

**Designated Emphasis in
Public Policy**

**Submitted by the School of Public Policy
University of California, Riverside**

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Approved by Graduate Council

1. Background

In September of 2015, the Master's of Public Policy (MPP) Program launched with an inaugural cohort of 29 students. The MPP program is a full-time two-year course-based master's. The curriculum consists of 72 units overall with 11 core courses (44 units total), five concentration/elective courses (20 units), required policy internship, and a required capstone research project (8 units).

The MPP offers a rigorous course of study for students seeking to obtain a professional degree in public policy. However, there are many students who are earning a Ph.D. in a discipline whose research may have public policy relevance. These students may seek a more fundamental knowledge of public policy to become more competitive candidates for a position in their primary field. An example would be a Ph.D. student in Chemical and Environmental Engineering focused on Air Quality Engineering. This student may want to take courses in public policy because they want to serve on an Air Quality Management District board. This is just one example of how a Ph.D. student can use a Designated Emphasis in Public Policy. Other areas can include, but not be limited to: Economics, Engineering, Earth Sciences, Political Science, Sociology, Education, and Environmental Sciences.

2. Coursework Requirements

To earn a Designated Emphasis in Public Policy, students must complete four graduate courses (16 units) in total, of which two should be core courses in the Master of Public Policy program, one course from the list of MPP program elective courses, and one graduate course (from an approved list) offered by a department that is not the student's own department. Note that students cannot apply units taken to fulfill the DE program requirement toward their own graduate program requirements.

The Graduate Advisor in the School of Public Policy will serve as the DE Director. A discrepancy between the list of required courses and the courses selected by the student will need to be approved by the DE Director during the application period and before the completion of the coursework requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to request course substitutions in writing from the DE Director as well as report to the DE Director on his/her progress in the program.

Two required core courses offered by the School of Public Policy:

- PBPL 200: Introduction to Public Policy Analysis
- PBPL 220: Policy Evaluation: Theory and Practice

One required elective course offered by the School of Public Policy:

- PBPL 206: State Governments as Laboratories of Change
- PBPL 210: Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Analysis
- PBPL 212: Qualitative Social Science Methods
- PBPL 214: Applied Microeconomics for Public Policy
- PBPL 224: Global-local Policy Connections: Case Studies in Poverty, Water, and Sustainable Development
- PBPL 232: Sustainability Policy
- PBPL 233: Environmental Economics
- PBPL 234: Poverty in Global Perspective
- PBPL 241: Climate Change Policy
- PBPL 245: Comparative Water Policy
- PBPL 260: Education Policy Analysis (cross-listed with EDUC 209A)
- PBPL 270: Immigration Policy
- PBPL 271: Racial Inequality in Politics and Policy
- PBPL 272: Policy and Politics in California

One required course from any of the following programs that is not the student's own graduate program: Economics, Education, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Political Science, or Sociology.

Economics:

- ECON 236: Political Economy of International Finance
- ECON 237: Topics in international Finance
- ECON 240: Labor Supply, Labor Demand, and the Structure of Wages
- ECON 241: Labor Institutions and Macro Labor Outcomes

- ECON 243: Topics in Labor
- ECON 250: Money, Credit, and the Macroeconomy
- ECON 254: Topics in Money, Credit, and Business Cycles
- ECON 260: Theories of Economic Development
- ECON 261: Contemporary Development Strategies
- ECON 264: Topics in Economic Development
- ECON 265: Agriculture and Rural Development

Education:

- EDUC 203: History of Education in the U.S.
- EDUC 269M: Social Capital Theory and Education Policy
- EDUC 245G: Opportunity and Achievement Gaps
- EDUC 269E: The Educational Importance of Social-Emotional Skills

Engineering:

- CEE 232: Green Engineering
- ENGR 200: Engineering in the Global Environment
- ENGR 201: Technology Innovation and Strategy for Engineers
- ENGR 203: Principles of Engineering Management

Environmental Sciences:

- ENSC 201: Environmental Management
- ENSC 206: Environmental Policy and Law
- ENSC 227: Global Change and the Earth System

Earth Sciences:

- GEO 205: Geohydrology
- GEO 252: Marine Paleoecology
- GEO 255: Advanced Topics in Sedimentary Petrology
- GEO 260: Global Climate Change

Political Science:

- POSC 252: Public Policy
- POSC 268: Human Rights
- POSC 271: Comparative Political Economics
- POSC 282: Political Theory and Policy Analysis

Sociology:

- SOC 245: Large-Scale Organizations
- SOC 257: (E-Z) Topics in Institutional Analysis
- SOC 251: Current Research in Political Economy and Global Social Change
- SOC 252: Current Research in Economic and Organizational Sociology

- SOC 253: Current Research in Organizations and Institutions

3. Research requirement

Students in the Designated Emphasis are required to demonstrate their research capacity by writing a review paper that will focus on a policy issue/problem and the policy solutions (including design, implementation, and cost-effectiveness) to address the problem. Selection of the policy issue and the structure of the paper are to be agreed upon with a faculty member from the School of Public Policy, who will serve as a mentor, with an option for joint mentorship with a faculty member from another department (including the student's own department). The Designated Emphasis paper topic will need to be approved by both the mentor (paper advisor) and the DE Director on the form "Application for Designated Emphasis in Public Policy (PP)." It is the responsibility of the student to seek approval from the DE Director for any changes in the review paper.

A final version of the paper will need to be approved by the mentor and by the DE Director before the DE can be declared.

It is expected that the review paper, of about 25-30 pages long, will be of a publishable quality, and will be completed within 1-2 quarters. [1]

4. Designated Emphasis Curriculum Oversight Committee

The School of Public Policy Graduate Committee will serve as the Designated Emphasis Curriculum Oversight Committee.

5. Designated Emphasis Timeline

Students will have a maximum time of one calendar year from the quarter in which they advance to candidacy to complete their designated emphasis.

6. GPA Requirement

Students are required to complete courses within the Designated Emphasis with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA.

[1] We refer to the DE program Cell, Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience (CMBN) that requires a research project of the same kind as proposed for MPP in addition to the 16 units of courses.