

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, or students may participate in selected Study Abroad programs for course credit, some of which also have internship experiences in foreign settings. 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 also are required to take 6 courses from 1 of the following areas of specialization or in an area approved by the Policy Studies director:

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

In consultation with the Policy Studies director, each student also must select

a research seminar or complete an approved research project through independent study or other course credit. The Policy Studies Research Seminar (SOSC 400) also counts for this requirement.

4 Basic Curriculum Courses

ECON 211 or 212 *Principles of Economics I or II*
 POLI 337 *Public Policy and Bureaucracy*
 POLI 338/SOSC 301 *Policy Analysis*
 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 (specific course substitutions may
 be approved by the Policy Studies director)**

1. Environmental Policy (Choose 6)

ANTH 468 *Palaeoclimate and Human Response*
 ARCH 313 *Sustainable Architecture*
 BIOS 323 *Conservation Biology*
 BIOS 325 *Ecology*
 CEVE 201 *Introduction to Environmental Systems*
 CEVE 306 *Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*
 CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*
 ECON 480 *Environmental and Energy Economics I*
 ENGL 478 *Literature and the Environment*
 ENST 303 *Environmental Problem Solving*
 PHYS 203 *Atmosphere, Weather, and Climate*
 POLI 331 *Environmental Politics and Policy*
 POLI 336 *Politics of Regulation*
 RELI 362 *Environmental Ethics*
 SOCI 367 *Environmental Sociology*

2. Government Policy and Management (Choose 6)

ANTH 344 *City/Culture*
 CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*
 ECON 436 *Government Regulation of Business*
 ECON 438 *Economics of the Law*
 ECON 461 *Urban Economics*
 ECON 480 *Environmental and Energy Economics I*

ECON 483 *Public Finance*
 HIST 468 *Women and the Welfare State*
 POLI 300 *Federalism and Intergovernmental Politics*
 POLI 301 *State Politics*
 POLI 330 *Minority Politics*
 POLI 331 *Environmental Politics and Policy*
 POLI 332/432 *Urban Politics*
 POLI 335 *Political Environment of Business*
 POLI 436 *Politics of Regulation*
 POLI 458 *Property Rights and Privatization*
 SOCI 308 *Houston: The Sociology of a City*
 SOCI 331 *Politics and Society in Texas*
 SOCI 350 *Sociological Approaches to Poverty*
 SOCI 370 *Sociology of Education*
 SOCI 399 *Immigration and Public Health*
 SOCI 411 *Social Change*
 SOCI 441 *Minorities in the Schooling Process*
 SOSC 330 *Healthcare Reform in the 50 States*
 SOSC 430 *The Shaping of Health Policy in the United States*

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*
 SOCI 334 *Sociology of the Family*
 SOCI 345 *Sociology of Medicine*
 SOCI 399 *Immigration and Public Health*
 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*
 SPAN 307/308 *The Language of Healthcare*

**4. International Affairs
 (Choose 6)**

- ECON 420 *International Economics*
 ECON 421 *International Finance*
 ECON 430 *Comparative Economic Systems*
 ECON 451 *Political Economy of Latin America*
 HIST 464 *Foreign Policy Seminar*
 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 372 *American Foreign Policy*
 POLI 373 *International Conflict*
 POLI 376 *International Political Economy*
 POLI 378 *The Politics of American National Security Policy*
 POLI 462 *Comparative Public Policy*
 POLI 464 *Political Economy of Development*

**5. Law and Justice
 (Choose 6)**

- ANTH 326 *Anthropology of Law*
 ANTH 419 *Law and Society*
 CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*
 ECON 438/439 *Economics of the Law I and II*
 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)**

- 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 435 *Industrial Organization*
 ECON 436 *Government Regulation of Business*
 ECON 445 *Managerial Economics*
 ECON 448 *Corporation Finance*
 PSYC 231 *Industrial and Organizational Psychology*
 POLI 335 *Political Environment of Business*
 POLI 336 *Politics of Regulation*
 POLI 376 *International Political Economy*
 POLI 458 *Property Rights and Privatization*
 POLI 464 *Political Economy of Development*

**7. Urban and Social Change
 (Choose 6)**

- 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*
 HART 325 *Art and Architecture in the Middle East*
 HIST 429 *Technologies of Nationalism*
 PHIL 307 *Social and Political Philosophy*
 POLI 332 *Urban Politics*
 POLI 438 *Race and Public Policy*
 POLI 441 *Common Property Resources*
 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*