Public Policy

Housed in the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, the concentration in public policy is organized around the interdisciplinary and comparative study of human societies, but with a particular focus on the rules and norms by which we govern ourselves. The concentration is grounded in the analysis of pressing social problems and the design, implementation, and evaluation of better policies and practices. This commitment to using knowledge to improve the life chances of people who occupy different positions of wealth and power, and who have competing and contentious ideas of about the common good, makes public policy a value-laden and political enterprise that is as much an art as it is a science. It is also a team sport that requires players with different skills and talents to work together across a wide variety of settings.

Students will learn how social, economic, and political issues become the object of public policy, how policy decisions are crafted, made and implemented, as well as different strategies for evaluating their impact. The concentration draws its instructors from a wide variety of disciplines and offers students opportunities for engaged scholarship at the local, national, and global levels. With the support of the advisory team, students develop their own curriculum of study, integrating core courses with electives, internships, independent research, and a capstone experience. The Public Policy concentration will only accept new declarations through the class of 2023. Students in any class year can learn more about the new concentration (https://watson.brown.edu/iapa/about/faqs) in International and Public Affairs: Policy and Governance Track.

Required Courses: 10 courses + capstone

The Public Policy concentration will be available to students graduating through the class of 2023.

Core Courses:

- PLCY 0100 Introduction to Public Policy
- Ethics and Public Policy
- POLS 1050 Ethics and Public Policy
- 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 Mathematical Econometrics I
- SOC 1100 Introductory Statistics for Social Research

Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation

- PLCY 1200 Program Evaluation
- PLCY 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
- Comparative Health Care Systems
- Emergency Medical Systems: An Anatomy of Critical Performance
- 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
- STS 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: Spatial Inequality in Metropolitan America
- 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: The capstone may take the form of an Honors Thesis, Independent Study, a Public Policy internship, research Assistantship, UTRA Assistantship, or designated Senior Seminar

Total Credits: 10

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.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.
The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.