

# PUBLIC POLICY

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Public policy is where law, politics, and business meet. It is a multidisciplinary approach to analyzing and evaluating information to solve collective problems. Public policy professionals develop, assess, and evaluate alternative approaches to current and emerging issues, such as education, health care, national defense, or immigration. The undergraduate program in public policy provides a focused, highly competitive major and minor in public policy for ambitious and motivated students.

Since its creation in 1981, the program graduates have enrolled in some of the best graduate and law schools in the United States; worked as legislative aides for the U.S. Congress or as staff assistants for various branches of government; and have found their studies immediately applicable to the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. As part of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, the public policy program has both a domestic and an international focus.

Students must complete 44 credits in order to fulfill the major requirements, including six core classes, three courses within one of the four standing specializations or in a custom specialization (see Program of Study), and two public policy electives. The four standing specialization areas are development, economic policy, environmental policy, or social policy. Alternatively, students may build a unique specialization (e.g. security, local government, homelessness, etc.) with advisor approval.

## Major

### Bachelor of Arts Major Requirements

44 credits in public policy or select courses approved for elective credit by the program director. Requirements include the following:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Core Courses</b>		<b>24</b>
PPOL 1910	Introduction to Public Policy	
PPOL 2000	The Politics of American Policymaking	
PPOL 2701	Topics in Public Policy (Public Policy Analysis and Presentation)	
PPOL 2701	Topics in Public Policy (Professional Skills for Public Policy)	
PPOL 3115	Economics for Public Policy I: Aggregates and Production	
PPOL 3300	Ethics in Public Policy	
<b>Specializations</b>		<b>12</b>
Students take 3 classes from within one of the four standing specializations below or they build a unique one (security, local governance, homelessness, etc.) with advisor approval. The four standing specializations are (drawn from a list of current AY 23-24 courses; other courses may be developed in the future):		
<b>Development</b>		
PPOL 3701	Topics in Public Policy (Development Policy)	
INTS 2180	Politics of Development	
INTS 2490	Introduction to Global Health	
INTS 3365	African Development: Patterns, Issues and Prospects for the SDGs	
INTS 3385	Migrants and Refugees: Humanity on the Move	
INTS 3530	Feeding the World: Global Food Security and Food System Sustainability	
INTS 3701	Topics in Int'l Studies (Modeling for Development, Sustainability, and Security)	
INTS 3702	Topics in Int'l Studies (International Development Challenges)	
<b>Economic Policy</b>		
PPOL 3117	The Making of Economic Policy	
PPOL 3118	Public Policy-Money & Finance	
INTS 2370	Globalization and the Knowledge Economy	
INTS 2667	Illicit Markets	
INTS 3013	Corruption – A Global Epidemic	
INTS 3347	China in the Global Economy	

INTS 3600	International Monetary Relations	
ECON 2450	Race in the Economy	
<b>Social Policy</b>		
PPOL 2710	Demography of Public Policy	
PPOL 2802	Supreme Court & Public Policy	
PPOL 3125	Power and Policy	
INTS 2470	Crime & International Politics	
INTS 2760	Epidemics, Pandemics, and Panic	
INTS 3013	Corruption – A Global Epidemic	
INTS 3505	International Health and Development	
SOCI 2500	Schooling and Society	
SOCI 2624	Labor and the Contemporary Prison System	
SOCI 2628	Mass Incarceration	
<b>Environmental Policy</b>		
INTS 3421	Environmental Justice Policy and Practice	
INTS 3530	Feeding the World: Global Food Security and Food System Sustainability	
INTS 3701	Topics in Int'l Studies (Modeling for Development, Sustainability, and Security )	
INTS 3703	Topics in Int'l Studies (Global Environmental Challenges)	
INTS 3715	The Politics and Policy of Sustainable Energy	
ECON 2360	Economics, Ecology, and Social Welfare	
GEOG 3420	Urban and Regional Planning	
GEOG 3425	Urban Sustainability	
<b>Customized Unique Specialization:</b>		
Consists of three, 3000-level courses not already being used as core courses for PPOL and pre-approved by the Public Policy Program Faculty Director.		
<b>Electives</b>		<b>8</b>
8 credits of PPOL approved courses from outside of the student's specialization.		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>44</b>

## Minor

### Minor Requirements

24 credits, including the following:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required courses</b>		
PPOL 1910	Introduction to Public Policy	4
PPOL 2000	The Politics of American Policymaking	4
<b>Electives</b>		<b>16</b>
Select an additional 16 credits in public policy electives to meet the 24 credit minimum.		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>24</b>

### Requirements for Distinction in the Major in Public Policy

- Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA (at the time of application and graduation);
- Minimum 3.7 major GPA (at the time of application and graduation);
- Submission of Departmental Distinction application, by April 1st of your junior year (assuming a traditional four-year timeline). The application form is available on the Korb Undergraduate Digation site (<https://du.digation.com/korbel-undergraduate/home/>). Failure to apply on time will invalidate a student's eligibility to participate in the program.
- Students accepted to the Departmental Distinction Program must successfully complete the following curriculum in a satisfactory manner in order to achieve distinction in PPOL:
- PPOL 3990 (<http://bulletin.du.edu/search/?P=INTS%203990>) Thesis: Completion of Senior Analytical Policy Memorandum (4 credit hours) - Fall or Winter Quarter of senior year.

<b>First Year</b>					
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credits</b>
FSEM 1111		4 WRIT 1122		4 WRIT 1133	4
AI Society (or other Common Curriculum course)		4 SI Society (or other Common Curriculum course)		4 SI Society (or other Common Curriculum course)	4
Language sequence or SI Natural sequence		4 Language sequence or SI Natural sequence		4 Language sequence or SI Natural sequence	4
PPOL 1910		4 PPOL 2000		4 PPOL 2701	4
		<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Second Year</b>					
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Language sequence or SI Natural sequence		4 Language sequence or SI Natural sequence		4 Language sequence or SI Natural sequence	4
Minor course or elective		4 Minor course		4 AI Natural	4
PPOL Specialization		Elective or Minor course		4 Minor course	4
Minor course		4 PPOL 2701		4 INTZ 2501 <sup>1</sup>	2
				PPOL Elective	4
		<b>12</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Third Year</b>					
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credits</b>
ABRE 2988		0-18 Minor course		4 Minor course	4
		AI Society		4 PPOL Specialization	4
		PPOL 3115 (or other PPOL course)		4 PPOL Specialization	4
		PPOL 3300 ( (or other PPOL course))		4 Elective	4
		<b>0-18</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Fourth Year</b>					
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credits</b>
ASEM		4 PPOL Elective		4 PPOL Specialization	4
Minor course		4 Elective		4 Minor course or Elective	4
Minor course or Elective		4 Elective		4 Minor course or Elective	4
Minor course or Elective		4 Elective		4 Elective or Major/Minor course	4
		<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits: 174-192</b>					

<sup>1</sup> INTZ 2501 Exploring Global Citizenship is required for any student who studies abroad, and may be taken in any quarter within the year prior to studying abroad.

#### **PPOL 1910 Introduction to Public Policy (4 Credits)**

This class will focus on three main areas. First, we will review the policy-making process in the U.S. and methods of evaluation of critical public policy issues. Second, we will review basic issues with decision-making and their relevance for public policy. Third, we will apply these analytic techniques to some of the most urgent public policy problems, solutions, and tradeoffs we as a society currently confront in the areas such as: government spending, immigration, health care, education, environment, foreign policy. In sum, we will examine a broad range of complex policy choices that our nation faces in this era of remarkable social, economic, and political change. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

#### **PPOL 2000 The Politics of American Policymaking (4 Credits)**

This course is designed as a rigorous, analytical introduction for public policy majors to the ways in which American public policy is actually made and includes discussion of (1) Congress; (2) the President; (3) the Supreme Court; and (4) Regulatory agencies. The course is problem-centered and core policy dilemmas are discussed from both cost-benefit and decision-making perspectives. Key topics include the following interrelated issues: (a) fiscal policy and the federal budget; (b) entitlement reform; (c) health care; (d) national security; (e) the financial crisis and economic growth; (f) education; (g) criminal justice; and (h) environmental policy.

#### **PPOL 2350 Governing Cities Today (4 Credits)**

This course introduces students to current major policy challenges that urban areas worldwide must face. We will begin with a general overview of the evolution of the urban form until today and then we will delve deeper into selected topics of interests for city populations in and out of the U.S., in the developed as well in the developing world. Topics will include development, housing urban mobility, sustainability, safety, and more. The class will feature prominent guest speakers from city governments, businesses, policy organizations, and other urban-relevant sectors.

#### **PPOL 2701 Topics in Public Policy (4 Credits)**

Various topics in public policy are covered. Topics change each term as deemed appropriate with local, regional, and federal policy issues and regulation changes. Prerequisite: PPOL 2000.

**PPOL 2710 Demography of Public Policy (4 Credits)**

Demography is destiny." The consequences for American public policy are profound. America is aging, but becoming more diverse. A society in the midst of dynamic change is a society full of possibilities, but vulnerable to conflict. Values become indeterminate, with traditional communities vying for legitimacy with emergent cultures. Social movements, often populist in nature, challenge the established political order. This course focuses on the delineation of effective public policies to deal with demographic challenges, including (1) immigration policy; (2) the process of assimilation; (3) education; (4) geographic realignment; (5) competitive advantage of the United States relative to the European Union, Russia, and China. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

**PPOL 2802 Supreme Court & Public Policy (4 Credits)**

Students examine the policy-making role of the Supreme Court in such areas as civil rights, economic policy, freedom of expression, and criminal justice, while studying the overall power of the Court to determine social policy.

**PPOL 2804 Federal Budgetary Policy (4 Credits)**

Students gain knowledge of the basics of government fiscal planning through a simulation of the federal budget process.

**PPOL 3115 Economics for Public Policy I: Aggregates and Production (4 Credits)**

The tools and techniques of economics are essential for policy analysis. This course provides an intensive and comprehensive introduction to the field of economic analysis, with a specific emphasis on the applicability of economics to public policy and problem solving within the field of policy analysis. Topics include supply and demand; gross domestic product; business cycles; classical and neo-classical economic theory; Keynesianism and Keynesian equilibrium; the "Chicago School"; fiscal policy; inflation; stimulation of aggregate demand; employment and unemployment equilibrium; creation of money; the Federal Reserve system; national debt; the financial sector; public and private debt. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Recommended Prerequisite: PPOL 2000.

**PPOL 3116 Economics for Public Policy II: Choices and Competition (4 Credits)**

This course is the sequel to PPOL 3115. Core topics include consumer choice; choices in the public and private sector; the role of private self-interest; the role of governmental self-interest ("public choice"); utility maximization; price elasticity of demand; short and long-run costs; competition; monopoly; efficiency; oligopoly; antitrust policy; positive and negative externalities, such as taxes and regulations; effects of governmental uncertainty; market distortions; trade policy; profitability; productivity; the economics of health care and environmental regulation; leading and lagging indications of economic activity; creation of economic policy; "theory" vs. "applied" considerations. Prerequisites: PPOL 3115 and sophomore standing. Recommended Prerequisite: PPOL 2000.

**PPOL 3117 The Making of Economic Policy (4 Credits)**

This course deals with how economic policy is made. We seek to understand how policymakers confront key decisions and how social, political, and economic forces impact the choices that they make. We will study 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 of micro and macroeconomics. We seek to understand key debates around major government policy decisions and analyze the options open to policymakers at the time at which they took those decisions. Through in-depth discussions of selected policy cases, we will explore key issues in macroeconomics, international economics, and development economics that are relevant to the perspective of international relations practitioners. 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 3118 Public Policy-Money & Finance (4 Credits)**

This course is about money—the fuel that powers American society. Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of the American financial system, while coming to terms with the relationship between money, markets, and government. Students will learn key concepts in public finance, along with the operation of financial instruments like stocks, bonds, commodities and derivatives. Students who take this course will understand monetary and fiscal policy, taxation, exchange rates, and the vital role of credit.

**PPOL 3125 Power and Policy (4 Credits)**

This course focuses on the historical development of American 20th-century policy trends and will emphasize (1) the creation of the regulatory state, beginning in the late 1890s and accelerating through the Progressive Era; (2) the Great Depression, the New Deal, and the rise of entitlement culture; (3) World War II, the rise of the military-industrial state and the suburbanization of the 1950s; (4) the Civil Rights Revolution, the New Frontier and Great Society of Kennedy and Johnson—together with the value changes of the 1960s; (5) the Regan Era and the conservative challenge to big government; and (6) the policy dichotomies and uncertainties.

**PPOL 3230 Analytical & Critical Skills (4 Credits)**

Students gain the tools necessary to analyze competing points of view using empirical techniques and statistical inference. Students also learn the history and development of the scientific method; how to distinguish between speculation, theory, fact, and opinion; how to identify the validity of data; how to identify the intentional obfuscation of issues; and how to evaluate one's own prejudices and vulnerability to argument.

**PPOL 3250 Evidence & Logic in Public Policy (4 Credits)**

This course provides a focus for public policy majors on actual decision-making process within the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. Consideration is given to (1) the role of evidence, empirical analysis, and logic; (2) the role of politics; (3) the role of party affiliation and ideology in the decision-making process; (4) the role of key actors and agencies and the distribution of responsibility; (5) the role of outside experts, such as think tanks and journalists; and (6) the influence of lobbyists and other "rent seekers." Students consider such critical examples of decision-making as the Cuban Missile Crisis; the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution; the decision to invade Afghanistan and Iraq; congressional decisions relating to "health care reform" in 2009 and 2010; and the executive branch decisions involving the financial crisis of 2008, including the emergency implementation of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Students write a detailed policy memorandum to a member of the executive branch or to a congressional leader, containing a situational analysis and action recommendation pertinent to a significant "real time" policy controversy.

**PPOL 3300 Ethics in Public Policy (4 Credits)**

1. Survey prominent fields of ethical discourse—academic and public intellectual—ranging from ancient understandings of virtue through contemporary humanism. 2. Evaluate these approaches to ethical decisions by examining a number of current moral issues. 3. Analyze the fundamental relations between morality and the law in general and in a pluralistic, democratic society in particular. 4. Practice civil dialogue. Consider the absolute necessity, but also the limits, of publicly reasoned discourse on this country's most pressing moral challenges. 5. Consider the role of normative theory in personal decision-making, community decision-making, and overlap between the two.

**PPOL 3470 Congressional Internship (1-10 Credits)****PPOL 3701 Topics in Public Policy (1-4 Credits)****PPOL 3715 Sustainable Energy Policy (4 Credits)**

Energy is much in the news, with highly visible controversies over everything from hydraulic fracturing here in Colorado to oil pipelines to mountaintop removal for coal mining to raptor mortality at wind farms. These controversies range from local city ordinances to global treaties and involve everyone from environmental groups to governments to businesses of all sizes. It can be difficult to make sense of this cacophony of events. Where is the global energy system now, where is it going, and what will impede progress toward an energy system that will both serve human needs and protect the environment? Understanding these questions requires background knowledge that puts them into context and creates the opportunity to understand them more deeply. This course will introduce you to the politics and policies involved in sustainable energy, from the local to the global level. In order to make sense of those policies and politics, it will also introduce students to the basics of the energy system, including both conventional and alternative sources.

**PPOL 3980 Internships in Public Policy (0-4 Credits)**

Experience is an important asset when applying for any job. As you will find after graduation, the job market is incredibly competitive, and becoming more so. Gaining real world experience during college will make you a much stronger candidate when seeking that first position after graduation. Through PPOL 3980, you have the opportunity to earn between 0 and 4 quarter credit hours for internships, depending on the number of hours worked. The internship portfolio facilitates a student's academic, professional, and personal growth by providing documentation and representation of the internship experience. Elements of the portfolio will help bridge academic experience with career possibilities, and provides an opportunity for self-reflection through your experience. Analysis of your internship will help identify areas of success and points where you could improve overall. The objective of all aspects is to enable you to be more competitive in a global job market. Internships require departmental approval and must be undertaken during the quarter in which you register for credit. The BA program in PPOL will not award credit retroactively for internships completed prior to the quarter in which students are registered. Prerequisites: Must be a PPOL major and receive departmental permission.

**PPOL 3990 Thesis (4 Credits)**

The Departmental Distinction Program in Public Policy is geared towards advanced students who wish to pursue their study in public policy in a more intensive manner. The thesis provides an opportunity for students to do in-depth research on a topic of their choice, focusing on providing evidence-based solutions to a real-life policy issue.

**PPOL 3991 Independent Study (1-10 Credits)****PPOL 3995 Independent Research (1-5 Credits)**