

# HEALTH POLICY, CERTIFICATE

The Certificate in Health Policy offered through the La Follette School of Public Affairs prepares undergraduate students to navigate and shape health policy in Wisconsin and in the United States. Coursework covers key concepts and contemporary issues relevant to work within the complex world of U.S. health policy. Courses also build familiarity with analytic methods and approaches used to foster evidence-based health policy, focusing especially on policy levers that influence health equity.

UW-Madison graduates occupy a wide range of professional roles in the health sector, such as health care providers, accountants, IT professionals, small business owners, researchers, human resources specialists, engineers, and advocates. Across these roles, a foundational understanding of health policy has emerged as a key professional competency. Recognizing that leaders in this realm must engage diverse perspectives to successfully address complex issues, required courses are designed to foster interdisciplinary discussion and analysis, and a fieldwork experience will deepen learning in a professional setting.

## HOW TO GET IN

To declare the Certificate in Health Policy through the La Follette School of Public Affairs, students must:

- Hold UW-Madison sophomore standing or above, and be in good academic standing, according to the rules of your school or college
- Have taken, are enrolled, or have registered for at least one class that meets certificate requirements

The La Follette School accepts Certificate in Health Policy applications from **May 1 - May 31** and **November 1 - November 30** each year. To apply for the Certificate:

- Review Certificate requirements so that you are familiar with the program
- Write a statement of interest that explains how you envision the Certificate in Health Policy applying to 1) context of your major program and 2) your future career
- Submit your application through the application portal, found on this page (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate-in-health-policy/>), in May or November
- Contact one of our Academic Advisors (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate-in-health-policy/#contact>) if you have questions

## REQUIREMENTS

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE

Students must complete a minimum of four courses, one from each area listed below, and a minimum of 12 total credits.

| Code  | Title   | Credits  |
|---|---|----------|
| <b>Introductory Course (complete one):</b>                                  |   | <b>3</b> |
| PUB AFFR 201  | Introduction to Health Policy in the United States                        |          |
| <b>Analytic Tools for Health Policy (complete one):</b>                     |   | <b>3</b> |
| PUB AFFR 242  | Foundations of Data Analysis for Health Policy                            |          |
| PUB AFFR 281  | Discovering What Works in Health Policy                                   |          |
| <b>Internship/Fieldwork Experience (complete one):</b>                      |   | <b>3</b> |
| PUB AFFR 327  | Administrative Internship   |          |
| INTL ST 322   | Washington DC Semester in International Affairs Internship Seminar        |          |
| LEGAL ST 473  | Health Impacts of Unmet Social Needs                                      |          |
| POLI SCI 402  | Wisconsin in Washington Internship Course                                 |          |
| <b>Policy Specialization (complete one course from any one area below):</b> |   | <b>3</b> |
| <i>Life Sciences Communication</i>  |   |          |
| LSC 251   | Science, Media and Society  |          |
| LSC/COM ARTS/ JOURN 617   | Health Communication in the Information Age                               |          |
| COM ARTS 318  | Introduction to Health Communication                                      |          |
| <i>Economics and Health</i>   |   |          |
| ECON/A A E/ ENVIR ST 343  | Environmental Economics   |          |
| A A E 352   | Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy                     |          |
| ECON/ POP HLTH/ PUB AFFR 548  | The Economics of Health Care  |          |
| ECON 448  | Human Resources and Economic Growth                                       |          |
| R M I/ECON 530  | Insuring Life's Risks: Health, Aging, and Policy                          |          |
| ACT SCI 655   | Health Analytics  |          |
| R M I 660   | Risk Analytics and Behavioral Science                                     |          |
| <i>Environment and Health</i>   |   |          |
| ENVIR ST/ POP HLTH 471  | Introduction to Environmental Health                                      |          |
| LAND ARC 321  | Environment and Behavior Studio - Designing Health Promoting Environments |          |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| AGRONOMY 377  | Global Food Production and Health   |
| ENVIR ST/<br>POP HLTH 502                                   | Air Pollution and Human Health  |
| <i>Social Policy, Human Services, Demography and Health</i> |   |
| AFROAMER/<br>HIST SCI 275                                   | Science, Medicine, and Race: A History  |
| ED POL/<br>CURRIC 677                                       | Education, Health and Sexuality: Global Perspectives and Policies                     |
| MED HIST/<br>HIST SCI/<br>HISTORY 507                       | Health, Disease and Healing I   |
| MED HIST/<br>HIST SCI/<br>HISTORY 508                       | Health, Disease and Healing II  |
| MED HIST/<br>HIST SCI/<br>HISTORY 564                       | Disease, Medicine and Public Health in the History of Latin America and the Caribbean |
| ANTHRO 265  | Introduction to Culture and Health  |
| GEN&WS 523  | Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health                                    |
| GEN&WS 538  | Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Health   |
| CHICLA/<br>COUN PSY 331                                     | Immigrant Health and Wellbeing  |
| GEN&WS/<br>INTL ST 535                                      | Women's Global Health and Human Rights  |
| GEN&WS 534  | Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives                       |
| PSYCH 525   | Cognition in Health and Society   |
| COUN PSY 531  | Prevention and Intervention in Mental Health Across the Lifespan                      |
| SOC WORK 206  | Introduction to Social Policy   |
| SOC WORK 420  | Poverty and Social Welfare  |
| SOC/<br>C&E SOC 343   | Sociology of Health and Medicine  |
| PSYCH 401   | Psychology, Law, and Social Policy  |
| SOC WORK/<br>SOC 422  | Social Issues in Aging  |
| HDFS/<br>CNSR SCI 465                                       | Families & Poverty  |
| PHILOS/<br>MED HIST 505                                     | Justice and Health Care   |
| PUB AFFR 520  | Inequality, Race and Public Policy  |
| PUB AFFR 523  | Policy, Privacy, and Personal Identity in the Postgenomics Era                        |
| AFROAMER/<br>HIST SCI/<br>MED HIST 523                      | Race, American Medicine and Public Health   |
| COUN PSY/<br>CHICLA 525                                     | Dimensions of Latin@ Mental Health Services   |
| PSYCH 526   | The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives                         |
| SOC 575   | Sociological Perspectives on the Life Course and Aging                                |
| SOC/AMER IND/<br>C&E SOC 578                                | Poverty and Place   |

SOC/ECON 663 Population and Society

#### *Medical Care Systems*

SOC/  
C&E SOC 532 Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society

I SY E 417 Health Systems Engineering

MED HIST/  
PHILOS 558 Ethical Issues in Health Care

DS 341 Design Thinking for Transformation

#### *Public Health*

HIST SCI/  
MED HIST 509 The Development of Public Health in America

NUTR SCI 540 Community Nutrition and Health Equity

SOC/  
C&E SOC 533 Public Health in Rural & Urban Communities

C&E SOC/  
SOC 532 Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society

MED HIST/  
PHILOS 515 Public Health Ethics

**Total Credits**

**12**

## RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- At least 6 certificate credits must be completed in residence.
- Minimum 2.000 GPA on all certificate courses.

## CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will demonstrate understanding of major underpinnings and challenges of contemporary U.S. health policy, and how to approach issues using a public policy lens.
2. Students will gain knowledge and demonstrate application of analytical and methodological tools used in the health sector (e.g., policy writing, analysis, familiarity with data used in health policy and clinical research, and quantitative and qualitative methods used in social policy).
3. Students will demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge regarding a substantive health policy interest of their choice, such as health care policy and innovation, social determinants of health, reproductive health policy, social policy, analysis of health behaviors, and others.
4. Students will gain applied experience in a setting relevant for navigating, interpreting, and contributing to effective health policy throughout their careers.

## ADVISING AND CAREERS

The La Follette School of Public Affairs welcomes you to reach out to our student services team. Here are some quick steps toward getting what

you need. Before getting in touch, be sure to check our web site (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate-in-health-policy/>). It is updated regularly and just may hold the answers you seek!

- If you're interested in **learning more about the Certificate or would like guidance as a current Certificate student**, contact Kelly Otto at [klotto@wisc.edu](mailto:klotto@wisc.edu)
- If you're unable to get in touch with Kelly, contact Mary Michaud at [mdmichaud@wisc.edu](mailto:mdmichaud@wisc.edu)
- If you're already a Certificate student, you can connect with Marie Koko, our Career Services Coordinator, about **careers and internships**: Send her an email at: [marie.koko@wisc.edu](mailto:marie.koko@wisc.edu)
- If you have a **technical question** about your DARS report, enrollment, or other things administrative, connect with David Wright-Racette at [wrightracette@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:wrightracette@lafollette.wisc.edu)
- If you're interested in learning more about La Follette's **graduate programs in public and international affairs**, or joint graduate degree programs (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/>) (e.g., MPH/MPA, JD/MPA, PhD/MPA in neuroscience), contact Mo O'Connor, our graduate advisor: [mcoconnor@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:mcoconnor@lafollette.wisc.edu)
- If you're an alumnus, parent, or student who is curious about **how to get involved or contribute to the mission of the La Follette School**, please contact Associate Director Steve Kulig: [skulig@lafollette.wisc.edu](mailto:skulig@lafollette.wisc.edu)

## People

Please take a few minutes to review La Follette School's list of faculty in Public Affairs (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/about/faculty-and-staff/>) and our research and work in health policy (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/research/health-and-aging/>).

### Staff contact information

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## Careers

Health policy issues affect every resident and community in the United States. Because of its complexity, people working in the health sector benefit from understanding specific terminology, issues, and systems involved in policymaking. Through the Certificate in Health Policy, students will build the knowledge base for this work while also gaining skills in quantitative analysis, communication, writing, critical thinking, and problem solving. More and more, employers across the health sector value this combination of skills and insights.

Students interested in health care, advocacy, business, or research will earn a credential highlighting highly sought-after skills that, through the fieldwork component of the certificate, they have applied in the context of real-world practice. Focused on evidence-based health policy and practice, courses help students hone skills to gather data and information from a variety of sources, analyze and synthesize the findings, and communicate key insights using clear, concise communication strategies.

Career development is an integral part of the La Follette School experience, with staff members and alumni eager to support and mentor students with diverse interests. Students benefit from networking opportunities, employer visits, professional development seminars, and other services.

## L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
  - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
  - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
  - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students

- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)

## WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

**Empathy and humility.** The effects of health policy reach into every corner of life, including access to health care and the rising costs of health benefits. To address complex issues, students in health policy learn to value and engage diverse perspectives and question their own biases and assumptions.

**Relentless curiosity.** Like peeling an onion, the study of health policy invites learners to uncover layers of data and history to explore root causes of poor health outcomes. Why does a person's zip code predict so much about their health outcomes? Why is U.S. health insurance largely tied to a person's employment status? What drives the high cost of health care, and what are options for reform? For those with an insatiable curiosity, health policy offers endless discoveries and an ever-changing landscape.

**Intellectual confidence.** In many cases, great leadership emerges when leaders themselves have the confidence to say "I don't know." Public policy studies include deep analysis of the stakeholders in systems, the relationships among those actors, and the incentives that drive behavior. Because of this, students learn to define problems in new ways, ask better questions, and use data to drive insight.

**Purposeful action.** Health policy has broad implications for the distribution of resources across the public and private sectors. As we learn more about addressing the "upstream" factors that influence health, students gain insights about how to build more prevention-oriented health policy.