PUBLIC POLICY (M.P.P.)

https://carsey.unh.edu/master-public-policy

Description

The Master in Public Policy degree (MPP) offers you the opportunity to learn the skills you need to succeed in today’s public policy jobs—analytical expertise, strategic vision, clear and compelling communications, and the tools of leadership. This master’s in public policy program is ideal whether you will be completing your bachelor’s degree in the near future or are currently working in a policy-related field. Choose a track focused on public policy analysis or strategy and communications—and select from a broad range of electives to personalize your degree plan. Built into the unique curriculum are a variety of experiential learning opportunities to deepen and broaden what you learn in the classroom, such as:

- **Colloquium in Washington, DC**: Immerse yourself in the capital scene—meeting with leaders in Congress, the White House, government agencies, political parties, advocacy groups, think tanks, and more.
- **Policy Internship**: Work in a policy-focused organization to gain practical, real-world experience and a valuable perspective on careers in public policy.
- **Capstone Project**: Employ the MPP skills you have gained to delve deeply into a specific policy area to produce a comprehensive written report and oral presentation.

Earn your MPP degree in as little as 14 months (or 12 months for UNH Accelerated Master’s students). You can also choose to earn your MPP degree over a longer period by attending part time.

**Program Delivery & Location**: Academic courses are offered in person on the UNH Durham campus with a portion of the experiential learning taking place offsite: in Washington, DC, for the Colloquium and at the Internship site location during the MPP Internship experience.

**Accelerated Masters Eligible**: Yes

Requirements

Students enrolled in the Carsey School’s Master in Public Policy program (MPP degree) are required to complete a forty (40) credit program, consisting of:

- Five (5) CORE Curriculum Courses
- Four (4) EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING Activities
- Two (2) PUBLIC POLICY TRACK Courses (Strategy and Communication Track or Policy Analysis Track)
- Four (4) ELECTIVE Courses

These provide the foundational analytical, strategic, and communication skills for a successful career in the world of public policy making. Students focus their public policy studies by choosing either the Strategy and Communication Track or the Policy Analysis Track and complete two courses in one of the tracks. Courses in both tracks can also be taken as open electives. Further opportunities for depth and specialization in substantive policy areas are provided by open elective courses which vary by semester. As culminating graduate experiences, students apply what they’ve learned through an MPP internship at a policy-oriented organization as well as conducting a capstone project by delving deeply into a policy area of interest. Both of these experiences are provided with guidance from faculty mentors.

Students are advised to have taken an introductory level economics class prior to starting the MPP program such as a “principles of economics” (macro or micro). Students should consult with their MPP Graduate Academic Advisor to confirm that the course(s) previously taken are sufficient or for suggestions of which courses could be taken prior to starting the MPP program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPOL 806</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PPOL 902</td>
<td>Strategy and Practice of Public Policy</td>
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<td>PPOL 904</td>
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<td>PPOL 908</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Policy Research</td>
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<td>Policy Across Borders</td>
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**MPP EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING Activities (4 Courses):**

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<td>Policy Across Borders</td>
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<td>PPOL 950</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPOL 990A</td>
<td>Policy Internship</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPOL 998A</td>
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**Public Policy Track (2 Courses):**

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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>PPOL 902</td>
<td>Strategy and Practice of Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPOL 904</td>
<td>Economics for Public Policy</td>
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**ELECTIVE Courses (4 Courses):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PPOL 904</td>
<td>Economics for Public Policy</td>
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**Notes:**

1. In special cases and with your MPP Academic Advisor’s permission, the Policy Internship may be taken for credit (PPOL 998, 3 credits), supervised by a faculty member who will provide the academic structure to parallel the applied experience. If this is the case, the required number of MPP-approved elective courses is reduced to three (3) courses.

2. Students choose two (2) courses from either the Strategy and Communication Track or the Policy Analysis Track. Courses in both tracks can also be taken as open elective courses.

3. MPP-Approved elective courses are available in many substantive areas. Students may also propose additional electives if they make sense in terms of the student’s interests and academic plan. Discussion with your MPP Graduate Academic Advisor should inform this choice.

Degree Plan

**SAMPLE 16-MONTH FULL-TIME DEGREE COMPLETION PLAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>PPOL 908</td>
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**Fall Start (Typical)**

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### Spring Start

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<td>PPOL 910</td>
<td>Policy Across Borders</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPP Public Policy Track Course</td>
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<td>Elective Course (choose an MPP-Approved Elective course)</td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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### Second Year

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**Total Credits**: 40

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**Sample ACCELERATED MASTER’S Degree Completion Plan (Fall Start)**

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<td>or PPOL 998</td>
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<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
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<td>PPOL 990</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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**NOTES:**

1. In special cases and with your MPP Advisor’s permission, the Policy Internship may be taken for credit (PPOL 998, 3 credits), supervised by a faculty member who will provide the academic structure to parallel

the applied experience. If this is the case, the required number of MPP-approved elective courses is reduced to three (3) courses.

2 Students choose two (2) courses from either the Strategy and Communication Track or the Policy Analysis Track. Courses in both tracks can also be taken as open elective courses.

3 MPP-Approved elective courses are available in many substantive areas. Students may also propose additional electives if they make sense in terms of the student's interests and academic plan. Discussion with your MPP Academic Advisor should inform this choice.

4 Undergraduates enrolled as Accelerated Master’s students will enroll in both the 700-level course (for credit in their undergraduate program) and the 800-level course (for graduate credit in the Master in Public Policy program).

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Apply basic methods of policy development and analysis to design and evaluate public policy
- Demonstrate competency in public speaking and writing related to public policy
- Demonstrate competency in strategic and tactical skills for achieving policy objectives
- Utilize data and research to inform policy design and advocacy
- Understand policy profession norms and ethics
- Apply critical thinking skills to address policy-relevant questions