

**PUBLIC POLICY, B.S.**

*Begin Campus:* Any Penn State Campus  
*End Campus:* Harrisburg

**Program Description**

The Public Policy major is designed for students interested in policy issues, politics, public administration, and related areas like policy analysis and policy advocacy. The program explores a myriad of critical issues facing our communities, the nation, and the world. Students receive the educational foundation for careers in the public sector, in government-related businesses, and in non-profit organizations, as well as for graduate work in the fields of law, public administration, criminal justice, public policy, political science, and health care administration. Building on the program core, students may choose electives from a broad array of courses in public policy and other areas. Students may wish but are not required to pursue a concentration within the Public Policy major. The following concentrations are available:

1. U.S. Public Policy  
2. Law and Justice  
3. International Policy

Students should consult their adviser for a complete listing of courses in each of these concentrations. Overall, the Public Policy program seeks to advance the ideals of an active, informed citizenry and a commitment to public service.

Our proximity to the state capital at Harrisburg provides students with a rich environment for both study and for internships. In addition to our full-time faculty, Public Policy draws on part-time faculty with particular professional strengths. In recent years students have explored politics and political issues in classes taught by a state senator, a former lieutenant governor, a corrections system administrator, and a governor's press secretary. This integration of academic study with the "real world" of Pennsylvania politics and policy making is further enhanced through quality internships. The Public Policy program prides itself in placing qualified students in internships that facilitate the development of professional skills and promote the prospects for professional employment following graduation. Internship options include the Harrisburg Semester Public Service Leadership Internships (PSLI). (For more information, see www.hbg.psu.edu/hbg/hburgsem.) Students are encouraged to complete an internship during their senior year. Additional information regarding internships may be obtained by contacting the Public Policy Internship Coordinator.

**What is Public Policy?**

Public Policy is a discipline that focuses on the systematic analysis of public policy issues and decision processes. It includes study in the role of economic and political factors in public decision-making and policy formulation, microeconomic analysis of policy issues, resource allocation and decision modeling, and policy advocacy.

**You Might Like This Program If...**

- You have an interest in fostering positive policy change.
- You are concerned about critical issues facing your community or nation.  
- You would enjoy working with others to solve these critical issues.

- You are interested in a career in government or with an NGO or non-profit.

**Entrance to Major**

Entry to the Public Policy major requires a 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average and an average of C (2.00) or better in any course already taken in the major.

**Admission Requirements for Transfer Students**

Transfer students must have a 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average. The evaluation of prior college work is done on an individual basis by the Office of Enrollment Services at Penn State Harrisburg.

**Degree Requirements**

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Public Policy, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>65</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 6 credits of General Education GS courses.

**General Education**

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

**Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)**

- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits  
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

**Knowledge Domains**

- Arts (GA): 6 credits  
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits  
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits  
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits  
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

**Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)**

- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits
University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
At least 15 credits must be at the 400 level.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

Code Title Credits
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Prescribed Courses
ECON 102 Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy 3
ECON 104 Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy 3
PLSC 1 American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers 3
PLSC 309 Quantitative Political Analysis 3
PUBPL 304 Public Policy Analysis 3

Additional Courses
Select 9 credits from the following:

PLSC 300-499
PUBPL 241 Computer Applications in Public Affairs/Criminal Justice
PUBPL 300-499

Select 6 credits of the following:

PLSC 419 The Bureaucratic State
PLSC 425 Government and Politics of the American States
PLSC 444 Government and the Economy
PLSC 488 Comparative Public Policy
PLSC 489 Public Administration
PUBPL 305 Leadership Studies

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 12 credits of the following:

ACCTG 200-499
AFRAS 300-499
AMST 300-499
BESC 300-499
COMMS 300-499
CRIMJ 300-499
ECON 300-499
ENVE 460 Environmental Law
FIN 300-499
HIST 300-499
MGMT 300-499
MKTG 300-499
SCLSC 300-499
SOC 300-499
SOSC 300-499
SRA 211 Threat of Terrorism and Crime
WMNST 300-499

Select 20 credits in consultation with an academic adviser and in support of the student's interests

Program Learning Objectives

1. Understand Political Processes and Government Operations at National, State & Local Levels
   a. Understand Constitutional Foundations, Institutions & Political Processes in the U.S.
   b. Understand Role of States in Federal System and Local Governments within States
   c. Understand Operation of Government Agencies

2. Understand and Analyze Policy Creation Process, Policy Implementation & Policy Impact
a. Understand Roles of Legislatures, Agencies & Interest Groups in Policy Formation
b. Attain Familiarity with Selected Public Policies and Their Impact
c. Acquire Ability to Analyze Critically the Content and Impact of Public Policies

3. Be Prepared to Function in Policy-Related Careers in Government and NGOs
   a. Ability to Write Clearly and Concisely
   b. Ability to Communicate Effectively Using Oral Skills and Technology
   c. Knowledge of Leadership Qualities and Strategies
   d. Ability to Function Successfully in Policy-Related Work Environments
   e. Ability to Understand Research Methods and Use Statistics
   f. Knowledge of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

Harrisburg
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Suggested Academic Plan
The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2019-20 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Harrisburg Campus
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

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<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<td>CAS 100‡</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>16.5</td>
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<td>Third Year</td>
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<td>13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 119

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
‡ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement
Select from Supporting Courses and Related Areas:
ACCTG 200-400, AFRAS 300-499, BESC 300-499, COMMS 300-499,
CRIMJ 300-499, ECON 300-499, ENVE 460, FIN 300-400, HIST
300-499, MGMT 300-400, MKTG 300-400, SCLSC 300-499, SOSC
300-400, SOC 300-499, SRA 211, WMNST 300-499

University Requirements and General Education Notes:
US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy
University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to
designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum
requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify
General Education program courses. General Education includes
Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH,
GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require
a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education
program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate
an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number
used to designate a Linked course.

Program Notes
• Students must complete at least 15 credits of 400-level courses
• Concurrent majors in Political Science and Public Policy are not
permitted.
• Students must complete a 3-credit course in "United States Cultures
(US)" and a 3-credit course in "International Cultures (IL)."

Career Paths
Our proximity to the state capital in Harrisburg provides students with
a rich environment. In addition to our full-time faculty, public policy
draws on part-time faculty with particular professional expertise and
strengths. In recent years, students have explored politics and political
issues in classes taught by a state senator, a former lieutenant governor,
a corrections system administrator, and a governor's press secretary. This
integration of academic study with the practice of Pennsylvania politics
and policy making is further enhanced through quality internships that
enhance learning outcomes by immersing students in a credit-earning,
real-world experience.

Careers
The Public Policy major is designed for students interested in policy
issues, politics, public administration, and related areas like policy
analysis and policy advocacy. Students in the Public Policy major
receive the educational foundation for careers in the public sector, in
government-related businesses, and in non-profit organizations.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies
The Public Policy program also provides a strong background
for graduate education, including Penn State's Master of Public
Administration, Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security,