

# PUBLIC POLICY

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Web Site: <https://korbel.du.edu/academics-advising/programs-gr/mpp-public-policy> (<https://korbel.du.edu/academics-advising/programs-gr/mpp-public-policy/>)

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) prepares students with analytical skills and competencies for professional careers in government, private industry, and non-profits. Skills-based learning is joined by deep engagement in select policy areas of the student's choice—such as sustainability, social policy, urban policy, economic policy, business and government, and foreign policy and international security, among others. MPP faculty provide intensive classroom instruction and include professors from across the Korbel School of International Studies as well as public policy practitioners. Multiple experiential learning opportunities and the capstone individual policy memo prepare students for entering the real-world public policy environment.

MPP students graduate with a job-ready skill set, equally applicable to decision-making and leadership positions in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. MPP graduates are able to define policy problems across disciplinary boundaries and apply a range of methodologies as well as ethical awareness to evaluate and implement alternative courses of action in multiple settings.

The MPP degree is hosted by the Scrivner Institute of Public Policy at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. The Scrivner Institute is dedicated to a broad, innovative, and robust engagement with the foremost policy issues of the day. It equips students with the life-long capacity to understand, analyze, and address pressing public policy issues, both as practitioners in myriad professions and as engaged citizens.

## Master of Public Policy in Public Policy

### Degree and GPA Requirements

**Bachelor's degree:** All graduate applicants must hold an earned baccalaureate from a regionally accredited college or university or the recognized equivalent from an international institution.

**University GPA requirement:** The minimum grade point average for admission consideration for graduate study at the University of Denver must meet one of the following criteria:

- A cumulative 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the baccalaureate degree.
- A cumulative 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the last 60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits (approximately two years of work) for the baccalaureate degree.
- An earned master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution or the recognized equivalent from an international institution supersedes the minimum GPA requirement for the baccalaureate.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all graduate coursework completed for applicants who have not earned a master's degree or higher.

### Standardized Test Scores

- GRE or GMAT scores are optional for admission to this program. Applications submitted without scores will receive full consideration. Every application undergoes a comprehensive evaluation, including a careful review of all application materials.
- If you choose to submit test scores, you may upload your Test Taker Score Report PDF, which is considered unofficial. Official scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency upon admission to the University of Denver. The ETS institution code to submit GRE scores to the University of Denver is 4842. The code to submit GMAT scores for this program is MZR-Z3-55.

### English Language Proficiency Test Score Requirements

The minimum TOEFL/IELTS/C1 Advanced/Duolingo English Test score requirements for this degree program are:

- Minimum TOEFL Score (Internet-based test): 95
- Minimum IELTS Score: 7
- Minimum C1 Advanced Score: 185
- Minimum Duolingo English Test Score: 125

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## Specialized Certificate in Public Policy

### Degree and GPA Requirements

**Bachelor's degree:** All graduate applicants must hold an earned baccalaureate from a regionally accredited college or university or the recognized equivalent from an international institution.

**University GPA requirement:** The minimum grade point average for admission consideration for graduate study at the University of Denver must meet one of the following criteria:

- A cumulative 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the baccalaureate degree.
- A cumulative 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the last 60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits (approximately two years of work) for the baccalaureate degree.
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## Master's Degree Program

### Master of Public Policy

The Public Policy program at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies is committed to the development of tomorrow's policy leaders through an innovative core curriculum that emphasizes analytical, evidenced, and expertise-based solutions to contemporary policy issues. The Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree, offered by the graduate program in public policy, gives students the opportunity to identify, analyze, and solve challenging policy issues at local, state, national, and global levels of governance.

#### Curriculum Overview:

Candidates must complete 60 credit hours.

#### Degree Requirements:

Code	Title	Credits
Degree Core (three courses, 12 credits):		12
It is highly recommended that students take these required degree courses in their first year in the MPP program to help prepare them for other courses, to keep them on track for completion, and to integrate them in their cohort. PPOL 4200 and PPOL 4400 are typically offered in the Fall; while PPOL 4500 is typically offered in the Winter and/or Spring.		
PPOL 4200	Microeconomics for Public Pol.	
PPOL 4400	Introduction to Policy Analysis	
PPOL 4500	Cost-Benefit Analysis/Pub Pol	
Policy Track (choose one of two tracks):		12
Local/National Track		
INTS 4750	The Policy Making Process	
PPOL 4350	The Policy Lab: Local/National	
Experiential coursework. Choose one:		
PPOL 4225	Economic Policymaking: From Concepts to Practice	
PPOL 4655	Negotiating Environmental Conflict and Policy	
INTS 4226	Social Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Development	
INTS 4674	Water Policy	
Or a Substitution as Approved by the Degree Director		
Comparative/Global Track		
INTS 4349	Comparative Public Policy and Finance	
or INTS 4355	Finance and Development	
PPOL 4351	The Policy Lab: Comparative/International/Global	
Experiential coursework. Choose one:		
INTS 4630	Civilian Protection in Armed Conflicts	
INTS 4672	Environmental Peacebuilding	
INTS 4678	The Politics of Global Trade, Investment and Production: The Origins and Consequences of Open Border	
PPOL 4503	Elections and Conflict Dynamics	

Or a Substitution as Approved by the Degree Director		
Skills (three courses, 12 credits):		12
PPOL 4352	Data, Evidence, and Public Policy	
PPOL 4353	Policy Writing	
INTS 4057	Statistics	
A total of 4 more credits (in the form of one 4-credit or two 2-credit skills courses) of INTS or PPOL skills coursework drawn from the Korbel School Skills List. This list is updated annually and can be found on the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site. Students may also utilize graduate level skills courses in other DU departments/schools with pre-approval of their degree director.		
Specialization (three courses, 12 credits):		12
Specializations are sets of three full credit courses (12 credit hours) that a student takes within their degree that are centered on a common topic, region, or degree relevant methods and must be approved by the degree director. Korbel specializations are open specializations, which is to say that they are totally customizable and can be drawn from any and all eligible University of Denver graduate courses. The key is that they must be approved on submission for graduation by a student's degree director and students are encouraged to engage their degree director early in the process on what are approvable sets of courses. Specializations do not go on transcripts, so it is possible to organize courses into more than one set of three, but for completion of degree requirement purposes, only one specialization is submitted as such on your program statement. Students who participate in a Korbel Certificate will put three of their certificate courses in their specialization and the other three in electives to fit the certificate within the 60 credit hours associated with their degree requirements. For more information on Specializations, see the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site.		
Capstone		4
PPOL 4950	Public Policy Capstone	4
(Student-driven analytical project on a topic of your choosing, ideally related to Specialization. Typically completed in the second year.)		
Internship: Required		
INTS 4981	Internship *	0 or 4
Please see the Student Affairs Digication site <a href="https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/internships">https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/internships</a> ( <a href="https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/internships/">https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/internships/</a> ) for more details.		
Supporting Courses:		4-8
Students will fill out their academic program as needed to reach the minimum requirement of 60 credits with graduate level courses in fields and areas of study related broadly but directly to public policy (international studies) or research/policy areas and/or skills already established in their required coursework. These courses can be from Korbel and/or other relevant graduate departments/programs associated with the University of Denver or beyond. Courses from beyond Korbel should be pre-approved by the student's academic advisor. The total number of credits allowed for the degree beyond Korbel cannot be more than 12.		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60</b>

\* Internships are required for all of the MA degrees at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies and are managed through the Office of Career and Professional Development at the Korbel School. For a few categories of students, the Korbel School may grant an exemption from the internship requirement. While students in the following categories are highly encouraged to pursue internships to enhance their professional development, they may petition to be exempted from the internship requirement.

1. Students entering Korbel with substantial degree/field relevant professional work experience, typically at least 5 years.
2. Students with a confirmed job or job offer in a degree/field relevant sector in which they had been working prior to beginning the Josef Korbel degree.
3. Students sponsored by foreign governments whose terms of study discourage do not allow internships.
4. Students with truly unique circumstances in which they have met all of the learning objectives of the internship program in a degree/field relevant way, but the experience does not or did not fall within the bounds of the internship program/requirement

Students who would like to petition for their professional experience to satisfy the internship requirement will need to submit a formal request through the Student Affairs Office (see the Portfolio site for details).

## Certificate Program

### Specialized Certificate in Public Policy

The Public Policy graduate specialized certificate centers on fundamental policy analysis skills along with core knowledge of the policy making process. The certificate will equip students with the core expertise and skills to identify, analyze, and solve challenging policy issues at urban, state, national, and global levels of governance, preparing them for policy-related professional careers that are related to their primary degrees in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

#### Requirements

Complete 16 credits of coursework:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Policy Analysis Skills (8 credits):</b>		<b>8</b>
PPOL 4400	Introduction to Policy Analysis	
PPOL 4701	Special Tpcs in Public Policy (Data, Evidence, and Public Policy)	
PPOL 4702	Special Topics in Public Policy Skills (Policy Writing)	
<b>Select one course on the policy-making process (4 credits):</b>		<b>4</b>
INTS 4349	Comparative Public Policy and Finance	
INTS 4750	The Policy Making Process	
<b>Select one additional policy analysis skills course (4 credits):</b>		<b>4</b>
PPOL 4200	Microeconomics for Public Pol.	
PPOL 4500	Cost-Benefit Analysis/Pub Pol	
<b>OR with advisor permission students may propose a public policy specialization course (4 credits) —examples include:</b>		
INTS 4671	Climate, Science, and Society	
INTS 4674	Water Policy	
PPOL 4410	Health Policy	
PPOL 4550	International Development Policy	
PPOL 4600	Regulation and Institutional Analysis	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

#### **PPOL 4200 Microeconomics for Public Pol. (4 Credits)**

Microeconomics for Public Policy Analysis will provide a comprehensive, case-based overview for the MPP student of the consequences of contemporary public policies for individuals, households, and firms. Public policy is often said to consist of the distribution of scarce or valuable resources or benefits through the mechanisms of the public sector. This course will provide the opportunity to gain fluency and expertise in the application of economic analysis to such problems as transfer payments, entitlements, government subsidies, taxation, housing, education, labor, welfare and crime. Issues concerned with exploring the government's role in encouraging innovation, maintaining a growing economy, and budgeting under conditions of "surplus," will be explored using contemporary policy initiatives. Two competing visions of public policy will be examined: the role of economic policy in securing the benefits of "ordered liberty," which accrues to the individual; and (2) the vision of public policy as fundamental to the correction of anomalies in the market and in the distribution of scarce resources, often based on interest group claims of "disparity" and "inequality".

#### **PPOL 4225 Economic Policymaking: From Concepts to Practice (4 Credits)**

This course focuses on understanding the policymaking process and the social, political, and economic forces that influence it. We focus on the study of selected examples of policy design, discussing the views, constraints, and motivations of key actors and groups that influence the policy formation process and explore how these results differ from the policy prescriptions in neoclassical economic theory. The course centers on key debates around major government policy decisions and analyzes the alternative paths open to policymakers at the time at which they took those decisions. We will emphasize central questions in macroeconomics, international economics, and development economics through a case-study lens focused on evaluating decisions by assessing the arguments in favor of and against various policy alternatives. Topics covered include global financial and health crises, fiscal deficits, structural adjustment, the role of multilateral organisms, high and runaway inflation, the causes of underdevelopment, economic sanctions, debt limits, the spread of globalization, and the reliability of economic data.

#### **PPOL 4250 Hacking for Good (4 Credits)**

The basic structure of the course involves teams of students competing to find the most innovative approach to a common problem. The course is led by faculty member, who will connect students to local experts and policy makers. Students will work together to research, analyze, propose, and present a proposal that addresses some aspect of a pressing societal project. The final product is judged by a panel of local policy makers and other experts. Topic vary from year to year. Examples include such issues as combatting homelessness in Denver, designing more efficient transportation systems, reducing water use in urban areas, reducing Denver's carbon footprint, and the like.

#### **PPOL 4350 The Policy Lab: Local/National (4 Credits)**

The Policy Lab is an experiential course designed to introduce students to the policy-making and political environment surrounding a specific area of public policy at the state and national level. In different years, the Policy Lab might cover as a specific area, for example, fiscal policy, education policy, or health policy, and so on. The basic structure of the course is designed to: (1) introduce students to general thematic scholarship and expertise on the policy area being examined, (2) immerse students in the state and/or national policy-making environment through guest lectures and discussions with lawmakers, academics, policy experts, and political practitioners, and (3) connect students to lawmakers, nonprofit organizations, or other advocacy groups working on the specific policy area in order to work on proposing legislation, ballot initiatives, or other frameworks for reform design and implementation. The final product is a professional policy consultant report or the equivalent. The course will be led by faculty members with deep professional expertise in the policy issue being explored.

**PPOL 4351 The Policy Lab: Comparative/International/Global (4 Credits)**

The Masters in Public Policy Curriculum has two tracks depending on student professional experience and expectations. The first, and long standing, track centers on working professional policy problems centered in a U.S. context. The second track is centered on comparative/international/global policy questions for those students seeking to work in international and/or non-U.S. contexts. Both tracks have a Policy Lab requirement but given the potential diversity of the logical policy questions to be addressed, each has its own Policy Lab designation to help match faculty expertise and student interest to the learning objectives sought of the course. The basic structure of the lab course involves student teams, each working on a different issue for an external client. The course is led by a faculty member who coaches the student teams and stands in as or gathers a panel from the PPOL community to serve as the clients, identifies other experts and policy makers who can be resources for the team, helps students learn how to learn about the issue, provides feedback at critical junctures during the quarter, and assesses the quality of the students' work. The final product is a professional consultants' report.

**PPOL 4352 Data, Evidence, and Public Policy (2 Credits)**

This two-credit course is aimed at enhancing students' skills in data management, data preparation and manipulation, and graphic visualization using Microsoft Excel and Tableau Prep Builder.

**PPOL 4353 Policy Writing (2 Credits)**

In this two-credit course, students will develop policy-specific applied writing skills for government and policy settings. Students will learn the key elements, formats, and styles for three categories of policy writing: 1) policy memos; 2) legislative decision briefs; and 3) organizational advocacy briefs, as well as executive summaries.

**PPOL 4400 Introduction to Policy Analysis (4 Credits)**

This course will provide the student with the analytical tools necessary to evaluate competing points of view, using empirical techniques, logic, and statistical inference. Case studies will be drawn from the current legislative and regulatory environment and will provide the MPP student with opportunities to construct a course of action, based on the use of logically consistent arguments and on the persuasive use of facts and empirical data. Students in this course will also learn the history and development of the scientific method, how to distinguish speculation, theory, fact, and opinion, how to identify the validity, ideological content or irrationality of data, how to identify the intentional obfuscation of issues, and how to evaluate one's own prejudices and vulnerability to argument not based on evidence. Students in this course how to identify the validity, ideological content or irrationality of information, how to identify the intentional obfuscation of issues, and how to evaluate one's own prejudices and vulnerability to arguments not based on evidence.

**PPOL 4410 Health Policy (4 Credits)**

This course will examine major health care policy decisions and how each shaped fundamental elements of the U.S. health care system. Course material will explore the questions of why America spends more on health care than other industrial nations, why 8.6 percent of Americans do not have health coverage, and why the location of one's birth or current neighborhood may affect their health. These topics will be explored through the lens of recent and current policy debates, including the Affordable Care Act and other federal health care programs, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the cost and affordability of prescription drugs. In addition to mastering the content in these areas, the course will weave in policy scenarios and exercises meant to mimic decisions federal and state policymakers must make when addressing policy challenges created by the U.S. health care system.

**PPOL 4500 Cost-Benefit Analysis/Pub Pol (4 Credits)**

How do we determine if programs have met their objectives? Increasingly, this is a matter for empirical evaluation. This course will focus on quantitative approaches to program evaluation and on the primary tool available to the policy analyst in the modern organizational framework, cost-benefit analysis. Various issues will be considered, including the "costs" associated with taxes (and tax expenditures), governmental mandates, health and safety regulation, environmental regulation, government "investments," such as those in education, defense, law enforcement, and the regulation of financial industries.

**PPOL 4503 Polling and Elections (2 Credits)**

Polling and Elections addresses the methodology, importance, and limitations of opinion research. Course objectives include understanding the purpose of polling; the impact opinion research has on fundraising, campaigns, and lobbying; the methods to perform opinion research, including both quantitative and qualitative means. Students will learn about survey design, data collection and analysis, and focus group opinion research methods.

**PPOL 4550 International Development Policy (4 Credits)**

This course surveys international development policy. It has two main goals: (1) to build a multi-faceted understanding of what constitutes "development" and (2) to compare and assess different approaches to aiding the success of low- and middle-income countries. We will begin by asking what development is and examining the expansive ways in which it can be defined and measured, looking at these questions from economic, institutional, social, and political angles. We will study macro approaches to industrialization, economic growth, and development over the past half-century, with an emphasis on comparing and contrasting different development strategies. We will then focus on the development and aid business, looking at what the World Bank and other aid agencies do, the successes and failures of traditional approaches to foreign aid, and new thinking and actors in international development policy. We will end by examining how development policy could better address key contemporary challenges, such as the natural resource curse, corruption, and the challenges of building effective and legitimate governance in developing countries.

**PPOL 4600 Regulation and Institutional Analysis (4 Credits)**

This course will provide the MPP student with a solid understanding of the legal basis for policy action, through a case-based examination of executive and legislative authority, judicial policy-making, the expansion of the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment, and the expansion of administrative authority under the Administrative Procedure Act. Such issues as affirmative action, government contracting, school finance, antitrust, and substantive due process will be presented utilizing a combination of traditional legal analysis and the cost-benefit approach of the policy specialist.

**PPOL 4655 Negotiating Environmental Conflict and Policy (4 Credits)**

Environmental issues engage multiple stakeholders with differing knowledge sets, beliefs, values, and even worldviews. Science alone is ill-equipped to resolve such complex disputes. Environmental conflicts involve negotiating differences, as do the development and implementation of environmental policies. This course explores both these 'downstream' and 'upstream' arenas. Within the domain of environmental and public policy conflict and policy, it focuses on the range of processes used to address these conflicts and issues, what different processes may have to offer, and the tradeoffs in both process and substance that must be considered. Themes of public involvement, information management & integration, and designing for adaptation will undergird consideration and critique of approaches. Multiple case studies will be explored and compared.

**PPOL 4674 Water Policy (4 Credits)**

Water is a key resource for the sustenance of all life. Under many circumstances, it is scarce, too abundant, and inequitably distributed across groups in society and nature. This diversity of situations produces the conditions for the emergence of conflict among users, hence requiring the design of institutions to facilitate effective management. This makes water governance a complex but urgent issue to tackle. This class examines such institutions in a variety of levels—state, federal, and international—and analyzes how they affect water access and use. Students in the class will also engage in a careful examination of the sources of conflict and cooperation among water stakeholders on a regional and global scale. The main goal of the course is to foster the students' capacity to assess how water-related conflicts can be prevented through the design and implementation of relevant policies.

**PPOL 4700 Public Management & Budgeting (4 Credits)**

This course introduces students to the topic of public management, which includes concepts such as organizational structure, performance management, and strategy development. In addition, the instructor will teach the techniques and concepts of government and non-profit budgeting/financial management. The budgeting process includes program development/implementation, cost and revenue estimation and projection, and budget evaluation. The relationship between public management and budgeting will be explored.

**PPOL 4701 Special Topics in Public Policy (1-4 Credits)**

Various topics in public policy are covered. Topic subjects to change each term as deemed appropriate with local, regional and federal policy issues and regulation changes. Two examples are: "Denver Dynamics" explores the policy options and responses to the challenges of big city governance. Exclusive interactions with major stakeholders in the City and County of Denver are featured, with a view to giving the student an insider's view of power, economic development, political influence and decision-making. "Getting Results Inside the Beltway: Power and policy in Washington, D.C." is a travel course consisting of specially-arranged one-on-one sessions with Washington-based lawmakers, decision-leaders, and policy experts, through which graduate students will gain an understanding of the dysfunctions of the current budget process, political polarization, the interest groups that shape the current policy dynamic, the increasing importance of media in shaping policy, the solutions that will be required for the United States to regain fiscal sanity and solvency—and the challenges that will need to be met to preserve American hegemony and redefine national security.

**PPOL 4702 Special Topics in Public Policy Skills (1-4 Credits)**

Various professional skills and competencies are covered in these 1-credit classes. Each student will be required to complete four of these for the MPP degree. The topics are subject to change given student needs. Examples of topics may include: Diversity and Inclusion in Public Policy, Drafting a Policy Memo, Presenting a Policy Position to a Professional Audience, Working in Teams Addressing Complex Issues, Ethics Challenges in Public Policy Choices, and The Practice of Public Policy.

**PPOL 4715 Negotiation Workshop (2 Credits)**

Negotiation is an important skill for most jobs and professions. Whether you are crafting policies or legislation, negotiating agreements, advocating for rights, making arrangements to meet human needs, or implementing programs, the ability to strategically advance your own or your group's interests while working through differences allows efficient and mutually acceptable solutions to be created. Though some may feel negotiation is an art, it is also a skill that can be taught and practiced. In this course you will learn, and have opportunities to practice and improve, analytic skills, communication skills, and forms of preparation and execution. You will leave with new tools to advance your goals and to work with others to create solutions that are "win-win."

**PPOL 4950 Public Policy Capstone (4 Credits)**

The Policy Memorandum research project is designed to provide the MPP student with a capstone experience that will synthesize the knowledge and skills that were acquired during the 60 quarter hours of formal coursework. Included among the skills that students will apply are research, quantitative methods, economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, budgeting and project management.

**PPOL 4991 Independent Study (1-4 Credits)**

Students will work in collaboration with faculty from the Institute for Public Policy Studies to complete an independent study project.

**PPOL 4995 Independent Research (1-8 Credits)**

The Policy Memorandum research project is designed to provide the MPP student with a capstone experience that will synthesize the knowledge and skills that were acquired during the 60 quarter hours of formal coursework. Included among the skills that students will apply are research, quantitative methods, economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, budgeting and project management.



## Courses

### **PPOL 4200 Microeconomics for Public Pol. (4 Credits)**

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### **PPOL 4225 Economic Policymaking: From Concepts to Practice (4 Credits)**

This course focuses on understanding the policymaking process and the social, political, and economic forces that influence it. We focus on the study of selected examples of policy design, discussing the views, constraints, and motivations of key actors and groups that influence the policy formation process and explore how these results differ from the policy prescriptions in neoclassical economic theory. The course centers on key debates around major government policy decisions and analyzes the alternative paths open to policymakers at the time at which they took those decisions. We will emphasize central questions in macroeconomics, international economics, and development economics through a case-study lens focused on evaluating decisions by assessing the arguments in favor of and against various policy alternatives. Topics covered include global financial and health crises, fiscal deficits, structural adjustment, the role of multilateral organisms, high and runaway inflation, the causes of underdevelopment, economic sanctions, debt limits, the spread of globalization, and the reliability of economic data.

### **PPOL 4250 Hacking for Good (4 Credits)**

The basic structure of the course involves teams of students competing to find the most innovative approach to a common problem. The course is led by faculty member, who will connect students to local experts and policy makers. Students will work together to research, analyze, propose, and present a proposal that addresses some aspect of a pressing societal project. The final product is judged by a panel of local policy makers and other experts. Topic vary from year to year. Examples include such issues as combatting homelessness in Denver, designing more efficient transportation systems, reducing water use in urban areas, reducing Denver's carbon footprint, and the like.

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### **PPOL 4351 The Policy Lab: Comparative/International/Global (4 Credits)**

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### **PPOL 4352 Data, Evidence, and Public Policy (2 Credits)**

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### **PPOL 4353 Policy Writing (2 Credits)**

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**PPOL 4400 Introduction to Policy Analysis (4 Credits)**

This course will provide the student with the analytical tools necessary to evaluate competing points of view, using empirical techniques, logic, and statistical inference. Case studies will be drawn from the current legislative and regulatory environment and will provide the MPP student with opportunities to construct a course of action, based on the use of logically consistent arguments and on the persuasive use of facts and empirical data. Students in this course will also learn the history and development of the scientific method, how to distinguish speculation, theory, fact, and opinion, how to identify the validity, ideological content or irrationality of data, how to identify the intentional obfuscation of issues, and how to evaluate one's own prejudices and vulnerability to argument not based on evidence. Students in this course how to identify the validity, ideological content or irrationality of information, how to identify the intentional obfuscation of issues, and how to evaluate one's own prejudices and vulnerability to arguments not based on evidence.

**PPOL 4410 Health Policy (4 Credits)**

This course will examine major health care policy decisions and how each shaped fundamental elements of the U.S. health care system. Course material will explore the questions of why America spends more on health care than other industrial nations, why 8.6 percent of Americans do not have health coverage, and why the location of one's birth or current neighborhood may affect their health. These topics will be explored through the lens of recent and current policy debates, including the Affordable Care Act and other federal health care programs, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the cost and affordability of prescription drugs. In addition to mastering the content in these areas, the course will weave in policy scenarios and exercises meant to mimic decisions federal and state policymakers must make when addressing policy challenges created by the U.S. health care system.

**PPOL 4500 Cost-Benefit Analysis/Pub Pol (4 Credits)**

How do we determine if programs have met their objectives? Increasingly, this is a matter for empirical evaluation. This course will focus on quantitative approaches to program evaluation and on the primary tool available to the policy analyst in the modern organizational framework, cost-benefit analysis. Various issues will be considered, including the "costs" associated with taxes (and tax expenditures), governmental mandates, health and safety regulation, environmental regulation, government "investments," such as those in education, defense, law enforcement, and the regulation of financial industries.

**PPOL 4503 Polling and Elections (2 Credits)**

Polling and Elections addresses the methodology, importance, and limitations of opinion research. Course objectives include understanding the purpose of polling; the impact opinion research has on fundraising, campaigns, and lobbying; the methods to perform opinion research, including both quantitative and qualitative means. Students will learn about survey design, data collection and analysis, and focus group opinion research methods.

**PPOL 4550 International Development Policy (4 Credits)**

This course surveys international development policy. It has two main goals: (1) to build a multi-faceted understanding of what constitutes "development" and (2) to compare and assess different approaches to aiding the success of low- and middle-income countries. We will begin by asking what development is and examining the expansive ways in which it can be defined and measured, looking at these questions from economic, institutional, social, and political angles. We will study macro approaches to industrialization, economic growth, and development over the past half-century, with an emphasis on comparing and contrasting different development strategies. We will then focus on the development and aid business, looking at what the World Bank and other aid agencies do, the successes and failures of traditional approaches to foreign aid, and new thinking and actors in international development policy. We will end by examining how development policy could better address key contemporary challenges, such as the natural resource curse, corruption, and the challenges of building effective and legitimate governance in developing countries.

**PPOL 4600 Regulation and Institutional Analysis (4 Credits)**

This course will provide the MPP student with a solid understanding of the legal basis for policy action, through a case-based examination of executive and legislative authority, judicial policy-making, the expansion of the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment, and the expansion of administrative authority under the Administrative Procedure Act. Such issues as affirmative action, government contracting, school finance, antitrust, and substantive due process will be presented utilizing a combination of traditional legal analysis and the cost-benefit approach of the policy specialist.

**PPOL 4655 Negotiating Environmental Conflict and Policy (4 Credits)**

Environmental issues engage multiple stakeholders with differing knowledge sets, beliefs, values, and even worldviews. Science alone is ill-equipped to resolve such complex disputes. Environmental conflicts involve negotiating differences, as do the development and implementation of environmental policies. This course explores both these 'downstream' and 'upstream' arenas. Within the domain of environmental and public policy conflict and policy, it focuses on the range of processes used to address these conflicts and issues, what different processes may have to offer, and the tradeoffs in both process and substance that must be considered. Themes of public involvement, information management & integration, and designing for adaptation will undergird consideration and critique of approaches. Multiple case studies will be explored and compared.

**PPOL 4674 Water Policy (4 Credits)**

Water is a key resource for the sustenance of all life. Under many circumstances, it is scarce, too abundant, and inequitably distributed across groups in society and nature. This diversity of situations produces the conditions for the emergence of conflict among users, hence requiring the design of institutions to facilitate effective management. This makes water governance a complex but urgent issue to tackle. This class examines such institutions in a variety of levels –state, federal, and international- and analyzes how they affect water access and use. Students in the class will also engage in a careful examination of the sources of conflict and cooperation among water stakeholders on a regional and global scale. The main goal of the course is to foster the students' capacity to assess how water-related conflicts can be prevented through the design and implementation of relevant policies.



**PPOL 4700 Public Management & Budgeting (4 Credits)**

This course introduces students to the topic of public management, which includes concepts such as organizational structure, performance management, and strategy development. In addition, the instructor will teach the techniques and concepts of government and non-profit budgeting/financial management. The budgeting process includes program development/implementation, cost and revenue estimation and projection, and budget evaluation. The relationship between public management and budgeting will be explored.

**PPOL 4701 Special Topics in Public Policy (1-4 Credits)**

Various topics in public policy are covered. Topic subjects to change each term as deemed appropriate with local, regional and federal policy issues and regulation changes. Two examples are: "Denver Dynamics" explores the policy options and responses to the challenges of big city governance. Exclusive interactions with major stakeholders in the City and County of Denver are featured, with a view to giving the student an insider's view of power, economic development, political influence and decision-making. "Getting Results Inside the Beltway: Power and policy in Washington, D.C." is a travel course consisting of specially-arranged one-on-one sessions with Washington-based lawmakers, decision-leaders, and policy experts, through which graduate students will gain an understanding of the dysfunctionalities of the current budget process, political polarization, the interest groups that shape the current policy dynamic, the increasing importance of media in shaping policy, the solutions that will be required for the United States to regain fiscal sanity and solvency—and the challenges that will need to be met to preserve American hegemony and redefine national security.

**PPOL 4702 Special Topics in Public Policy Skills (1-4 Credits)**

Various professional skills and competencies are covered in these 1-credit classes. Each student will be required to complete four of these for the MPP degree. The topics are subject to change given student needs. Examples of topics may include: Diversity and Inclusion in Public Policy, Drafting a Policy Memo, Presenting a Policy Position to a Professional Audience, Working in Teams Addressing Complex Issues, Ethics Challenges in Public Policy Choices, and The Practice of Public Policy.

**PPOL 4715 Negotiation Workshop (2 Credits)**

Negotiation is an important skill for most jobs and professions. Whether you are crafting policies or legislation, negotiating agreements, advocating for rights, making arrangements to meet human needs, or implementing programs, the ability to strategically advance your own or your group's interests while working through differences allows efficient and mutually acceptable solutions to be created. Though some may feel negotiation is an art, it is also a skill that can be taught and practiced. In this course you will learn, and have opportunities to practice and improve, analytic skills, communication skills, and forms of preparation and execution. You will leave with new tools to advance your goals and to work with others to create solutions that are "win-win."

**PPOL 4950 Public Policy Capstone (4 Credits)**

The Policy Memorandum research project is designed to provide the MPP student with a capstone experience that will synthesize the knowledge and skills that were acquired during the 60 quarter hours of formal coursework. Included among the skills that students will apply are research, quantitative methods, economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, budgeting and project management.

**PPOL 4991 Independent Study (1-4 Credits)**

Students will work in collaboration with faculty from the Institute for Public Policy Studies to complete an independent study project.

**PPOL 4995 Independent Research (1-8 Credits)**

The Policy Memorandum research project is designed to provide the MPP student with a capstone experience that will synthesize the knowledge and skills that were acquired during the 60 quarter hours of formal coursework. Included among the skills that students will apply are research, quantitative methods, economic analysis, cost-benefit analysis, budgeting and project management.