

PUBLIC POLICY (BA)

Department Website (<http://wagner.nyu.edu/undergrad/>)

NYSED: 36800 HEGIS: 2299.00 CIP: 45.9999

Program Description

The undergraduate major in Public Policy, jointly offered by the College of Arts and Science and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, prepares students to play roles in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of policies that address the challenges faced by domestic and global publics in the 21st century. Students in the major acquire critical conceptual, analytical, and quantitative skills related to the policy making process and learn how to ethically apply these skills in the assessment of alternative policy responses to a broad range of public issues. Grounded in the principles of social science, the major is particularly appropriate for students who are both passionate about policy problems and dedicated to reaching solutions to these problems through the use of logic and evidence.

The Public Policy major prepares students for careers in government, the non-profit sector, research, and other fields involved in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies.

Honors Program

The Public Policy program offers students the opportunity to achieve honors in the major by (1) maintaining a 3.65 GPA in both the ten courses required for the major (the prerequisite course is not calculated in this GPA) and overall, and (2) successfully completing (with a B+ or higher) a thesis comprising original research, policy analysis, and policy advocacy.

At the end of their junior year, all prospective honors students must consult with the program's academic advisor to determine whether they meet the GPA criteria for the honors track. Then, during the fall of their senior year, eligible majors apply for entry into the spring semester thesis writing honors seminar (PUBPL-UA 801 Honor Thesis, 4 credits). The seminar is limited to 15 students and admission depends on the quality of the proposed thesis project. Prospective thesis writers must delineate the policy area and policy problem they wish to focus on, as well as provide a bibliography of relevant sources (primary and secondary) that they have already consulted.

The honors seminar is an additional eleventh course that does not count toward the ten required for the major proper. Although the honors thesis may be related to topics students have examined in other classes—especially in PUBPL-UA 800 Senior Seminar—it must be the intellectual capstone of students' academic experience at NYU, not a restatement or modification of a policy proposal submitted in a previous class.

Students who earn less than an A- on the thesis will not receive honors in the major, but the 4 credits earned for a passing grade in PUBPL-UA 801 Honor Thesis will still count toward the credits required for graduation.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see [How to Apply](https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html) (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The major in Public Policy requires eleven 4-credit courses (44 credits)—one prerequisite course and then ten major courses—as outlined below. The CAS prerequisite (Introduction to Microeconomics) must be completed with a grade of C or better before a student can declare the major.

| Course | Title | Credits |
|---|---|------------|
| General Education Requirements | | |
| First-Year Seminar | | 4 |
| EXPOS-UA 1 | Writing as Inquiry | 4 |
| Foreign Language ¹ | | 16 |
| Physical Science | | 4 |
| Life Science | | 4 |
| Texts and Ideas | | 4 |
| Cultures and Contexts | | 4 |
| Expressive Culture | | 4 |
| Major Requirements | | |
| <i>Prerequisite Course</i> | | |
| ECON-UA 2 | Introduction to Microeconomics ² | 4 |
| <i>Core Courses</i> | | |
| UPADM-GP 101 | The Politics of Public Policy (Wagner) ³ | 4 |
| UPADM-GP 111 | Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy (Wagner) ^{3,4} | 4 |
| UPADM-GP 140 | The Economics of Public Policy (Wagner) (there are no substitutions for or exemptions from this requirement) ³ | 4 |
| <i>Ethics and Justice Course</i> | | |
| Select one of the following: ⁵ | | 4 |
| ECON-UA 207 | Ethics and Economics | |
| ENVST-UA 400 | Ethics & The Environment | |
| ENVST-UA 480 | Environmental Justice & Inequality | |
| PHIL-UA 3 | Ethics and Society | |
| PHIL-UA 6 | Global Ethics | |
| PHIL-UA 8 | Philosophical Approaches to Race and Racism | |
| PHIL-UA 40 | Ethics | |
| PHIL-UA 45 | Political Philosophy | |
| PHIL-UA 50 | Medical Ethics | |
| PHIL-UA 102 | Topics in Ethics & Pol Philosophy | |
| POL-UA 130 | Ethics, Politics and Public Policy | |
| GWM-UF 201 | Global Works and Society: Modernity ⁸ | |
| <i>Senior Seminar</i> | | |
| PUBPL-UA 800 | Senior Seminar ⁷ | 4 |
| <i>Electives</i> | | |
| Select five major electives ⁶ | | 20 |
| Other Elective Credits | | 40 |
| Total Credits | | 128 |

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

² This prerequisite course must be completed with a grade of C or better before a student can declare the major. Advanced standing credit (AP, IB, etc.) in Microeconomics is accepted.

³ Note that UPADM-GP 101 The Politics of Public Policy, UPADM-GP 111 Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy, and UPADM-GP 140 The Economics of Public Policy count as 12 of the 16 credits CAS students are allowed to take outside the College, and any additional Wagner courses will also count against the 16 credits. In addition, note that no Wagner courses can count toward the 64 UA credits that internal or external transfer students to the College are required to complete.

⁴ There are no exemptions. This course satisfies the College Core Curriculum Quantitative Reasoning requirement for Public Policy majors only. Other students cannot use the course to satisfy this Core requirement (no exceptions).

⁵ Students must check the Economics, Philosophy, and Politics sections of this Bulletin for prerequisites to CAS options.

⁶ Public Policy majors select five elective courses: two must be chosen from a list of pre-approved HIST-UA courses, and at least one of the five must be in the policy analysis field. For full details, consult the Public Policy website. (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/education/undergraduate/major/>)

⁷ Students conduct analysis and research in a small classroom setting under the guidance of a faculty member from CAS or Wagner. Each student writes a senior seminar paper on a current policy problem that consists of both policy analysis and recommendations for action.

⁸ Only Liberal Studies students who took GWM-UF 201 Global Works and Society: Modernity as part of their Liberal Studies Core can count the course towards the Ethics and Justice requirement.

Study Away

Students should discuss with an adviser for the major as early as possible. NYU Washington, DC, is an excellent choice for many Public Policy majors.

Sample Plan of Study

| Course | Title | Credits |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1st Semester/Term | | |
| ECON-UA 2 | Introduction to Microeconomics | 4 |
| Foreign Language | | 4 |
| Texts and Ideas | | 4 |
| First-Year Seminar | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 2nd Semester/Term | | |
| UPADM-GP 101 | The Politics of Public Policy | 4 |
| Foreign Language | | 4 |
| Cultures and Contexts | | 4 |
| EXPOS-UA 1 | Writing as Inquiry | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 3rd Semester/Term | | |
| UPADM-GP 111 | Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy | 4 |
| Ethics and Justice course | | 4 |
| Foreign Language | | 4 |
| Expressive Culture | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 4th Semester/Term | | |
| UPADM-GP 140 | The Economics of Public Policy | 4 |
| Policy Analysis Elective | | 4 |
| General Policy Elective | | 4 |
| Foreign Language | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 5th Semester/Term | | |
| Policy History Elective | | 4 |
| General Policy Elective | | 4 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Physical Science | | 4 |
| Elective | | 4 |
| Credits | | |
| 6th Semester/Term | | 16 |
| Policy History Elective | | 4 |
| Life Science | | 4 |
| Elective | | 4 |
| Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 7th Semester/Term | | |
| PUBPL-UA 800 | Senior Seminar | 4 |
| Elective | | 4 |
| Elective | | 4 |
| Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| 8th Semester/Term | | |
| Elective | | 4 |
| | Credits | 16 |
| | Total Credits | 128 |

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. Intellectual tools for critical thinking and familiarity with assessing assumptions and detecting biases.
2. An understanding of how policy is developed and implemented in the context of demographic, historical, cultural, social, economic, political, and regulatory factors and contexts, and the ability to analyze political (and other forms of) power and relationships.
3. Specialized, up-to-date knowledge in at least one relevant field (e.g. healthcare, the urban or natural environment, international development, national security policy, law and social policy, etc.) and experience with developing policy proposals.
4. The ability to conduct and utilize research; to gather, analyze, and apply information; to use multiple sources of information; and to distinguish among information, misinformation, and disinformation.
5. The skills to apply statistical, economic, and other quantitative and qualitative tools in analysis.
6. Proficiency in written and oral communication.

Policies

Program Policies

Major Policies

1. Credit toward the major is not given for courses completed with a grade of less than C, or for courses taken on a Pass/Fail basis.
2. Students in this major may double-count up to two courses towards this major and another major. However, the department of the second major may allow more limited (or no) double-counting; therefore, students must always check with advisers in their second major.
3. CAS students are allowed to take 16 credits in non-liberal arts courses in the other schools of the University; the three required Wagner courses for this major count as 12 of those 16 credits, and any additional Wagner courses will also count against the 16 credits. Students with a good academic reason for going over the 16-credit

limit must consult the College Advising Center (25 West 4th Street, 5th floor; 212-998-8130) for permission.

4. In addition, no Wagner courses can count toward the 64 credits that internal or external transfer students to the College are required to complete in CAS (-UA) courses.
5. Students may count four credits (the equivalent of one course) from Advanced Placement examinations toward the requirements of the major [only in Politics (U.S. Gov't and Politics), Politics (Comp. Gov't and Politics), US History, and World History]. These credits count toward the general policy elective requirement and also count against the major double-counting limit.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).