

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC POLICY, B.S.

Begin Campus: Altoona, Erie, Berks, Beaver, Harrisburg, Brandywine, DuBois, Hazleton, Mont Alto, Greater Allegheny, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Shenango, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, York, Lehigh Valley, Fayette, Abington

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The Education and Public Policy major (EPP) offers an interdisciplinary program for students who want to make a difference in society by building democratic participation and improving civic capacity in and through educational institutions and communities. Students interested in politics and government, social reform and organizing, higher education, educational technology, museums and other non-traditional learning spaces, and equity can find meaningful pathways in EPP.

The EPP major prepares students to work in political and economic global systems for the betterment of a diverse and democratic society. EPP students become discerning research consumers and policy analysts working toward socially just reforms in the education space and beyond. The EPP major blends core courses in educational policy with courses in sociology, political science, economics, business, race and class, and research methods. Elective courses within the major include policy problems, public systems, leadership, ethics, diversity, equality, and equity. In addition to academic studies, the EPP major includes a semester field experience culminating in a real-world, meaningful research project. Opportunities for internships include organizations in State College, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Graduates of the EPP program will enter professional careers in educational organizations, government, community development, think tanks, educational technology and start-ups, business, law, public service, non-profits, consulting, and teaching.

What is Education and Public Policy?

Education and Public Policy is 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 interested in education and want to make a difference in the world.
- You want to study the big questions related to education and society, such as “how can we improve schools?” “what causes inequality?” and “how do policies impact students and teachers?”
- You want the benefits of a small program situated within a large university.

- You want to pursue a career with policy-related non-profits in public service, government, law, or research.