

Public Affairs

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Objectives

The major in public affairs welcomes motivated students interested in policy-making, planning, community service and advocacy in public and nonprofit organizations. The bachelor of public affairs degree (BPA) integrates the mission of Seattle University through its focus on social justice and dedication to “empowering leaders for a just and humane world.”

Coursework in the BPA encourages students to explore diverse perspectives, apply problem-solving skills, and engage in practical experiences that enable graduates to undertake important leadership responsibilities and challenging work in the public and nonprofit sectors. The course work includes management studies and public policy analysis. Several policy pathways are available to students, allowing the students to shape their studies according to their interests and concerns. Students earning this degree will be prepared to contribute to all sectors of society and levels of government. This degree is also excellent preparation for graduate or professional school.

There is a BPA/MPA joint degree option. Upon completion of the BPA program, a Seattle University BPA student may apply for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. The graduate degree can be completed in four additional quarters. For joint degree students only there is a reduced, 36-credit requirement for the MPA. See the *Graduate Bulletin of Information* for a description of the MPA program.

Degree Offered

Bachelor of Public Affairs

Major Offered

Public Affairs

Minor Offered

Public Affairs

General Program Requirements

It is strongly suggested that students make an appointment with the BPA program director to discuss their interest in public affairs prior to declaring the major.

Public affairs majors must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 and a minimum of a 2.50 grade point average in the major in order to graduate.

BPA students planning to apply to the graduate Master of Public Administration degree program must have a 3.00 or higher cumulative GPA.

NOTE: Some PUBA courses have been identified as satisfying the senior synthesis and the core interdisciplinary requirements. Those courses may be used to fill major requirements or major electives while also fulfilling university core requirements. The credit for each course completed is included in totals only once.

Bachelor of Public Affairs

Major in Public Affairs

In order to earn the bachelor of public affairs degree, students must complete a minimum of 180 credits with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 and a major grade point average of 2.50.

I. Core Curriculum Requirements

ENGL 110	College Writing: Inquiry and Argument	5
PHIL 110	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	5
HIST 120	Origin of Western Civilization	5
ENGL 120	Introduction to Literature	5
MATH 107 or 110 or above	.....	5
Lab Science	.....	5
Fine Arts (one approved 5 credit course; see course descriptions)	.....	5
PHIL 220	Philosophy of the Human Person	5
Social Science I (not economics or political science)	.....	5
Social Science II (ECON 271 required in major)	.....	*
Theology and Religious Studies Phase II (200-299)	.....	5
Ethics (upper division) (major course may satisfy)	.....	5
Theology and Religious Studies Phase II (300-399)	.....	5
Interdisciplinary (PUBA 480 recommended)	.....	3 to 5
Senior Synthesis satisfied by PUBA 490		

*Included in major GPA.

II. College of Arts & Sciences Requirements

Modern Language 115, 125, 135 or equivalent 15

NOTE: All students with a major in the College of Arts and Sciences must demonstrate competency through the level of 135 in a language other than English. This competency is ordinarily achieved by successful completion of the three-course sequence: 115, 125, and 135. Because these courses are a college requirement, no courses in the sequence may be taken on a pass/fail, correspondence, or audit basis. Placement into other than the beginning course of the sequence is achieved by acceptable performance on the Modern Language Competency Examination. See the Modern Languages Department for details on the examinations. Courses used to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences modern language requirement may not be used to fulfill public affairs major requirements.

Choose one of the following two courses 5

HIST 121	Studies in Modern Civilization
HIST 231	Survey of the United States

III. Major Requirements

A minimum of 60 credits consisting of foundation, programmatic and professional courses.

Area I: Foundational and Prerequisites

PUBA 201	Foundations of Public Administration	5
ECON 271	Principles of Economics – Macro (fulfills Core Social Science II)	5
ECON 272	Principles of Economics – Micro	5
PLSC 309	Local and State Politics	5

Area II: Programmatic: Policy Pathway

Students are required to take at least three courses from one of the following policy pathways. Courses will be determined with consent of the student's major advisor. Elective courses may be used to fulfill policy pathway requirements.

Urban Studies	10 to 15
Nonprofit Leadership	10 to 15
Environmental Policy.....	10 to 15
Criminal Justice	10 to 15
International Studies.....	10 to 15
(Study abroad options are available to interested students)	
Social Policy.....	10 to 15

Area III: Programmatic – Linked Policy Analysis/Senior Synthesis

PUBA 490	Prospectives In Public Affairs	3 to 5
PUBA 495	Internship.....	3 to 6

Area IV: Professional

(Courses co-listed in the *Graduate Bulletin* at the 500 level)

PUBA 411	Understanding Organizations	5
PUBA 430	Management Analysis and Control.....	3 to 5
PUBA 440	Policy and Program Research	3 to 5
PUBA 441	Policy Analysis.....	3 to 5

Professional Field Internship

A second internship is required of joint BPA/MPA students. This second internship is not a requirement for the BPA. This internship will typically be undertaken in the quarter following completion of the BPA requirements.

PUBM 595	Internship.....	1 to 6
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Minor in Public Affairs

In order to earn a minor in public affairs, students must complete 30 credits, with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5, from the following:

Required Courses:

PUBA 201	Foundations of Public Administration	5
PUBA 411	Understanding Organizations	5
PUBA 441	Policy Analysis.....	3 to 5

Choose at least one course from the following:

PUBA 215	Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector	5
PUBA 250	Introduction to Urban Planning.....	5
PLSC 309	Local and State Politics.....	5
PUBA 430	Management Analysis and Control.....	3 to 5
PUBA 440	Policy and Program Research	3 to 5

Elective options include:

PUBA 316	Nonprofit Service and Engagement.....	5
PUBA 317	Nonprofit Leadership.....	5

PUBA 350	Exploring the American City: Urban Design and Community Development	5
PUBA 353	Housing Design and the Sustainable Community.....	5
PUBA 355	Community Design Workshop.....	5
PUBA 418	Resource Development and Stewardship	5
PUBA 419	Global Citizenship: Be the Change.....	5
PUBA 467	Strategic Planning for Public and Nonprofit Organizations	3 to 5
PUBA 473	Sustainable Development in the Tropics.....	3 to 5
PUBA 480	Asian American Experience: Culture, History and Community.....	5
PUBA 491-493	Special Topics.....	3 to 5
PUBA 495	Internship.....	1 to 5
PUBA 496	Independent Study	1 to 5

Public Affairs Courses

PUBA 201	Foundations of Public Administration	5
Provides an overview of the practice of public administration, including key current and future issues, basic concepts, and intellectual history. Students will address a variety of topics such as the changing scope and role of governments in American society, cross-national comparisons of political cultures, leadership roles of administrators in government, administrative responsiveness and accountability, and ethical analysis. Required.		
PUBA 215	Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector	5
Offers an introduction to the nonprofit sector including history, sub-sectors, skill areas and job functions. Students will explore the meaning of mission, vision, values and organizing principles of nonprofit organizations and the role of networks, partnership and collaborative activity in achieving organizational missions. Students will identify and study current issues and trends facing the nonprofit sector.		
PUBA 250	Introduction to Urban Planning	5
A survey of the activity and profession of urban planning as it evolved in the United States since the early 1800s. As a response to the challenges of growing urban areas, planning seeks remedies for physical, social, and economic problems. Course topics will provide an overview of how past events have shaped contemporary practice of directing land use, community, and comprehensive planning of our urban environment, and the political framework that directs the procedures and processes of the profession.		
PUBA 316	Nonprofit Service and Engagement.....	5
Introduces students to nonprofit service and community engagement within the framework of an empowerment model. Students will learn how community and organizational partnerships affect social change; and, influence and shape public policy through strategies such as public education, policy research, community organizing, lobbying and litigation. Students will receive direct exposure to nonprofit organizations through community service and service learning.		
PUBA 317	Nonprofit Leadership	5
Provides strategies for effective leadership/management practices. Students will explore: leadership theories, issues of supervision and human resource management, the role of nonprofit boards and executives as agents of and for social change and social justice, and how to form and maintain high performance teams. Students will apply skills in nonprofit leadership through field experiences and experiential learning. (Retreat required).		

- PUBA 350 Exploring the American City:
Urban Design and Community Development 5**
Examines the development of American cities, urban design and planning. Students will explore the roles and relationships between society and the built environment. Topics include land use, growth management strategies, transportation, housing, urban decline and revitalization.
- PUBA 353 Housing Design and the Sustainable Community 5**
This survey course examines housing and the creation of the "American dream." Course material is approached through a historic profile of design, style, and urban development. Class explores the role of public policy and the relationship of housing to the popular media, advertising, physical design, and societal interests. Cross-listed with SOCL 353. Satisfies core interdisciplinary option.
- PUBA 355 Community Design Workshop..... 5**
This service learning course integrates planning methods and practice of community building through a quarter-long project. Students analyze and develop strategies and recommendations in an urban development or design plan. Cross-listed with NPLR 355 and SOCL 355. Core interdisciplinary option.
- PUBA 396 Directed Study 1 to 5**
- PUBA 411 Understanding Organizations 5**
Students will review classical and emerging perspectives from organizational theory and focus on improving their effectiveness in public and nonprofit organizations. This course will develop a student's capacity to understand and address issues concerning organizational values, assumptions about human nature, and organizational structure, culture, politics, psychology, and learning. Required.
- PUBA 412 Policy Formation and Implementation..... 3 to 5**
This course analyzes processes by which various issues become public policies and public programs. Addresses the interplay of executive, legislative and judicial branches and the various other stakeholders in the processes of policy formation and implementation. Special consideration is paid to the impact and influence of public bureaucracies, values, and ethics. This course examines why policy may have been formulated or not on selected issues and considers barriers to the effective implementation of policy.
- PUBA 418 Resource Development and Stewardship..... 5**
Provides an overview of the theory and practice of philanthropy principles and techniques, marketing and financial stewardship in nonprofit settings. Topics will include individual based fundraising, sponsorships, corporations, brand equity, value, contract negotiations, management of earned revenue, and client fees.
- PUBA 419 Global Citizenship: Be the Change..... 5**
Natural disasters, civil and sectarian conflict, HIV/AIDS, absolute poverty: international nonprofit organizations (NGOs) face dizzying challenges around the globe. Discover leading issues and trends in the international aid and development arena, review global management issues, and learn about career and volunteer opportunities in the field.
- PUBA 430 Management Analysis and Control..... 3 to 5**
Examines the primary concepts and purposes of management control in public and nonprofit organizations; defines terminology and addresses principles of financial accounting. Concepts include responsibility and program structure, audit responsibility, analysis of financial statements, cost accounting, and pricing. Emphasis is upon student analysis of management systems within contemporary organizations. Required. Prerequisite: ECON 272.
- PUBA 440 Policy and Program Research 3 to 5**
Provides an overview of the research methodologies used for public decision-making. Concepts include specification of questions to guide inquiry, basis for causal inference, acquisition of quantitative data, reliability and validity issues, descriptive statistics, and the logic of statistics. Provides students with an opportunity to build skills in designing, conducting, and analyzing research. Required. Prerequisite: Math 107 or above.

- PUBA 441 Policy Analysis..... 3 to 5**
Students will address the systematic analysis of policies that are under consideration or, after having been implemented, are under review. This course emphasizes logical and prescriptive techniques for analyzing public policies and making decisions regarding policy change. Emphasis is on conceptualization, interpretation, and analysis of selected policies. Required.
- PUBA 464 Building Effective Teams..... 3 to 5**
Students explore the critical steps and roles that team members and leaders take to achieve excellence in team performance. Issues such as roles and responsibilities of team members and team leaders are addressed, in addition to determining team strengths and weaknesses, building hands-on skills in completing a team-selected case analysis and presentation, and creating and maintaining the conditions that promote team effectiveness. Cross-listed with NPLR 464.
- PUBA 467 Strategic Planning for Public and Nonprofit Organizations 3 to 5**
Students will explore the leadership and management skills needed for effective facilitation of a planning process. Topics include strategic business and social enterprise planning by combining lectures, discussions, in class exercises, readings, participatory class assignments, and guest presentations.
- PUBA 471 Government Finance..... 3 to 5**
Students will analyze the revenues, expenditures, and debt of federal, state, and local governments. This course uses economic theories and models to understand the role of the public sector as means of social reform, economic efficiency, and distributional equity.
- PUBA 480 Asian American Experience: Culture, History, and Community 5**
This survey course on the Asian and Pacific American experience looks at history, transplanting of cultural values in a new land, expressing community values in social organizations, and physical form. Satisfies core interdisciplinary option.
- PUBA 481-482 Interdisciplinary Core Course 3 to 5**
Title and content vary.
- PUBA 483 Sustainable Development In the Tropics 5**
The objectives of this course are to provide an overview of the environmental and socio-economic characteristics that make the tropics unique; examine the different perspectives on sustainable development; and consider the pros and cons of different strategies to conserve the environment and promote development. The course focus on the livelihood and development challenges and opportunities that come into play in trying to manage ecosystems and conserve biodiversity in the tropics. Cross-listed with EVST 483 and NPLR 483. Core interdisciplinary option.
- PUBA 490 Prospectives in Public Affairs 3 to 5**
The Senior Synthesis (SS) or "capstone" experience that provides students with an opportunity to connect the learning habits acquired in the Core (e.g., thinking, writing, speaking, listening, and analyzing) to the public affairs major (e.g., community building, public policy, collaboration) and mission of Seattle University. The course utilizes Academic Service Learning (ASL) to explore a real policy issue or management problem a government or nonprofit agency is experiencing. Required. Prerequisites: PUBA 440, 441 and senior standing.
- PUBA 491-493 Special Topics..... 3 to 5**
- PUBA 495 Internship..... 3 to 6**
Students will engage in a practical experience with an appropriate governmental, nonprofit, or public sector organization is critical to understanding public service. Internships must be approved by the BPA program director prior to start. Required. Prerequisite: 3 PUBA Area IV courses.
- PUBA 496 Independent Study 1 to 5**