

PUBLIC POLICY

Graduate Program Head	Lilliard Richardson
Program Code	PPOL
Campus(es)	University Park (M.P.P.)
Degrees Conferred	Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) Integrated B.S. in Criminology and M.P.P. in Public Policy Integrated B.S. in Sociology and M.P.P. in Public Policy
The Graduate Faculty	View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/index.cfm?searchType=facprog=PPOL)

The Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) degree program is designed to provide professional training in public policy for those seeking careers in the design, adoption, implementation, and evaluation of public policies. The professional careers students should be prepared for include the full range of careers for which public policy expertise would be valued: national, state, and local government agencies, think tanks and consulting firms, non-profit organizations, and lobby firms and private sector organizations engaged in public affairs representation. The core of the M.P.P. degree curriculum will provide students with a strong knowledge base relevant to public policy rooted in the social science disciplines of economics, political science, sociology, and industrial psychology housed in the College of the Liberal Arts along with training in quantitative policy analysis and evaluation. And through its specialization course requirements, it will provide students with public policy relevant training across a wide spectrum of substantive public policy areas drawing on expertise found on the University Park campus. Students will work closely with faculty to design a specialization curriculum around their core course work.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies>).

All applicants will submit GRE scores, résumé or curriculum vitae, two letters of recommendation, and a personal statement addressing their reasons for pursuing a graduate degree in public policy and discussing their plans and goals.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students>) for more information.

English proficiency test scores must meet or exceed the minimum acceptable scores listed in GCAC-305. Applicants with a score of 19 or higher on the speaking section of the TOEFL Internet-based test will be considered for admission, though a score of 23 or higher is desirable. The minimum IELTS score required for admission is 7.0 (overall, and in each of the subsections).

Admissions will be based on a review of all submitted materials and spaces will be offered to the best qualified applicants, taking into account academic achievement, relevant work experience and other indices of aptitude for advanced study in public policy.

Degree Requirements

Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies>).

A minimum of 49 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level, with at least 18 credits at the 500 or 800 level and a minimum of 6 credits at the 500 level, is required. More specifically, the program requires 24 credits in 8 core courses that are designed to establish a base of knowledge in key subject areas reflecting the statistical skills and the disciplinary foundations from economics, political science, and organizational theory and management needed for successful careers in public policy. Three additional courses in the core (9 credits) of the M.P.P. curriculum focus specifically on the practice of conducting prospective and retrospective public policy analyses.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
PPOL 801	The Public Policy Process	3
PPOL 802	Economic Analysis for Public Policy	3
PPOL 503	Statistics for Public Policy I	3
PPOL 804	Public Sector Organization Theory	3
PPOL 805	Bureaucracy and the Policy Process	3
PPOL 506	Statistics for Public Policy II	3
PPOL 807	Managing Public Organizations	3
PPOL 808	Public Finance and Budgeting	3
PPOL 809	Public Policy Analysis	3
PPOL 810	Policy and Program Evaluation	3
PPOL 811	Project Design and Methods	3
Specialization		
	An additional four courses (12 credits) are required in the student's field of public policy specialization. These courses will be selected by students with approval from by M.P.P. program and may be at the 400, 500, or 800 level. Students may count up to 12 credits in the fields of specialization from 400-level courses.	12
Internship		
PPOL 895	Public Policy Internship ¹	1
Culminating Experience		
PPOL 894	Capstone Experience (Capstone Project)	3
Total Credits		49

¹ In addition to completing the core curriculum and the specialization curriculum, students are required to take a summer internship (PPOL 895, 1 credit), as approved by the M.P.P. program, between their two years of on-campus study. The internship placement should be of sufficient depth and professionalism that would allow the student to experience the integration of their curricular studies in an actual public policy professional environment. Successful completion of the internship will require an evaluation by the supervisor and a reflective paper.

In addition to these degree requirements, students must complete a capstone project as their master's culminating experience. This entails completing both the Project Design and Methods class (PPOL 811, 3 credits and one of the 11 core courses listed above) and the capstone project requirement (PPOL 894, 3 credits). The capstone project will involve integrating and showing mastery of the subject matter of the student's public policy specialization via conducting original research using prospective public policy analysis or retrospective program/policy evaluation. Successful defense of the capstone project will entail its presentation at an annual capstone conference sponsored by the M.P.P. program.

Integrated Undergrad-Grad Programs

Integrated B.S. in Criminology and M.P.P. in Public Policy

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-210 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Programs (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-210-integrated-undergraduate-graduate-degree-programs>).

This Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate program (IUG) provides an opportunity for academically strong students to complete a bachelor of science degree in Criminology and a master's degree in Public Policy in the course of approximately five years of study. The Public Policy curriculum and Criminology curriculum cover require similar technical and analytic skills and provide complementary substantive knowledge – criminal justice is an important area of policy making from a public policy standpoint and it is critical to understand the policy process to understand the structure and impacts of criminal justice policies.

Students in the M.P.P. are required to complete an elective specialization of four courses. Students in the Criminology-M.P.P. IUG will take two 400 and two 500 level courses in their fourth year of study that will double count for both the Criminology B.S. and M.P.P. The students' IUG specific program of study will be structured on an individual basis giving IUG students a range of program options from the menu of course selections summarized below.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies>).

Qualified students can apply formally during the semester in which they will complete 60 credits, typically the spring semester of their sophomore year. Consistent with general guidelines, students shall be admitted to an IUG program no earlier than the beginning of the third semester of undergraduate study at Penn State (regardless of transfer or AP credits accumulated prior to enrollment). It is recommended that students apply for admission to the IUG program before completing 90 credits, or in the last semester of their junior year, but consistent with general IUG guidelines, students can apply as late as the end of the second week of the semester preceding the semester of expected conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Admission is selective based on criteria established by the leadership of the Public Policy program and Criminology program. Though exceptions are possible, student applicants will generally have a minimum overall GPA of 3.4 in their major, and a minimum 3.4 GPA overall at the time of application (on a 4.0 scale). Students are admitted to the IUG based on

good progress in their major, success in statistics and data analysis courses (evidenced by minimum 3.0 GPA in undergraduate data analysis and statistics courses), faculty recommendations (two letters), GPA, and a 2-page statement of purpose explaining why they want to participate in this program and why they are qualified to do so. Students must apply to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply>), and must meet all the admission requirements of the Graduate School and the Public Policy graduate program for the Master of Public Policy degree. GRE scores are not required for IUG applicants.

In consultation with an adviser, students must prepare a plan of study appropriate to this integrated program, and must present their plan of study in person to the head of the graduate program or the appropriate committee overseeing the integrated program prior to being admitted to the program. The plan should cover the entire time period of the integrated program, and it should be reviewed periodically with an adviser as the student advances through the program.

Advising

Students admitted to the program are advised by co-advisers, one from each participating unit. Each student will have a primary adviser in Public Policy who will work with the student and the co-adviser in Criminology to ensure successful completion of the degree. The co-advisers will help the student prepare the initial plan of study, and assist in making changes and approving the student's plan of study each semester during the advising period.

Sequence of Courses

During the first three years of study students will follow the basic course sequence provided for by the existing B.S. plan in Criminology. In the fourth year of study they will take four courses that will count both toward the B.S. in Criminology and the master's in Public Policy four course specialization in criminal justice policy. At least two of these courses will be at the 500 level. Students who wish to graduate in 5 years will also take additional M.P.P. courses in their fourth year beyond this two, but these credits will count only toward the M.P.P. degree.

Plan of Study

Prior to admission to the program, and in consultation with their Criminology and Public Policy advisers, students must prepare a detailed plan of study for years 4 and 5 of the program. The plan is periodically reviewed by the student and advisers, and revised as necessary. Most students will complete all requirements for the B.S. in Criminology and complete some graduate level M.P.P. requirements in the first four years, and take only M.P.P. courses in year 5.

Degree Requirements

Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the B.S. in Criminology are listed in the Undergraduate Bulletin (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate>). Degree requirements for the M.P.P. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. Up to 12 credits may be double-counted towards the degree requirements for both the graduate and undergraduate degrees; a minimum of 50% of the double-counted courses must be at the 500 or 800 level. Credits associated with the culminating experience for the graduate degree cannot be double-counted. The courses that are eligible to double count for both degrees are:

Code	Title	Credits
Courses Eligible to Double Count for Both Degrees		
CRIM 424	Drugs, Crime, and Society	3

CRIM 430	American Correctional System	3
CRIM 433	Sentencing	3
CRIM 435	Policing in America	3
CRIM 490	Crime Policy	3
CRIM 501	Criminal Justice Organizations and Institutions	3
CRIM 512	Criminological Theories	3
CRIM 597	Special Topics	1-9

Students must sequence their courses so all undergraduate degree requirements are fulfilled before taking courses to count towards the graduate degree. If students accepted into the IUG program are unable to complete the M.P.P. degree, they are still eligible to receive their undergraduate degree if all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfied.

Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Program B.S. in Sociology and Masters of Public Policy

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-210 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Programs (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-210-integrated-undergraduate-graduate-degree-programs>).

This Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate program (IUG) provides an opportunity for academically strong students to complete a bachelor of science degree in Sociology and a master's degree in Public Policy in the course of approximately five years of study. The Public Policy curriculum and Sociology curriculum cover similar technical and analytic skills and provide complementary substantive knowledge – criminal justice is an important area of policy making from a public policy standpoint and it is critical to understand the policy process to understand the structure and impacts of criminal justice policies.

Students in the M.P.P. are required to complete an elective specialization of four courses. Students in the Sociology-M.P.P. IUG will take four courses in their fourth year of study that will double count for both the Sociology B.S. and M.P.P. The students' IUG specific program of study will be structured on an individual basis giving IUG students a range of program options from the menu of course selections summarized below.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies>).

Qualified students can apply formally during the semester in which they will complete 60 credits, typically the spring semester of their sophomore year. Consistent with general guidelines, students shall be admitted to an IUG program no earlier than the beginning of the third semester of undergraduate study at Penn State (regardless of transfer or AP credits accumulated prior to enrollment). It is recommended that students apply for admission to the IUG program before completing 90 credits, or in the last semester of their junior year, but consistent with general IUG guidelines, students can apply as late as the end of the second week of the semester preceding the semester of expected conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Admission is selective based on criteria established by the leadership of the Public Policy program and Sociology program. Though exceptions are possible, student applicants will generally have a minimum overall GPA of 3.4 in their major, and a minimum 3.4 GPA overall at the time of

application (on a 4.0 scale). Students are admitted to the IUG based on good progress in their major, success in statistics and data analysis courses (evidenced by minimum 3.0 GPA in undergraduate data analysis and statistics courses), faculty recommendations (two letters), GPA, and a 2-page statement of purpose explaining why they want to participate in this program and why they are qualified to do so. Students must apply to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply>), and must meet all the admission requirements of the Graduate School and the Public Policy graduate program for the Master of Public Policy degree. GRE scores are not required for IUG applicants.

In consultation with an adviser, students must prepare a plan of study appropriate to this integrated program, and must present their plan of study in person to the head of the graduate program or the appropriate committee overseeing the integrated program prior to being admitted to the program. The plan should cover the entire time period of the integrated program, and it should be reviewed periodically with an adviser as the student advances through the program.

Advising

Students admitted to the program are advised by co-advisers, one from each participating unit. Each student will have a primary adviser in Public Policy who will work with the student and the co-adviser in Sociology to ensure successful completion of the degree. The co-advisers will help the student prepare the initial plan of study, and assist in making changes and approving the student's plan of study each semester during the advising period.

Sequence of Courses

During the first three years of study students will follow the basic course sequence provided for by the existing B.S. plan in Sociology. In the fourth year of study they will take four courses that will count both toward the B.S. in Sociology and the master's in Public Policy. At least two of these courses will be at the 500 level. Specifically, 2 of the 400 level sociology courses will count toward the M.P.P. and 2 800-level M.P.P. courses will count toward the Sociology B.S. "other social science" credit requirements. Students who wish to graduate in 5 years will also take additional M.P.P. courses in their fourth year beyond this two, but these credits will count only toward the M.P.P. degree.

Plan of Study

Prior to admission to the program, and in consultation with their Sociology and Public Policy advisers, students must prepare a detailed plan of study for years 4 and 5 of the program. The plan is periodically reviewed by the student and advisers, and revised as necessary. Most students will complete all requirements for the B.S. in Sociology and complete some graduate level M.P.P. requirements in the first four years, and take only M.P.P. courses in year 5. However, the IUG is flexible enough to accommodate alternate scheduling and the completion of some undergraduate coursework during the fifth year.

Degree Requirements

Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the B.S. in Sociology are listed in the Undergraduate Bulletin (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate>). Degree requirements for the M.P.P. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. Up to 12 credits may be double-counted towards the degree requirements for both the graduate and undergraduate degrees; a minimum of 50% of the double-counted courses must be at the 500 or 800 level. Credits associated with the culminating experience for the

graduate degree cannot be double-counted. The courses that are eligible to double count for both degrees are:

Code	Title	Credits
Courses Eligible to Double Count for Both Degrees		
SOC 400	Senior Research Seminar	3
SOC 405	Sociological Theory	3
SOC 423	Social Demography	3
SOC 440	Family Policy	3
SOC 526	Health Disparities	3
SOC 532	Global Health and Mortality	3
SOC 530	Sociology of Family	3

Students must sequence their courses so all undergraduate degree requirements are fulfilled before taking courses to count towards the graduate degree. If students accepted into the IUG program are unable to complete the M.P.P. degree, they are still eligible to receive their undergraduate degree if all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfied.

Student Aid

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding>) section of The Graduate School's website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-900/gsad-901-graduate-assistants>) set by The Graduate School.

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Public Policy Analysis (PPOL) Course List (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/ppol>)

Contact

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