

PUBLIC POLICY - BS

The Public Policy major equips students with the interdisciplinary knowledge and applied skills to address today's most urgent social and political challenges. Combining coursework in economics, political science, statistics, and sociology, the program prepares students to evaluate public problems, design effective policies, and communicate solutions clearly and persuasively.

Rooted in St. Kate's mission to educate women to lead and influence, the major is designed for students seeking careers in government, advocacy organizations, nonprofits, NGOs, and elected office. Graduates emerge with a versatile toolkit that includes quantitative analysis, policy writing, critical thinking, and a deep understanding of structural inequality.

Students learn to navigate the political and economic forces that shape public policy, while building technical competencies in policy analysis, data interpretation, cost-benefit evaluation, and data visualization needed for today's policy analyst roles. The coursework encourages students to pursue relevant policy topics that spark personal interest through research and other applied work, which are attractive discussion points for interviews and graduate school applications. A strong emphasis is placed on justice, equity, and women's leadership in policymaking, ensuring students are prepared not only to work in the field but to lead it.

Students gain hands-on experience through internships and collaborative research with faculty, working on topics such as education policy, criminal justice reform, and international development. Many students present their work at national conferences such as the Population Association of America (PAA) and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Internship placements have included the Minnesota Legislature, American Red Cross, Ramsey County, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Through its blend of liberal arts education and professional training, the Public Policy major prepares students to make an immediate impact—and a long-term difference—in public life.

This major is offered in the College for Women only.

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Code	Title	Credits
Major Courses:		
ECON 1120	Economics of Social Issues	4
ECON 2610	Principles of Microeconomics	4
ECON 3050	Quantitative Impact Evaluation: Applied Research Skills	4
ECON 3650	Cost-Benefit Analysis	4
ECON 4850W	Theory to Action	4
POSC 1710W	Introduction to American Government and Policy	4
POSC 3070	Public Policy	4
Select three of the following (at least two must be at the 3000 level)		12
Any POSC course		
Any ECON course		
NPSO 2100	Intro to the Nonprofit Sector	
NPSO 3050	Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations	

SOCI 2150	Challenging Oppressions, Civic Engagement and Change
SOCI 2700	Social Movements-Social Change
SOCI 3160	Migration, Citizenship, Community
SOCI 3210	Family, Identity and Inequality
SOCI 3340	Criminal Justice: From Policing to Punishment
SOCI 3860	Neighborhoods, Cities and Inequality
SOWK 2810	Introduction to Social Work
SOWK 3910	Social Policy for Social Change

Total Credits 40

Students must complete 8 additional upper-division credits (3XXX or 4XXX level) determined by the student and her advisor. Many students complete these 8 credits (usually 2 four-credit classes) by adding a minor or double major.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Supporting Course:		
ECON 1090	Statistical Analysis for Decision Making	4
Total Credits		4

Public policy majors satisfy the Writing Requirement for Majors by completing POSC 1710W Introduction to American Government and Policy. They complete the liberal arts core Writing Requirement with three other writing-intensive courses (CORE 1000W The Reflective Woman, CORE 3990W Global Search for Justice, and any other writing-intensive course in this or another department).

Code	Title	Credits
Fall Term		
ECON 1120	Economics of Social Issues	4
POSC 1710W	Introduction to American Government and Policy	4
Spring Term		
ECON 2610	Principles of Microeconomics	4
POSC 3070	Public Policy	4
Fall Term		
ECON 1090	Statistical Analysis for Decision Making	4
Spring Term		
ECON 3050	Quantitative Impact Evaluation: Applied Research Skills	4
Fall Term		
ECON 3650	Cost-Benefit Analysis ¹	4
Select one upper-division elective from the choices listed under major requirements		4
Spring Term		
Select one upper-division elective from the choices listed under major requirements		4
Fall Term		
Select one upper-division elective from the choices listed under major requirements		4
Spring Term		
ECON 4850W	Theory to Action	4
Total Credits		44