

Addendum A: The fields of Public Policy and Government and Politics distinguished

Public policy is not a subfield of any other discipline but instead a truly interdisciplinary approach, with a 70-year tradition that has become robust and effective, in scholarly research, public service, and education. Public policy focuses on solving policy puzzles and draws on other disciplines as appropriate to understand policy problems and to devise the best solutions. Public policy weaves together particular elements of many other disciplines: philosophy (what is a good decision, and how can we produce it?); operations research (what does a policy system look like, and how can we improve it?); political science (how do the elements of the governmental process work, and how can we most effectively navigate it?); and especially economics (what decisions would maximize benefits to society at the lowest cost?). Indeed, economics has proven the most important disciplinary contributor to public policy, but public policy also draws very heavily on these other disciplines. It also brings in elements of public health, city planning, foreign affairs, engineering, mathematics, the biological sciences, nonprofit management, business and many other disciplines.

Public policy focuses especially on analysis, to integrate the approaches of different disciplines in an effort to produce the best policy decisions and the most effective policy implementation. That fundamental unit of analysis differs from the approach of other disciplines. Economics, for example, focuses principally on efficient resource allocation in decisions without exploring how to carry out those decisions. Philosophy focuses on understanding driving principles and how they affect actions, but it does not focus on quantitative tools. Political science deals with government's processes and institutions, but it does not bring in the policy-analytic tools of microeconomics and econometrics. Public policy weaves these approaches together in a tight focus, with a special concentration on problem solving in individual policies.

The slide presentation in Addendum B provides further information and data surrounding the discipline of public policy and the national context with regard to public policy majors.

Detailed Curriculum Differences: The proposed Public Policy major studies problems as the unit of analysis, wherein students seek to define those problems, analyze alternative responses, devise appropriate strategies for implementation, and evaluate the success of the policy and its implementation.

In contrast, the Government and Politics major focuses its attention on political institutions such as the Executive Branch and the Supreme Court and the political process. The Government and Politics Department at UMD provides courses related to American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, law and society and political economy. On the other hand, the Public Policy major will bring in economics, history, moral philosophy, business, and information studies as well as the role of non-state actors such as for-profit and nonprofit entities.

The School of Public Policy gathered from the Registrar the list of courses taught by GVPT in the last five years, reviewing closely 104 courses that are regularly taught in the Government and Politics Department. While we did not have access to syllabi for all 104 courses, from our review it seems only 12 had any reference to policy or topics covered in the proposed Public Policy major. Of these 12, five are experiential learning courses, such as field research or internship courses. Experiential learning is one area we have already committed to work in collaboration with GVPT. Three of the twelve courses are related to environmental policy rather than generic public policy. This leaves only four courses that may include topics we address as part of our general curriculum.

These courses include:

- GVPT388B: Topical Investigations; Innovation in the Public Sector
- GVPT388L: Topical Investigations; Maryland Politics, Policy, and Leadership
- GVPT459I: Thinking Like a Citizen
- GVPT479G: Interest Group and Social Movement

We will ensure our course offerings do not provide significant duplication to the above courses. Faculty from the School of Public Policy have already met with faculty from the Government and Politics Department and will continue to do so as we develop courses to prevent duplication between majors.

The School of Public Policy is not convinced our major will draw disproportionately from GVPT majors. We analyzed the background of the over 750 students enrolled each year in public policy classes during the last five years. The number of students who are government and politics majors has steadily decreased each year, with 16.4% being GVPT majors in 2010-2011 decreasing to 10.9% in 2014-2015. Additionally, there are many examples of Top 25 Political Science Programs coexisting with Top 25 Schools of Public Policy. The University of Michigan Political Science Department, located in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, is ranked 4th in the country. In the fall of 2015 they enrolled 496 political science majors. The Ford School of Public Policy is ranked 3rd in the nation among policy schools. In the fall of 2015, they enrolled 139 public policy majors. We are convinced a public policy major at the University of Maryland will complement the government and politics major and enhance student offerings while making the University more competitive overall.

The Undergraduate Major in Public Policy: National Context

February 12, 2016

The major: national patterns

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Most public policy programs offer undergraduate majors

- 64% of public policy programs offer an undergraduate major
- Of those not now offering the major, 23% are considering offering the major in the next 2 years

Source: NASPAA (2014),
at <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fnaspaa.org%2FDataCenter%2FUndergraduate%2520Survey.pptx>

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Most leading public policy programs are in stand-alone schools

- 33 of the top 35 programs in the country are in free-standing schools of public affairs or public policy
- 1 is an institute (Wisconsin)
- 1 is a separate department (Georgia)

Source: NASPAA, 2013-14 Annual Data Report

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More than 40% of leading public policy schools have undergraduate majors

- 5 of top 11 (45%) programs have undergraduate majors
- 13 of top 30 (43%) programs have undergraduate majors

Source: NASPAA, *A Report on Public Affairs/Policy/Administration Undergraduate Education* (2013)

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Half of CIC universities have public policy programs—and half of these have majors

University	Public policy rank	Political science dept rank	Undergrad major?
Chicago	23	12	n
Illinois		23	
Indiana	2	25	y
Iowa		32	
Maryland	29	28	in process
Michigan	12	4	y
Mich State		32	
Minnesota	16	19	n
Nebraska		54	
Northwestern		21	
Ohio State	29	15	y
Penn State		28	
Purdue		61	
Rutgers	46	45	y
Wisconsin	12	15	n

- 8 of 15 CIC universities have programs in public policy

- 4 of these 8 universities have undergrad public policy majors

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Inside the Beltway

- No public policy program inside the Beltway has an undergraduate public policy major

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Public policy programs do not focus on political science

- Most common specializations offered in programs in public policy and public affairs
 - Nonprofit
 - Public management
 - Health
 - City/local
 - Budget/finance
 - Environment
 - Human resources

Source: NASPAA, *Annual Program Survey Results* (2014), at <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fnaspa.org%2FDataCenter%2FAPS%252012-13%2520Conference%2520Slides%2520updated%252010.31.pptx>

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Public policy majors do not draw disproportionately from political science

Table 8: Where Public Affairs Majors Would Enroll If the Degree Did Not Exist

Major	Raw Percent of Students (average across all schools)	Normalized Percent of Students (basis of 100%)
Political Science	30.45	20.55
Economics	19.85	13.40
Business	19.50	13.16
Other Social Sciences	15.83	10.68
International Relations	15.30	10.33
Psychology	12.61	8.51
Criminology	12.50	8.44
History	10.00	6.75
Communications	6.43	4.34
Other Not Listed	4.00	2.70
STEM Fields	1.68	1.13

Source: NASPAA, *A Report on Public Affairs/Policy/Administration Undergraduate Education* (2013)

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What is the content of public policy undergraduate majors?

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The public policy discipline: key elements

- Interdisciplinary focus
 - An exploration of important policy issues, with an explicit focus on the boundary-spanning across fields of study, instead of through a lens shaped by a particular discipline
- Systematic analysis
 - Combination of wide-ranging political, statistical, and economic analysis tools to understand problems, their root causes, and solutions, with a special focus on complexity and the interrelated nature of policy problems
- Policy area focus
 - A problem-centered view of the discipline, instead of through a structural, institutional, process, or behavioral approach

Example: Ford School, University of Michigan, at <http://fordschool.umich.edu/ba>

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Typical major in public policy

University of Michigan undergraduate major in public policy:

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- PUBPOL 320: Politics, political institutions, and public policy (4 credits)
- PUBPOL 330: Microeconomics for public policy (4 credits)
- STATS 250: Introduction to statistics and data analysis (4 credits)
- PUBPOL 495: Policy seminar (junior year, 4 credits)
- PUBPOL 495: Policy seminar (senior year, 4 credits)
- 6 additional credit hours in PUBPOL at the 300 or 400 level
- 12 additional credits in student-declared focus area

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How does public policy fit with other academic disciplines?

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Political science is a small part of public policy

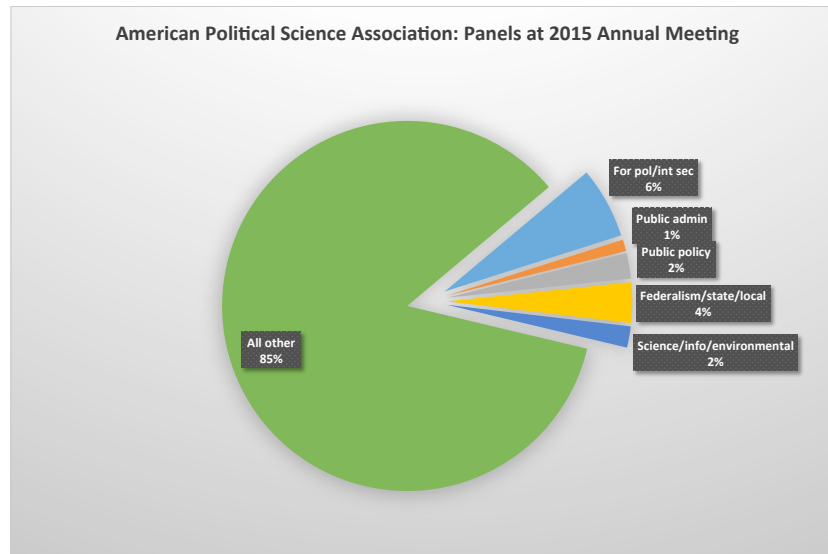
Areas at 2015 Annual Meeting of Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management

- Crime and Drugs
- Education
- Employment and Training Programs
- Family and Child Policy
- Health Policy
- Housing and Community Development
- Impact of Politics on the Policy Process
- Natural Resource Security, Energy, and Environmental Policy
- Population and Migration Issues
- Poverty and Income Policy
- Population and Migration Issues
- Poverty and Income Policy
- Public and Nonprofit Management and Finance
- Social Equity
- Science and Technology
- Tools of Analysis: Methods, Data, Informatics, and Research Design

Foreign policy issues in public policy schools are covered in different professional settings.

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Public policy is a small part of political science



Public policy is not a principal political science subfield

Typical subfields:

- American politics
- Methodology
- Political theory
- Comparative politics
- International relations

Public policy v. other disciplines: Stanford model

Educational Objectives of Public Policy

- Understanding the advantages of and barriers to effective human social and political cooperation (theory of collective action, game theory, organizational behavior, social psychology, politics);
- Acquiring a framework for formulating and evaluating appropriate normative objectives, defined in terms of human well-being, including justice or fairness (ethics, moral and political philosophy, economic analysis of law);
- Mastering analytical tools useful for evaluating public policies and programs in terms of their absolute and comparative efficacy in achieving given social objectives (microeconomics, welfare economics, public finance, econometric analysis, benefit-cost-risk analysis); and
- Bringing these principles and tools into practical application for decision making in the real world, from the perspectives of political leaders as well as citizens (applications of evidence-based practices in applied fields such as health or environmental policy; practica, internships)

Source: <https://publicpolicy.stanford.edu/about/what-public-policy-stanford>

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Continued . . .

Public Policy vs. Related Fields

- Students often ask about the **differences** between Public Policy as a major and related subjects, such as political science, economics, or certain fields of philosophy. **Public policy analysis requires students to understand tools and principles taught in political science as well as economics and to integrate that learning in order to pursue goals whose values are based in moral and political philosophy. In contrast, political science deals chiefly with the processes of political decision making, while economics focuses principally on efficient resource allocation. Philosophy seeks to provide a rational relationship between fundamental values and actions.**
- Of course, public policy analysis requires an even broader understanding than that provided by the disciplines of economics, philosophy, and political science. For example, effective analysis depends heavily on the ability to identify, collect and test appropriate data in order to understand the effects of policies and programs. That ability is derived from the study of mathematics, statistics, and econometrics. Similarly, while policy analysis itself must always aspire to rationality, the ultimate subject of analysis is individual and collective human behavior, much of which is founded on emotion and instinct. Therefore the study of policy analysis must also include psychology and related neurosciences. Finally, effective policy analysis is very difficult indeed if the analyst is ignorant of the humanities, of the experiences and perspectives of cultures distant in space or time, or of the scientific method. And policy analysis is fruitless if the analyst is unable to communicate the results clearly and effectively to decision makers and lay audiences. Communication skills are an essential element of effective policy analysis.

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Addendum C: External and Internal Transfer Student Protocol

The proposed major in Public Policy will receive transfers from other majors on campus, as well as students from Maryland Community Colleges. Working closely with the staff from Undergraduate Studies and the Pre-transfer Advising Office, the director of Undergraduate Studies in the School of Public Policy will create plans for academic success for students wishing to transfer.

External Transfers

Students enrolled in any academic program at one of the partner community colleges are eligible to participate in MTAP, Maryland Transfer Advantage Program. This pathway program is designed to assist community college students successfully complete bachelors degrees at the University.

Participating community colleges include:

- Anne Arundel Community College
- Carroll Community College
- College of Southern Maryland
- Community College of Baltimore County
- Frederick Community College
- Montgomery College
- Prince George's Community College

Additionally, we will specifically recruit candidates from community colleges who are planning to transfer to the University.

Internal Transfers

Students currently enrolled at the University of Maryland will be eligible to transfer into the Public Policy major. The sample plan included in the body of the proposal is intended for students who enter the major as first-year students. Those students interested in transferring should contact the School and work with an academic advisor to develop a revised four-year plan for successful completion of the major.