

2011-13 Cal Poly Catalog
Political Science Department

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

General Characteristics

The Master of Public Policy degree program (MPP) is professionally oriented, and open to students who wish to pursue analytic careers in government and nonprofit organizations or in organizations related to public policy regulations. The program is structured to prepare graduates with competence to function in a general context of policy, as well as in analysis. The core courses cover public policy, public policy analysis, quantitative methods, leadership, policy internship, and graduate seminar.

The MPP program is designed to meet the needs of those who have earned baccalaureate degrees in a variety of disciplines, including, but not limited to, economics, history, political science, social sciences, psychology, city and regional planning, business administration, education, environmental studies, and natural resource management.

The program is two years in duration for students taking 8 or more units per term. It consists of 60 approved units (not including courses necessary to compensate for deficiencies). Because of the sequencing of courses, students admitted to the program are expected to begin study in the fall quarter. In their second year, students undertake the development, presentation, and discussion of individual research projects in a two-term seminar (POLS 590). After the completion of POLS 590, students are required to pass a comprehensive exam. The program offers students opportunities to develop close working relationships with faculty. Self-directed study, tailored to student interest and needs, is encouraged.

Prerequisites

Students entering the program are expected to bring with them backgrounds in certain basic subject areas or to make up deficiencies in these areas after admission. These include the following Cal Poly course or its equivalent: STAT 221 Introduction to Probability and Statistics.

Admission Requirements

1. Possession of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university;
2. A grade point average of not less than 3.00 in all undergraduate coursework;
3. Related undergraduate coursework or work experience;
4. The quality of previous educational and professional experiences measured by:
 - a. Biographical and career data (resumes, examples of reports, letters of recommendation, etc.),

- b. Professional training in fields such as budgeting, management, and supervision in the public, health, or nonprofit sectors, and
- c. A personal statement describing a student's experience and reasons for applying to the program.

5. For applicants whose preparatory education is principally in a language other than English, a TOEFL score of 550 or higher (or 213 on the new conversation scale for the computer-based TOEFL exam).

Program of Study

Graduate students must file a formal study plan with their major professor, graduate committee, department, college and university graduate studies office no later than the end of the quarter in which the twelfth unit of approved courses is completed. The formal program of study must include a minimum of 60 units. Core courses in the Political Science Department must be taken on a graded basis unless specified in the course catalog as credit/no credit (CR/NC).

	<i>Units</i>
Required Courses	40-44
POLS 510 Research Design (4)	
POLS 515 Public Policy (4)	
POLS 518 Public Policy Analysis (5)	
POLS 540 Leadership and Management in Public Policy (4)	
POLS 550 Regulatory and Economic Policy (4)	
POLS 560 Quantitative Methods (5)	
POLS 586 Policy Internship (4-8)	
POLS 590 Graduate Seminar (8)	
POLS 595 Directed Readings for MPP Comprehensive Exams (2)	
Approved Electives	16-20
Additional 400 and 500-level courses, to be selected with graduate advisor's approval. <i>At least 6 4 units must be at the 500 level.(4/14/14)</i>	