

# POLICY STUDIES

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## 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 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. 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. Students may also participate in the Rice Policy Studies Abroad program in London for course credit, which includes an internship experience in London. See the Policy Studies director and Web site for more information.

### **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN POLICY STUDIES**

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (Undergraduate Students section, pages 2–5). 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 capstone requirement.

The policy studies basic curriculum introduces students to the fundamental concepts and tools needed to understand and study policy, regardless of the policy area on which they choose to focus. 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 also are required to take six courses from one 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
- Energy Policy Studies

In consultation with the Policy Studies director, each student also must complete an approved capstone requirement. This requirement may be met by participating in the Rice Policy Studies Abroad Program in London, the Policy Studies Research Seminar (SOSC 421), a School of Social Sciences gateway experience, or another approved internship or research opportunity.

**Four Basic Curriculum Courses**

ECON 211 or 212 *Principles of Economics I or II*  
 POLI 338/POST 301 *Policy Analysis*  
 POST 300 *Public Policy Management and Advocacy*

One advanced analysis or methods course approved by the Policy Studies director

**Six Area Curriculum Courses**

**Six courses from one of the following seven groups (specific course substitutions may be approved by the Policy Studies director)**

**1. Environmental Policy (Choose six)**

ANTH 468 *Palaeoclimate and Human Response*  
 ARCH 313 *Case Studies in Sustainable Design*  
 BIOS 323 *Conservation Biology*  
 BIOS 325 *Ecology*  
 CEVE 201 *Urban and Environmental Systems*  
 CEVE 306 *Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*  
 CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*  
 ECON 480 *Environmental Economics*  
 ENGL 368 *Literature and the Environment*  
 ENST 302 *Environmental Issues: Rice into the Future*  
 PHYS 357 *Atmosphere, Weather, and Climate*  
 POLI 331 *Environmental Politics and Policy*  
 POLI 336 *Politics of Regulation*  
 SOCI 367 *Environmental Sociology*

**2. Government Policy and Management (Choose six)**

ANTH 344 *City/Culture*  
 CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*  
 ECON 436 *Regulation*  
 ECON 438 *Business, Law, and Economics*  
 ECON 461 *Urban Economics*  
 ECON 480 *Environmental Economics*  
 ECON 483 *Public Finance: Tax Policy*

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*  
 SOCI 308 *Houston: The Sociology of a City*  
 SOCI 335 *Political Sociology*  
 SOCI 449 *Immigration and Public Health*  
 SOSC 330 *Healthcare Reform in the 50 States*  
 SOSC 430 *The Shaping of Health Policy*

**3. Healthcare Policy and Management (Choose six)**

ANTH 381 *Medical Anthropology*  
 ANTH 386 *Medical Anthropology of Food and Health*  
 ANTH 388 *Life Cycle: A Biocultural View*  
 HEAL 212 *Consumer Health and the Media*  
 HEAL 350 *Understanding Cancer*  
 HEAL 407 *Epidemiology*  
 HEAL 410 *Program Development in Health Education*  
 PHIL 315 *Ethics, Medicine, and Public Policy*  
 SOCI 334 *Sociology of the Family*  
 SOCI 345 *Introduction to Medical Sociology*  
 SOCI 449 *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*  
 SPAN 307/308 *The Language of Healthcare*

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

ECON 420 *International Trade*  
 ECON 421 *International Finance*  
 ECON 451 *Political Economy of Latin America*

HIST 386 *Recent U.S. Foreign Policy*  
 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 378 *The Politics of American National Security Policy*  
 POLI 462 *Comparative Public Policy*  
 POLI 464 *Political Economy of Developing Nations*

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

ANTH 326 *Anthropology of Law*  
 ANTH 419 *Law and Society*  
 CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*  
 ECON 438 *Business, Law, and Economics*  
 ECON 439 *Torts, Property, and Contracts*  
 HIST 398 *Topics in Legal History*  
 PHIL 307 *Social and Political Philosophy*  
 PHIL 316 *Philosophy of Law*  
 POLI 321 *American Constitutional Law*  
 SOCI 321 *Criminology*

**6. Business Policy and Management**  
**(Choose six)**

ACCO 305 *Introduction to Accounting*  
 ECON 355 *Financial Markets*  
 ECON 370 *Microeconomic Theory*  
 ECON 375 *Macroeconomic Theory*  
 ECON 415 *Labor Economics*  
 ECON 420 *International Trade*  
 ECON 421 *International Finance*  
 ECON 435 *Industrial Organization*  
 ECON 436 *Regulation*  
 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 464 *Political Economy of Developing Nations*

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

ANTH 344 *City/Culture*  
 ARCH 311 *Houston Architecture*  
 ARCH 313 *Case Studies in Sustainable Design*  
 ARCH 346 *Architecture and the City II*  
 ARCH 455 *Housing and Urban Programs: Issues in Policy*  
 ECON 461 *Urban Economics*  
 ECON 480 *Environmental Economics*  
 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*

**8. Energy Policy Studies**

**(six courses, all students must take ECON 437 and POST 401, at least two more courses from the Core Energy Courses, and up to two courses from the Energy Elective Courses.)**

POST 401 *Energy Policy*  
 POST 410 *Middle East Politics and Energy*  
 ESCI 415 *Economic Geology—Petroleum*  
 ECON 437 *Energy Economics*  
 CEVE 307 *Energy and the Environment*  
 ESCI 107 *Oceans and Global Change*

**Energy Elective Courses**

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CEVE 306 *Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*  
 CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*  
 CHBE 281 *Engineering Sustainable Communities*

#### 4 DEPARTMENTS / Policy Studies

ECON 348/POLI 348 *Organizational Design*

ECON 447 *Advanced Topics in Energy Economics*

ECON 448 *Corporate Finance*

ECON 451 *Political Economy of Latin America*

ECON 480 *Environmental Economics*

ENST 331/POLI 331 *Environmental Policy*

ESCI 416 *Economic Geology—Mineral Deposits*

ESCI 417 *Petroleum Industry Economics and Management*

POLI 211 *Introduction to International Relations*

POLI 336 *Politics of Regulation*

POLI 355 *Government and Politics of the Middle East*

POLI 373 *International Conflict*

POLI 441 *Common Property Resources*

HIST 367 *America and the Middle East*

HIST 378 *The Arab World in the 20th Century, 1918—present*

RELI 356 *Major Issues in Contemporary Islam*