

EDUCATION POLICY STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

This minor is designed to introduce students to the fundamental tenets of education policy development and analysis in both the U.S. and other countries. Students pursuing the minor may choose from courses on educational policy in the areas of higher education, educational administration, educational theory and policy, Native American education leadership and comparative/international education. The minor consists of a multidisciplinary program of study in areas of education related to numerous policy issues including social sciences, history, management sciences, and/or humanities. It is anticipated that students completing the minor will find these studies can enrich any major degree program and potentially provide opportunities for employment and/or graduate studies in state departments of education, ministries of education, federal and international education agencies, academic institutions, and various professional associations.

This 18-credit minor may be combined with any undergraduate major at Penn State.

What is Education Policy Studies?

“Education Policy Studies” is a phrase that refers to a broad range of academic interests and explorations into systems of schooling. The minor is most closely related to our major in Education and Public Policy (B.S.), a multidisciplinary program that critically evaluates how society fosters equity and excellence through education. Courses explore the deep cultural meanings of concepts such as democracy and citizenship, and our faculty encourage active problem-solving skills by using real world examples of government-initiated policies and programs. Through readings, case studies and conversations with your peers, you will uncover the practical effects that policies have on students, teachers, school leaders, families, and the community as a whole. You will also have the opportunity to identify education policies and practices that matter to you and consider various strategies that could be effective in solving emerging problems.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are majoring in a related field, such as sociology, political science, philosophy, or history.
- You are majoring in an unrelated field but are interested in learning how the educational system works and why school reform can be so challenging.
- You want to demonstrate to potential employers that you have considered the practical implications of your major.
- You want to make a difference in the world, but becoming a teacher does not appeal to you.