLI 360 *West European Democracies*
 POLI 361 *Comparative Post-Communist Systems*
 POLI 373 *International Conflict*
 POLI 376 *International Political Economy*
 POLI 464 *Political Economy of Development*

5. Law and Justice (Choose 6)

ANTH 326 *Anthropology of Law*
 ANTH 419 *Law and Society*
 ECON 438/439 *Economics of the Law I and II*
 ENVI 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*
 HIST 297/298 *American Legal History I and II*
 PHIL 307 *Social and Political Philosophy*
 PHIL 316 *Philosophy of Law*
 POLI 321 *American Constitutional Law*
 POLI 458 *Property Rights and Privatization*
 SOCI 321 *Criminology*

Core Courses (Choose at least 3)

6. Business Policy and Management

ECON 436 *Government Regulation of Business*
 ECON 445 *Managerial Economics*
 ECON 435 *Industrial Organization*
 POLI 335 *Political Environment of Business*
 POLI 336 *Politics of Regulation*
 PSYC 231 *Industrial and Organizational Psychology*

Electives (Choose up to 3)

ACCO 305 *Introduction to Accounting*
 ECON 355 *Money and Banking*
 ECON 370 *Microeconomic Theory*
 ECON 375 *Macroeconomic Theory*
 ECON 415 *Human Resources, Wages, and Welfare*
 ECON 420 *International Economics*
 ECON 421 *International Finance*
 ECON 448 *Corporation Finance*
 HIST 331 *Labor in America*
 POLI 376 *International Political Economy*
 POLI 458 *Property Rights and Privatization*
 POLI 464 *Political Economy of Development*

7. Urban and Social Change

ANTH 344 *City/Culture*
ANTH 360 *Modernity and Social Space*
ARCH 311 *Houston Architecture*
ARCH 313 *Sustainable Architecture*
ARCH 321 *Economics of the Built Environment*
ARCH 346 *19th- and 20th-Century Architectural History*
ARCH 351 *Social Issues and Architecture*
ARCH 455 *Housing and Urban Programs*
ECON 461 *Urban Economics*
ECON 480 *Environmental Economics*
HIST 377 *The Ancient City*

HIST 429 *Technologies of Nationalism*
HART 325 *Art and Architecture in the Middle East*
PHIL 307 *Social and Political Philosophy*
SOC 301 *Social Inequality*
SOC 308 *Houston: The Sociology of a City*
SOC 309 *Race and Ethnic Relations*
SOC 310 *Urban Sociology*
SOC 313 *Demography*
SOC 411 *Social Change*
POL 332 *Urban Politics*
POL 438 *Race and Public Policy*
POL 441 *Common Property Resources*