POLICY STUDIES

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DIRECTOR
Donald Ostdiek

DEGREE OFFERED: BA

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 2nd 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 also may elect to participate in the Washington Semester Program at American University, which includes both course work and an internship in the federal government. See the policy studies director for more information.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN POLICY STUDIES

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 14–15). Students may take the policy studies major only as a 2nd major (their 1st 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 on which they choose to focus. The 4 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 1 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 also must 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 Courses

POLI 338/SOSC 301 Policy Analysis
ECON 211 or 212 Principles of Economics I or II
POLI 337 Public Policy and Bureaucracy
1 advanced analysis or methods course approved by the policy studies director

6 Area Curriculum Courses

6 courses from 1 of the following 7 groups:

1. Environmental Policy (Choose 6)
   ECON 480 Environmental and Energy Economics I
   POLI 331 Environmental Politics and Policy
   SOCI 367 Environmental Sociology
   ENVI 306 Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development
   ENVI 406 Introduction to Environmental Law
   HIST 330 U.S. Environmental History
   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 (Choose 6)
   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
   POLI 330 Minority Politics
   POLI 331 Environmental Politics and Policy
   POLI 335 Political Environment of Business
   POLI 458 Property Rights and Privatization
   UNIV 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
   SOCI 308 Houston: The Sociology of a City
   SOCI 331 Politics and Society in Texas
   SOCI 370 Sociology of Education
   SOCI 350 Sociological Approaches to Poverty
   SOCI 399 Immigration and Public Health
   SOCI 411 Social Change
   SOCI 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
4. International Affairs  
(Choose 6)  
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  
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 U.S.–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  

6. Business Policy and Management  
(Choose 6)  
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  
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  
SOCI 301 Social Inequality  
SOCI 308 Houston: The Sociology of a City  
SOCI 309 Race and Ethnic Relations
SOCI 310 Urban Sociology
SOCI 313 Demography
SOCI 411 Social Change
POLI 332 Urban Politics
POLI 438 Race and Public Policy
POLI 441 Common Property Resources