

Public Policy, Minor

The public policy minor is intended for University of Iowa undergraduate students who seek to understand how and why public policies are adopted; how they impact the economy, society, and communities; and how innovative public policies are developed to improve economic prosperity, wellbeing, and environmental sustainability at the local, state, national, and global levels.

The minor in public policy is well-suited for students majoring in economics, political science, education, sociology, criminology, pre-law, human rights, social work, geography, sustainability, environmental policy and planning, civil and environmental engineering, health and human physiology, public health, business, anthropology, history, journalism and mass communication, African American studies, and Native American and Indigenous studies among other areas.

Students completing the public policy minor will be able to analyze the impact of past and current public policies, understand the institutions and process of policymaking, and develop new public policies to tackle pressing challenges society faces. They will be prepared to enter policymaking fields in their areas of interest and to make communities, states, and nations more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous.

Requirements

The undergraduate minor in public policy requires 15 s.h. of coursework taken at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.00 in work for the minor. Coursework in the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass.

The minor in public policy requires the following coursework.

Core Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
PBAF:3117/ POLI:3117	Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration	3
PBAF:3560/ POLI:3560/ RHET:3560/ SJUS:3560	Public Policy and Persuasion	3
PBAF:4205	Economics for Policy Analysis (with consent of instructor)	3
PBAF:4233	Public Finance and Budgeting	3
PBAF:4340	Public Policy Analysis	3
POLI:3111	American Public Policy	3

Electives

Students must select at least three electives (9 s.h.) with at least two Group A electives from the following lists.

Group A

Course #	Title	Hours
At least two of these:		
PBAF:1001/ URP:1001	How to Change the World	3

PBAF:1030/ URP:1030	Climate Leadership and Justice	3
PBAF:2020/ URP:2020	Environment and Society: Sustainability, Policy, and Politics	3
PBAF:2056/ URP:2056	The Splendor of Cities	3
PBAF:3001	Public Policy Lab	3
PBAF:3117/ POLI:3117	Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration (if not taken as a core course)	3
PBAF:3560/ POLI:3560/ RHET:3560/ SJUS:3560	Public Policy and Persuasion (if not taken as a core course)	3
PBAF:3570/ GHS:3570/ POLI:3570	Poverty Policy	3
PBAF:3580/ NAIS:3580	Native American Public Policy	3
PBAF:4205	Economics for Policy Analysis (if not taken as a core course)	3
PBAF:4225/ URP:4225	Applied GIS for Planning and Policy Making	3
PBAF:4233	Public Finance and Budgeting (if not taken as a core course)	3
PBAF:4256/ URP:4256	Environmental Policy	3
PBAF:4260/ URP:4260	Transportation Policy and Planning	3
PBAF:4280/ URP:4280	Planning for Disaster Mitigation and Recovery	2-3
PBAF:4340	Public Policy Analysis (if not taken as a core course)	3
URP:4271	Housing Policy	3
URP:4295	Economic Development Policy	3
POLI:3111	American Public Policy (if not taken as a core course)	3

Group B

Course #	Title	Hours
CRIM:2210	Iowa Criminal Justice Policy and Reform	3
CRIM:3600	Crime and Public Policy	3
CRIM:4120	Environmental Criminology	3
HHP:4030	Social Determinants of Health	3
POLI:1501	Introduction to American Foreign Policy	3
POLI:2417	Comparative Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3104/ LAS:3104/ LATS:3104	Immigration Politics	3
POLI:3114	Women and Politics in the United States	3
POLI:3127	Legislative Policy Seminar	3
POLI:3160	Applied Research in Political Science	1-3

SEES:3780/ GHS:3780/ HIST:3240/ POLI:3431	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	3
SEES:3800	Environmental Policy	3
SOC:2810	Social Inequality	3

Admission

Students may declare the minor in MyUI as soon as they are enrolled in any of the public policy minor courses.

Those interested in pursuing the minor must meet with the minor advisor, be briefed on the minor expectations for performance, and complete a plan of study that must be approved by the minor advisor.

For more information, contact the School of Planning and Public Affairs.