

# Public Policy

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**Richard and Rhoda Goldman School of Public Policy** (<http://gspp.berkeley.edu>)

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## Overview

The Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP) is one the nation's premier graduate institutions for education and research on the most pressing contemporary policy problems in American society and throughout the world. GSPP is an eclectic community of students, faculty, staff and visitors, all committed to the highest standards of policy analysis, intellectual rigor, and energetic policy debate.

GSPP was one of the first institutions in the United States established for the analysis and development of public policy. For almost four decades, it has been a leader in the teaching of methods of policy analysis using microeconomic, statistical, political, management, legal and information technology skills to help solve real-world problems.

The School is consciously multidisciplinary in its outlook and orientation. Its faculty is drawn from economics, political science, law, social psychology, demography, architecture, physics, and engineering. In addition, students can study with leading scholars in a variety of other disciplines and fields throughout the Berkeley campus.

Great emphasis is placed on team projects, on sharpening oral and written communication skills, and on creative thinking. Students have opportunities to work on policy problems for real clients and also to address scholarly and methodological issues in depth. The result is an exceptional learning experience, both inside and outside the classroom.

Our graduates have risen to leadership positions as policymakers, analysts, and managers at all levels of government, in the non-profit sector, in private institutions and in international organizations.

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## Undergraduate Courses

The undergraduate courses in public policy deal with the substance of public policy, how it is made, how its effects can be gauged, and what the purposes of policy should be. The courses consider both the policy process and particular policy issues. By examining different policy problems in their political and social contexts, students gain a greater sensitivity to the forces which shape and carry out public policies and to the impact of social, political, economic, and legal power.

Courses are designed for students in diverse disciplines and professional schools. There are no prerequisites for enrollment in the undergraduate courses unless specifically noted otherwise in the course descriptions. The training provided by the courses is useful to those interested in combining the substantive perspectives of the social sciences with the immediacy of contemporary problems; to those considering professional study; and to the informed and politically aware citizen.

## Undergraduate Minor in Public Policy

The undergraduate minor in public policy introduces students from other departments and colleges to the field and practice of policy analysis. The minimum requirements are five courses in public policy, at least three of which must be upper division. All classes must be taken at the School of Public Policy or from the approved list of courses outside of the School.

PP 101 is required of all students in the minor. Students must achieve at least a C average (2.0) in the five courses. When students complete the minor, the school notifies the Office of the Registrar. Completion of the minor will be noted on the students' transcripts of Berkeley work.

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## Graduate Programs

### Graduate Courses

Through an examination of domestic and international policy areas, graduate courses enable students to conduct systematic work in the design and assessment of public policies. Among the skills emphasized are those facilitating the application of political, organizational, economic, quantitative, and legal analysis to the full range of the policy process—from policy initiation through policy adoption, implementation, and evaluation. By developing these skills, students should find their strengthened analytical capabilities of direct use when applied to their own field of concentration.

### Master in Public Policy

The MPP degree is earned in a two-year, full-time program consisting of a core curriculum, a policy internship in the summer after completion of the first year, a second-year policy analysis project, and elective courses chosen from those available on the campus and at GSPP. The program emphasizes practical and applied dimensions of policy-making and implementation, encouraging students to develop skills in:

- Defining policy issues to make them more intelligible to officials in the public, private or non-profit sector;
- Providing a broader perspective for assessing policy alternatives;
- Examining techniques for developing policy options and evaluating their social consequences; and
- Developing strategies for the successful implementation of public policies once they have been adopted.

Given the relatively small class size, the School's approach to teaching emphasizes teamwork, cooperation, and interaction among students and with the faculty. Students work, either as individuals or in small groups, on real policy problems for real clients under close faculty supervision.

### Coordinated Degree Programs with Other Berkeley Colleges and Schools

The MPP may be earned in combination with an advanced degree from only the following Berkeley schools and colleges under a coordinated program:

- MPP/JD with the UC Berkeley School of Law;
- MPP/MPH in health policy and administration with the School of Public Health;
- MPP/MA in international and area studies with the College of Letters and Science; or
- MPP/MS with the College of Engineering

## PhD in Public Policy

GSPP offers a doctoral degree program for students who seek careers in policy research with universities or research institutes. Usually only three or four PhD applicants are admitted each year, including those admitted from the School's MPP students. Non-GSPP applicants who seek a policy research career and have completed graduate work in public policy comparable to our MPP are also eligible for admission consideration.

The PhD program emphasizes the generation of knowledge, theories, methodologies, and applications appropriate to the advancement of public policy analysis and management. Doctoral students pursue highly individualized programs of study and typically work closely with school faculty members who share the student's subject matter interest.

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## Further Information

Brochures and information on admissions procedures and student financial assistance are available from the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, 2607 Hearst Avenue #7320, Berkeley, CA 94720-7320.

## PUB POL 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

**Department:** Public Policy

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Terms course may be offered:** Fall and spring

**Grading:** The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

**Hours and format:** 1 hour of Seminar per week for 15 weeks.

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small-seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to 15 freshmen.

Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

## PUB POL 39B Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 Units

**Department:** Public Policy

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Terms course may be offered:** Fall and spring

**Grading:** The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

**Hours and format:** 2 hours of seminar per week for 10 weeks.

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower-division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester. Enrollment limits are set by the faculty, but the suggested limit is 25.

## PUB POL 98 Group Study in Public Policy 1 - 4 Units

**Department:** Public Policy

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Terms course may be offered:** Fall and spring

**Grading:** Offered for pass/not pass grade only.

**Hours and format:** 1 to 4 hour of Directed group study per week for 15 weeks.

Group study on selected public policy topics. Open to freshmen and sophomores.

Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

## PUB POL 101 Introduction to Public Policy Analysis 4 Units

**Department:** Public Policy

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Terms course may be offered:** Fall and spring

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Hours and format:** 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks.

A systematic and critical approach to evaluating and designing public policies. Combines theory and application to particular cases and problems. Diverse policy topics, including environmental, health, education, communications, safety, and arts policy issues, among others.

## PUB POL 103 Wealth and Poverty 4 Units

**Department:** Public Policy

**Course level:** Undergraduate

**Term course may be offered:** Spring

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Hours and format:** 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week.

This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding both of the structure of political economy and of why the distribution of earnings, wealth, and opportunity have been diverging in the United States and in other nations. It is also intended to provide insight into the political and public policy debates that have arisen in light of the divergence as well as possible means of reversing it.

Instructor: Reich