

# PUBLIC POLICY, CERTIFICATE

UW–Madison’s Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy complements existing majors across campus and extends the La Follette School of Public Affairs’ mission to training and mentoring the next generation of leaders in their careers and communities.

The certificate program allows undergraduate students to apply a policy perspective to their major course of study and bolsters their skills for success in the workforce or in their graduate school coursework. Students build a strong foundation for careers in government, nonprofit organizations, or the private sector.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy is ideal for students seeking careers related to key domestic and international issues such as criminal justice, education, energy, environmental studies, finance, transportation, and poverty. It also prepares students to be engaged citizens, ready to use their talents to improve the world around them.

## HOW TO GET IN

To declare the Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy, students must:

- Hold UW-Madison sophomore standing or above
- Meet their school or college criteria for good academic standing
- Have taken, are enrolled, or have registered for at least one class that meets certificate requirements

The La Follette School accepts Certificate 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 Public 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-public-policy/>), in May or November
- Contact one of our Academic Advisors (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate-in-public-policy/#contact>) if you have questions

## REQUIREMENTS

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Introductory Course: 1 course required</b>		<b>3</b>
PUB AFFR 200	Contemporary Public Policy Issues	
<b>Analytical Tools for Policy Design, Implementation, and Evaluation: 1 course required</b>		<b>3</b>
PUB AFFR 240	Evidence-Based Policy Making	

PUB AFFR 380 Analytic Tools for Public Policy

**Policy Specialization: 1 course from any of these areas 3**

*Social Policy, Inequality & Poverty*

PUB AFFR 520 Inequality, Race and Public Policy

A A E/  
INTL ST 373 Globalization, Poverty and  
Development

ECON 370 Economics of Poverty and Inequality

ECON/REAL EST/  
URB R PL 420 Urban and Regional Economics

ECON 455 Behavioral Economics

POLI SCI 272 Introduction to Public Policy

PSYCH 401 Psychology, Law, and Social Policy

SOC WORK 206 Introduction to Social Policy

SOC WORK 420 Poverty and Social Welfare

*Public Management*

PUB AFFR 278 Public Leadership

PUB AFFR 285 Strategic Public Management

PUB AFFR/  
POLI SCI 419 Administrative Law

L I S 661 Information Ethics and Policy

FRENCH/  
INTL BUS 314 Contemporary Issues in  
Government, Organizations, and  
Enterprise

POLI SCI 405 State Government and Public Policy

*Health Policy*

PUB AFFR 523 Policy, Privacy, and Personal Identity  
in the Postgenomics Era

A A E 352 Global Health: Economics, Natural  
Systems, and Policy

NURSING 444 Health Systems, Policy, Economics,  
and Research

ECON/  
POP HLTH/  
PUB AFFR 548 The Economics of Health Care

R M I/ECON 530 Insuring Life's Risks: Health, Aging,  
and Policy

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

*Environmental Policy*

PUB AFFR 366 U.S. Environmental Politics and  
Public Policy

A A E 246 Climate Change Economics and  
Policy

A A E/ECON 371 Energy, Resources and Economics

A A E/ECON/  
F&W ECOL 531 Natural Resource Economics

AGRONOMY/  
DY SCI 471 Food Production Systems and  
Sustainability

CBE 512 Energy Technologies and  
Sustainability

CIV ENGR/  
G L E 421 Environmental Sustainability  
Engineering

ENVIR ST/  
ENGL 305 Rhetoric, Science, and Public  
Engagement

ENVIR ST 349	Climate Change Governance
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 439	US Environmental Policy and Regulation
ENVIR ST/ ECON/POLI SCI/ URB R PL 449	Government and Natural Resources
ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL 515	Natural Resources Policy
<i>Education Policy</i>	
ED POL 145	Introduction to Education Policy
ED POL 200	Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality in American Education
ED POL 237	Wealth, Poverty and Inequality: Transnational Perspectives on Policy and Practice in Education
ED POL 320	Climate Change, Sustainability, and Education
ED POL 510	Urban School Policy
ED POL 518	Introduction to Debates in Higher Education Policy
ED POL/ ELPA 542	Law and Public Education
ED POL 300	School and Society
ED POL/ GEN&WS 560	Gender and Education
ED POL 575	Education Policy and Practice
<i>Family Policy</i>	
CNSR SCI 575	Family Economics and Public Policy
CNSR SCI 579	Consumer Policy Analysis
HDFS 535	A Family Perspective in Policymaking
<i>International Policy</i>	
PUB AFFR 270	The Private and Public Sectors in Policymaking
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy
ECON 435	The Financial System
ECON/A A E 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas
ECON 661	Issues in International Macroeconomics
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East
HISTORY 434	American Foreign Relations, 1901 to the Present
INTL BUS/ FRENCH 314	Contemporary Issues in Government, Organizations, and Enterprise
POLI SCI 324	Chinese Politics
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy
POLI SCI 343	Theories of International Security
POLI SCI 359	American Foreign Policy
<b>Fieldwork and Internship: 1 course required</b>	
PUB AFFR 327	Administrative Internship

POLI SCI 315	Legislative Internship
INTL ST 322	Washington DC Semester in International Affairs Internship Seminar
POLI SCI 402	Wisconsin in Washington Internship Course

**Total Credits****12****RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK**

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

1

Courses taken Pass/Fail do not meet certificate requirements or calculate in the GPA.

**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 current and past public policy debates, and how to approach questions and research with a public policy lens.
2. Students will gain knowledge and demonstrate application of methodological tools utilized in the public policy arena (e.g., policy memo writing, policy analysis, experience working with administrative data, program evaluation, cost-benefit analysis, performance management).
3. Students will demonstrate understanding and application of knowledge regarding the substantive policy area of interest of their choice (e.g., education, health, social, environmental, science).
4. Students will gain practical professional experience in a public policy work setting.

**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 visit our Certificate in Public Policy webpage (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate-in-public-policy/>) as many questions you may have may be answered there. 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, 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)

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## SKILLS & CAREERS

Given the increasing complexity in every realm of public policy, students in the public policy certificate program gain skills in quantitative analysis, communication, writing, critical thinking, and problem solving that are in demand by more and more employers in almost every sector.

The certificate program focuses on evidence-based practices and provides students with the skills to gather data and information from various sources, analyze and synthesize the findings, and write a clear and concise report to illustrate the main points.

With the focus on evidence-based practices, the public policy certificate program provides research and data analysis skills that are transferrable to nearly any occupation. Students maximize their electives and earn a

credential that highlights these highly sought-after skills in the context of real-world practice.

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/>)

## PEOPLE

### FACULTY

The undergraduate certificate in public policy gives students access to the La Follette School's award-winning faculty members (<https://lafollette.wisc.edu/faculty-staff/>). These interdisciplinary faculty have expertise in social policy, health policy and management, public management, policy analysis, environmental policy, poverty, and government finance.