

PUBLIC POLICY AND LEADERSHIP ACROSS SECTORS, 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

The Public Policy and Leadership Across Sectors (PPLAS) minor is appropriate for anyone interested in contemporary public policy, but it has been designed with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and business majors in mind. The minor introduces you to the practice of policy analysis, the process of policymaking and the values of public service. You will develop skills for effective cross-sectoral collaboration in the making and implementation of public policies.

Recognizing the multi-sector future of public policy is what drives the PPLAS curriculum. Popular courses in STEM and business fields provide pathways into the minor. Two required courses on policy analysis and leadership provide core skills for understanding and shaping public policies. Additional courses challenge you to apply those core skills to a variety of vexing policy problems and round out your preparation for inter-sectoral work. Whether you enter public service at the start, middle, or end of your career, the PPLAS minor provides you with an understanding of why that service is important to our society and how to approach it.

The program is a part of the Next Generation Service Corps (NextGen) initiative supported by the Volcker Alliance. Enrolling in the minor gives you the opportunity to participate in NextGen program activities ranging from lectures by policy leaders to service-learning activities. You will also be able to participate in the activities of any NextGen partner institution. These activities are not strictly required, giving you maximum flexibility to use the NextGen program to fulfill your interests.

What is Public Policy and Leadership Across Sectors?

Public policy shapes the decisions that impact our communities, institutions, and daily lives. It forms the foundation for how governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations address complex social challenges. The Public Policy and Leadership Across Sectors minor provides students with the knowledge and skills to understand, analyze, and engage in policymaking and leadership across various sectors, including government, business, and civil society.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in how public policies shape society and want to understand the policymaking process.
- You want to develop leadership skills that apply across government, business, and nonprofit sectors.
- You are passionate about addressing social challenges through policy and advocacy.
- You enjoy problem-solving, critical thinking, and working with diverse stakeholders to create meaningful change.
- You aspire to a career in public service, law, nonprofit management, business strategy, international affairs, or related fields.

- You are considering graduate study in public policy, law, business, or a related field.

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PUBPL 304W	Public Policy Analysis	3
PUBPL 305	Leadership Studies	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
AFAM 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America	
PUBPL/SOC 419	Race and Public Policy	
PUBPL 471	Economic Inequality and Public Policy	
PUBPL 481	Seminar in Environmental Policy	
PUBPL 482	Seminar in Health Policy	
PUBPL 490	Seminar in Public Policy	
SOC 428	Homelessness in America	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
BIOET 401Q	Science, Ethics, Policy, and Law	
BLAW 341	Business Law I: Introduction to Contracts, Liability Issues, and Intellectual Property	
CED 155	Science, Technology and Public Policy	
CIVCM 211N	Foundations: Civic and Community Engagement	
EDLDR 480	Dynamics of Contemporary School Leadership	
EDSGN 100	Cornerstone Engineering Design	
FOR 480	Policy and Administration	
IST 110	Information, People and Technology	
IST 432	Legal and Regulatory Environment of Information Science and Technology	
LHR 201	Employment Relationship: Law and Policy	
METEO 133N	Ethics of Climate Change	
METEO 332N	Science and policy of global greenhouse gas emissions and management	
MGMT 320	Establishing Workforce Diversity and Inclusion	
MGMT 365	Social Entrepreneurship	
MKTG 442	Sustainable Behavior of Consumers, Firms, and Societies	
OLEAD 201	Organizational Theory and Functions for Leaders	
OLEAD 210	Evidence-Based Leadership	

OLEAD 409

OLEAD 464 Communication Skills for Leaders in Groups and Organizations

OLEAD 465 Collective Decision Making

PLSC 202 American Public Policy

PLSC 404 Analyzing Public Policy in the American States

PLSC 438 National Security Policies

PLSC 490 Policy Making and Evaluation

PUBPL 120N State, Society, and Public Policy

PUBPL 483 Seminar in National Security Policy

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 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (<https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

Career Paths

The Public Policy and Leadership Across Sectors minor equips students with the skills and knowledge to pursue careers in a wide range of fields that require an understanding of policy, leadership, and cross-sector collaboration. Graduates of this program are prepared to work in government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses, leveraging their policy expertise and leadership abilities to drive meaningful change.

Careers

Graduates with this minor may pursue careers in:

- Federal, local, and state government and legislatures as policy analysts, legislative aides, or public administrators
- Nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups as program managers, policy researchers, or community engagement specialists
- Private sector roles in corporate social responsibility (CSR), business strategy, consulting, or public/government affairs
- International organizations and think tanks focused on policy research and global governance

- Law and legal professions, including public interest law and regulatory affairs

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

This minor provides an excellent foundation for students interested in pursuing advanced degrees, including:

- Master of Public Policy (MPP) or Master of Public Administration (MPA) – for students seeking careers in policy analysis, program evaluation, or public service leadership
- Law School (JD) – for those interested in practicing law
- Master of Business Administration (MBA) – for careers in corporate strategy, social impact, or leadership roles in the private sector
- Master's or Ph.D. in Political Science, International Affairs, or Public Affairs – for students aiming for academic, research, or policy-focused careers
- Master's in Nonprofit Management or Social Entrepreneurship – for those interested in leading mission-driven organizations

Contact

University Park

SCHOOL of PUBLIC POLICY

501 Susan Welch Building

University Park, PA 16802

814-865-4856

publicpolicy@psu.edu<https://publicpolicy.psu.edu>