Public Policy

Housed in the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, the public policy concentration is dedicated to the study of health care and social welfare policy, education policy, urban policy, law and criminal justice, and media and technology. Public policy refers to societal initiatives to remedy social problems. Because social problems typically emerge from complex, multi-faceted social conditions, the study of public policy requires students to become familiar with the insights of diverse academic disciplines into how institutions facilitate or inhibit societal problem-solving. The study of public policy is an excellent framework for integrating ideas drawn from several disciplines around issues of real world significance. Concentrators with a particular interest in such applications should consider the Engaged Scholars Program (http://watson.brown.edu/public-policy/node/391). All concentrators emerge with a sound understanding of institutional change and are well-equipped to contribute to processes of social change.

Required Courses:

Core Courses:

- PLCY 0100 Introduction to Public Policy
- Ethics and Public Policy
  - POLS 1050 Ethics and Public Policy
  - or PLCY 1700T Good Government

Economics for Public Policy

- ECON 1110 Intermediate Microeconomics
- ECON 1130 Intermediate Microeconomics (Mathematical)
- EDUC 1130 Economics of Education I

Statistics for Public Policy

- POLS 1600 Political Research Methods
- EDUC 1100 Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods
- ECON 1620 Introduction to Econometrics
- ECON 1630 Econometrics I
- SOC 1100 Introductory Statistics for Social Research

Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation

- PLCY 1200 Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
  - or EDUC 1160 Evaluating the Impact of Social Programs

Elective Courses: 1, 2

Three Broad Elective Courses: May be taken in any policy area

- Two more electives in one of the areas you have already studied

Sample electives may include the following:

Health Policy

- PHP 1100 Comparative Health Care Systems
- PHP 1520 Emergency Medical Systems: An Anatomy of Critical Performance
- PHP 1530 Case Studies in Public Health: The Role of Governments, Communities and Professions
- PLCY 1700K Health Policy Challenges

Technology Policy

- CSCI 1800 Cybersecurity and International Relations
- PLCY 1700J GIS and Public Policy
- POLS 1822X Technology and International Politics
- SCSO 1700C Science and Technology Policy in the Global South

Environmental Policy

- ENVS 1350 Environmental Economics and Policy
- ENVS 1410 Environmental Law and Policy
- ENVS 1530 From Locke to Deep Ecology: Property Rights and Environmental Policy
- ENVS 1555 Urban Agriculture: The Importance of Localized Food Systems
- PHP 1700 Current Topics in Environmental Health

Governance, Law, and Ethics

- PLCY 1700Z State and Local Government
- PLCY 1701H Congressional Leadership, Parties and Public Policy
- POLS 0220 City Politics
- POLS 1010 Topics in American Constitutional Law

Social Policy

- ECON 1170 Welfare Economics and Social Choice Theory
- PLCY 1700B Social Welfare Policy in the United States
- PLCY 1700S Policies Affecting Working Families
- PLCY 1701M Juvenile Justice Institutions and Policy
- SOC 1540 Human Needs and Social Services

Urban Policy

- ECON 1420 Urbanization in China
- PLCY 1700Q Urban Policy Challenges
- PLCY 1700R Urban Revitalization: Lessons from the Providence Plan

- SOC 1600 Comparative Development
- URBN 1870F Housing and Homelessness

Modes of Social Change

- PLCY 1700V Nonprofit Organizations
- PLCY 1701Q Leading Social Ventures - Social Entrepreneurship in Action
- PLCY 1800 Investigating Modes of Social Change
- PLCY 1910 Social Entrepreneurship
- SOC 1870A Investing in Social Change

Senior Capstone

Total Credits

1 Two of the five elective courses must have a primary listing in Public Policy. One of the five must be designated as a writing course.
2 One elective must be focused on global issues

Honors

Candidates for honors should apply in the Spring term of their third year. Successful candidates will enroll in the Public Policy Colloquium and prepare a senior honors paper.