

"After being in this program, I've learned to look at numbers with a new appreciation. I believe numbers hold power. Now I see how data analysis cuts straight to the core message and efficacy of a policy."

- **Tamari Ramishvili**

Master of Public
Policy, 2017



Areas of Concentration:

Master of Public Policy

Department of Public Administration and Policy

Academic Year 2019-2020



SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

Mission Statement

The mission of the **AU Masters of Public Policy** program is to prepare students to advance the quality of policy making in a variety of institutional settings in the U.S. and abroad by instilling a blend of analytical, contextual, ethical, and substantive skills and knowledge.

Goals/Objectives - We will achieve our mission by preparing students to:

1. **Formulate and evaluate** public policy, and communicate analysis effectively to relevant stakeholders.
2. **Address societal problems with policy analysis** in the context of political/policy processes in the U.S. and abroad.
3. **Improve the allocation of resources** using sound, evidence-based evaluation of the costs and benefits of policy alternatives.
4. **Incorporate a range of values** into policy analysis, including democratic/constitutional values, respect for the diversity of people and perspectives in the policy process, and ethical principles including commitment to upholding the public trust.

For the foreseeable future, the United States and other governments worldwide face the challenge of discerning how best to harness the energy and expertise of public servants, the passion and commitment of nonprofit organizations, and the dynamism and creativity of markets in the pursuit of democratic and constitutionally informed public purposes.

Through our teaching and unique location in Washington, D.C., we seek to help meet this challenge by enhancing the knowledge, professional skills, and leadership potential of our students in their public service careers.

We educate students entering, engaged in, and interacting with government agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

We treat administration and policy as interrelated subjects strongly influenced by the values of public service and democratic constitutionalism.

Through our research and civic involvement, we seek to enhance what is practiced and taught in our field.

We seek to attract a diverse group of talented students. We encourage their active involvement in learning, research, and professional activity and strive to enhance their appreciation of the responsibilities of public service.

MPP Program Core

MPP students take a total of ten required courses plus three concentration courses. Eight of the ten required courses are specifically prescribed, including a gateway course (Foundations of Policy Analysis, PUAD 606) at the beginning of the program and a capstone course (Policy Practicum, PUAD 688) at the end. Students also must choose one course from a list of applied policy analysis offerings and one from a list covering the governmental context. The remainder of the MPP degree program is composed of concentration courses and an internship for pre-service students. Students may test out of the basic statistics course (PUAD 601), allowing room for more advanced offerings. The total program is 39 credit hours long.

Required Courses

1. PUAD 606 Foundations of Policy Analysis (3 credits)
2. PUAD 601 Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis I (3 credits)
3. PUAD 602 Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis II (3 credits) * (PUAD 601)
4. PUAD 603 Public Policy Process (3 credits)
5. PUAD 631 Financing Government Services (3 credits) *(PUAD 630 or 670)
6. PUAD 670 Economics for Policy Analysis (3 credits)
7. PUAD 684 Organizational Analysis (3 credits)
8. Applied Policy Analysis (at least one of the following):
 - PUAD 604 Public Program Evaluation (3 credits) *(PUAD 602)
 - PUAD 607 Economics and Politics of Public Policy (3 credits) *(PUAD 606 or 630)
 - PUAD 671 Cost Benefit Analysis (3 credits) *(PUAD 630 or 670)
 - PUAD 672 Advanced Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis (3 credits) *(PUAD 602)
9. Legal, Organizational, and Ethical Context (at least one of the following):
 - PUAD 616 Legal Basis of Public Administration (3 credits)
 - PUAD 617 Project Management (3 credits)
 - PUAD 619 Ethical Issues in Public Policy (3 credits)
 - PUAD 650 Leadership in a Changing Workplace (3 credits)
10. PUAD 688 Policy Practicum (3 credits)

Concentration and Internship

Students take three concentration courses (9 credits). Concentrations are listed on the following pages. Pre-service students are expected to complete an internship. They may earn 3 credits in association with the internship by taking an internship seminar. The seminar would take the place of one concentration course. Students may enroll in the internship seminar (PUAD 691) at any time after completing 9 credits in the degree program. Please contact an academic advisor about the approval process regarding your internship and registering for the internship seminar. As a NASPAA accredited MPP program, we will ask students to complete a survey on their non-credit internship experiences prior to completing their programs.

Capstone Experience

Assignments in the capstone course (Policy Practicum, PUAD 688), including a major policy analysis paper for a client and a “48 hour exercise,” fulfill the university requirement for a capstone experience. The capstone course should be taken in the final semester of study.

*indicates prerequisite

MPP Areas of Concentration

Each student constructs his or her area of concentration, suited to his or her individual career goals. Students should consult department faculty and academic advisors for help in selecting concentrations. Interviews with alumni and practitioners may also help students identify suitable subjects. Some students select established concentrations; others assemble courses around their own special needs.

Within its 85-member faculty, the School of Public Affairs possesses a substantial number of persons with expertise in various public policies. Drawing on that expertise, the MPP program advertises 11 areas of concentration. Students wishing to construct an area of concentration or take courses not listed on the following pages must have their selections approved by an academic advisor. Concentration courses should complement each other and lead to an advanced level of study. Students should plan their areas of concentration early in their programs, since some of the courses may be offered only once or twice during the overall period of study.

Students typically take nine credit hours in their area of concentration. The listed areas of concentration for the MPP degree program are as follows:

1. Social Policy
2. Health Policy
3. Education Policy
4. Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy
5. Public Financial Management
6. International Development
7. Nonprofit Policy, Management, and Leadership
8. Public Management
9. Advanced Policy Analysis
10. Comparative Public Policy
11. Crime, Public Law, and Policy

MPP students may also develop a customized concentration with the approval of an academic advisor and MPP Director. In addition, the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area offers a number of opportunities for the development of other specializations not offered at AU. For additional information, consult your academic advisor.

Note: course numbers and titles may be subject to change.

1. Social Policy

The social policy concentration teaches students how to utilize governmental and nongovernmental tools to address challenges imposed by poverty, hunger, educational deficiencies, unemployment, and discrimination. Faculty advising for this concentration is provided by Professors Bradley Hardy and Taryn Morrissey.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings

- PUAD 609 Topics in Public Management:
 - State and Local Management (3)
- PUAD 681 Managing Nonprofit Organizations (3)
- PUAD 685/696 Selected Topics:
 - Global Health Policy (3)
 - Healthcare Policy (3)
 - Social Welfare Policy and Programs (3)
 - Child and Family Policy (3)
 - Education and the American Policy System (3)
 - Urban Policy and Community Development (3)
 - Race, Policy, and Administration (3)
 - Housing Policy (3)
 - Health Economics and Policy (3) *(PUAD 630 or 670)
 - Development, Politics and Policy in DC (3)
- JLC 651 Drugs, Crime, and Public Policy (3)
- JLC 636 Reproduction and the Law (3)
- JLC 638 Race and Justice in America (3)
- SIS 624 Children in International Development (3)
- SIS 648 Gender and Development (3)
- SOCY 570 Sociology of Gender and Family (3)
- SOCY 596 Health and the City (3)
- SOCY 684 Seminar in Public Sociology (3)

*indicates prerequisite

2. Health Policy

This concentration allows students to gain an appreciation for the issues confronting policymakers and analysts working on health and related issues in the U.S. and abroad. Faculty advising on this concentration is provided by Professors Taryn Morrissey and Erdal Tekin.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- PUAD 685/696 Selected Topics:
 - Healthcare Policy (3)
 - Global Health Policy (3)
 - Health Economics and Policy (3) *(PUAD 630 or 670)
- HFIT 550 Programing for Health Promotion (3)
- HFIT 618 Strategic Planning in Health Promotion (3)
*(permission of department)
- GOVT 596 Politics and U.S. Health Policy (3)
- GOVT 596 Healthcare Reform in the U.S. (3)
- JLC 651 Drugs, Crime, and Public Policy (3)
- JLC 636 Reproduction and the Law (3)
- HIST 669 The History of Medicine in the U.S. from Smallpox to AIDS (3)
- SIS 628 Health Communication Across Borders (3)
- SIS 635 Health in the Developing World (3)
- SOCY 596 Health and the City (3)

*indicates prerequisite

3. Education Policy

This concentration allows students to gain an appreciation for the issues confronting policymakers and analysts working on education and related issues in the U.S. and abroad. Faculty advising on this concentration is provided by Professors Seth Gershenson, Dave Marcotte, Taryn Morrissey and Claudia Persico.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- Topics in Public Management:
 - State and Local Management (3)
- PUAD 685/696 Selected Topics:
 - Education and the American Policy System (3)
 - Social Welfare Policy and Programs (3)
 - Child and Family Policy (3)
 - Urban Policy and Community Development (3)
 - Race, Policy, and Administration (3)
 - Housing Policy (3)
 - Development, Politics and Policy in DC (3)
- PUAD 681 Managing Nonprofit Organizations (3)
- JLC 638 Race and Justice in America (3)
- SIS 624 Children in International Development (3)
- SOCY 596 Health and the City (3)
- SOCY 684 Seminar in Public Sociology (3)

4. Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

This concentration allows students to gain an appreciation for the issues confronting policymakers and analysts working on scientific, technological, and environmental issues in the U.S. and abroad. Faculty advising on this concentration is provided by Professors Dan Fiorino, Howard McCurdy and Claudia Persico.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- PUAD 617 Project Management (3)
- PUAD 685/696 Selected Topics:
 - Environmental Sustainability and Public Policy (3)
 - Public Policies for the Environment and Energy (3)
 - Environmental and Natural Resource Policy Analysis (3)
 - Science and Technology Policy (3)
- SIS 620 Studies in Global Environmental Politics – Various Topics
 - Global Climate Change Politics (3)
- SIS 649 Environment and Development (3)
- SIS 660 Environment and Politics (3)
- ECON 579 Environmental Economics (3) *(ECON 500 or 603 or 703)
- GOVT 696 Selected Topics:
 - Global Warming and U.S. Environmental Policy (3)

*indicates prerequisite

5. Public Financial Management

This concentration is designed for students wishing to understand the manner in which efforts to finance public sector activities affects public policy. Public finance provides a framework for understanding policy choices and the implications of program structural features within the context of economic responses of service populations, the general public, and policymakers. Faculty advising on this concentration is provided by Professors Carla Flink and Jocelyn Johnston.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- PUAD 631 Financing Government Services *(PUAD 630 or 670)
- PUAD 633 Budgeting and Financial Management (3)
- PUAD 671 Cost Benefit Analysis (3) *(PUAD 630 or 670)
- PUAD 685/696 Selected Topics:
 - Public Finance in Developing Countries (3)
 - Health Economics and Policy (3) *(PUAD 630 or 670)
- ECON 541 Public Economics (3) *(ECON 500 or 703 and ECON 501 or 702)
- ECON 547 Economics of Antitrust and Regulation (3) *(ECON 500 or 703)
- ECON 639 Policy Issues in Financial Economics (3)
 *(ECON 500 or 703 and 531)
- GOVT 527 Government Regulation and Deregulation (3)

*indicates prerequisite

6. International Development

This concentration serves students interested in gaining an appreciation for the challenges facing policymakers and analysts working on global issues and those affecting the developing world. Faculty advising for this concentration is provided by Professor Khaldoun AbouAssi.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- PUAD 608 Comparative Administrative Systems (3)
- PUAD 633 Budgeting and Financial Management (3)
- PUAD 685/696 Selected Topics:
 - Global Health Policy (3)
 - Public Finance in Developing Countries (3)
 - Development Governance and Management (3)
- SIS 636 Micropolitics of Development (3)
- SIS 637 International Development (3)
- SIS 638 Selected Topics in International Development Skills (1)
- SIS 649 Environment and Development (3)
- ECON 634 Development Finance and Banking (3)
- ECON 662 Development Microeconomics (3)

7. Nonprofit Policy, Management, and Leadership

Taking advantage of a newly-created, university-wide offering in non-profit management and the department's traditional strength in public sector administration, this concentration addresses the needs of students wishing to focus on the strategic organizational challenges that policymakers and analysts confront when using nonprofit organizations to implement public policy. Faculty advising on this concentration is provided by Professors Anna Amirkhanyan, Lewis Faulk, and Khaldoun AbouAssi.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- PUAD 615 Public/Private Partnerships (3)
- PUAD 650 Leadership in a Changing Workplace (3)
- PUAD 681 Managing Nonprofit Organizations (3)
- PUAD 682 Nonprofit Resource Development (3)
- PUAD 685/696 Selected Topics
 - Nonprofits and Public Policy(3)
 - Grant Management (3)
- ACCT 560 Governmental and Not-for-Profit Accounting (3) *(ACCT 607)
- ACCT 607 Financial Accounting (3)
- COMM 642 Public Communication Management (3)
- FIN 630 Financial Analysis: Concepts and Applications (3)
- MGMT 609 Management of Organizations and Human Capital (3)
- MGMT 633 Leading People and Organizations (3)
- MGMT 670 Nonprofit and Social Entrepreneurship and Strategy (3)
- SIS 635 NGO Management: Best Practice (3)

*indicates prerequisite

8. Public Management

Students who wish to combine their study of public policy with a deeper understanding of public administration have the opportunity to take a selection of management courses from the MPA degree. Such courses amplify lessons contained in the required MPP course on Organizational Analysis by examining issues that affect the implementation of public policies. Professors Jocelyn Johnston, Anna Amirkhanyan, Ken Meier and Howard McCurdy advise students on this specialization.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings

- PUAD 608 Comparative Administrative Systems (3)
- PUAD 609 Selected Topics in Public Management:
 - State and Local Management (3)
- PUAD 615 Public/Private Partnerships (3)
- PUAD 616 Legal Basis of Public Administration (3)
- PUAD 617 Project Management (3)
- PUAD 650 Leadership in a Changing Workplace (3)
- PUAD 652 Facilitation and Team Development (3)
- PUAD 654 Organization Diagnosis and Change (3)
- PUAD 658 Managing Conflict (3)
- PUAD 665 Managing Human Capital Assets (3)
- PUAD 681 Managing Nonprofit Organizations (3)
- MGMT 633 Leading People and Organizations (3)

9. Advanced Policy Analysis

Students who wish to work as program evaluators or policy analysts may want to concentrate in advanced policy analysis. Essentially, this specialization encourages students to take more than the single course in applied policy analysis required of all MPP students. Faculty advising is provided by Professors Laura Langbein, Seth Gershenson, and Dave Marcotte.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- PUAD 604 Public Program Evaluation (3) *(PUAD 602)
- PUAD 607 Economics and Politics of Public Policy (3) *(PUAD 606 or 630)
- PUAD 671 Cost Benefit Analysis (3) *(PUAD 630 or 670)
- PUAD 672 Advanced Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis (3)
*(PUAD 602)
- PUAD 685/696 Selected Topics:
 - Qualitative Methods (3)
- ECON 501 Macroeconomic Theory (3) *(ECON 603 and 605 or equivalent)
- ECON 639 Policy Issues in Financial Economics (3) *(ECON 500 or 703)

*indicates prerequisite

10. Comparative Public Policy

Comparative Public Policy is rooted in the university's traditional course offerings in comparative politics and area studies scheduled through the School of Public Affairs and the School of International Service, coupled with courses dealing with global issues scheduled through the College of Arts and Sciences. The concentration focuses on international security policy and the manner in which different countries address common domestic policies such as health, education, and social services. Faculty advising on this concentration is provided by Professor Sonja Walti; as available, though professors from the Government Department will also be available to advise students in comparative politics.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- PUAD 608 Comparative Administrative Systems (3)
- PUAD 685 Global Health Policy
- GOVT 634 Democratization: Past, Present, Future (3) *(GOVT 632 or 730)
- GOVT 696 Selected Topics:
 - Democracy in Developing World (3)
- JLC 672 Terrorism, Crime and Public Policy (3)
- ECON 670 Survey of International Economics (3) *(ECON 603 or equivalent)
- SIS 620 Studies in Global Environmental Politics (3)

*indicates prerequisite

11. Crime, Public Law, and Policy

This concentration addresses the needs of students wishing to gain an understanding of the legal issues that policymakers and analysts encounter within the area of criminal justice and the field of legal studies broadly. Faculty advising on this concentration is provided by Professors David Rosenbloom, David Fagelson, and Lynn Addington.

Suggested Courses/Recent Offerings:

- PUAD 616 Legal Basis of Public Administration (3)
- JLC 635 Gender and the Law (3)
- JLC 651 Drugs, Crime, and Public Policy (3)
- JLC 602 Legal Theory (3)
- JLC 608 The Constitution and Criminal Procedure (3)
- JLC 609 Criminological Theory (3)
- JLC 672 Terrorism, Crime and Public Policy (3)

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