

Public Policy Administration BSPPA, Public Administration Emphasis

The BSPPA degree is designed for students who are interested in working in government or nonprofit organizations, and who have a passion for making a positive impact on society. In this program, students gain understanding of public and nonprofit administration and policymaking in the United States. Students will develop skills for leading in public and nonprofit organizations, and will have the chance to utilize those skills through an internship. The public administration emphasis area focuses explicitly on the administrative and leadership concerns of government organizations and prepares students to work and manage in the public sector.

The BSPPA degree has two emphasis areas and a track. The first is a public administration emphasis, which emphasizes management in both the public and nonprofit sectors; it may produce a terminal degree or be a precursor to graduate training. The second is a public policy emphasis in which a student may focus on a particular policy area and also acquire specialized analytic training and research skills, in preparation for relevant entry-level jobs in the public or the voluntary sector as well as in certain parts of the private sector. The track area focuses explicitly on the administrative and leadership concerns of organizations in the nonprofit sector, which constitutes a growing field of research and employment opportunities.

General Education Requirements

Majors must satisfy the university and college general education requirements. Political science courses may be used to satisfy the social sciences requirement.

Degree Requirements

All BSPPA majors must complete at least 33 but no more than 51, hours in political science. The following core curriculum is required of all BSPPA majors:

Political Science

POL SCI 1100	Introduction to American Politics (MOTR POSC 101)	3
POL SCI 1500	Introduction to Comparative Politics (MOTR POSC 202)	3
POL SCI 3000	Political Analysis	3
POL SCI 2400	Public Administration	3
POL SCI 2420	Introduction to Public Policy	3
POL SCI 3940	Public Affairs Internship	1-6
POL SCI 4950	Senior Seminar in Political Science	3
ECON 1001	Principles of Microeconomics (MOTR ECON 102)	3
ECON 1002	Principles of Macroeconomics (MOTR ECON 101)	3

Total Hours **25-30**

In addition, students must provide a demonstration of computer proficiency through one of the following:

- INFSYS 1800 Computers and Information Systems, extension courses, or other study approved by the BSPPA coordinator.
- BSPPA students may take a maximum of 3 hours of political science on a satisfactory/ unsatisfactory basis, except for the following (which may not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis):

POL SCI 1100	Introduction to American Politics (MOTR POSC 101)	3
POL SCI 1500	Introduction to Comparative Politics (MOTR POSC 202)	3
POL SCI 3000	Political Analysis	3
POL SCI 2400	Public Administration	3
POL SCI 2420	Introduction to Public Policy	3
POL SCI 3940	Public Affairs Internship	1-6
POL SCI 4950	Senior Seminar in Political Science	3

Public Administration Emphasis Area

In addition to the core curriculum requirements for all BSPPA majors, students in the public administration emphasis area are required to complete the following courses:

POL SCI 2430	Public and Nonprofit Organizational Behavior	3
POL SCI 3420	Public and Nonprofit Personnel Management	3
POL SCI 3440	Public and Nonprofit Budgeting	3
POL SCI 3450	Urban Administration	3
Select at least one additional Political Science Course		3
Total Hours		15

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- Explain the characteristics and impact of policy-making institutions and systems, including national, state, and local governments.
- Demonstrate an understanding of administrative systems and processes.
- Apply various methods, tools, and sources to answer important management and policy questions.
- Analyze policies, programs, and relevant issues, formulate evidence-based recommendations, and communicate them with clarity and coherence.
- Apply public policy administration knowledge and engage in real-world problem solving through an internship.
- Plan, execute, and defend a major research project.
- Demonstrate an understanding of theories, concepts and practices relevant to public administration.
- Apply critical skills for working in public administration such as interpreting budget documents and making budget choices, creating communications plans, and developing recruitment and hiring policies.

Sample Four Year Plan

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
INTDSC 1003 ¹		1 POL SCI 1500	3
POL SCI 1100		3 ECON 1001	3
ENGL 1100		3 CORE - Communication Proficiency	3
CORE - Mathematics Proficiency		3 EXPLORE - Mathematics and Life/ Natural Sciences	3
EXPLORE - Mathematics and Life/ Natural Sciences		3 Elective or minor	3
EXPLORE - Humanities and Fine Arts		3	
	16		15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POL SCI 2400		3 POL SCI 2420	3
POL SCI 2430		3 INFSYS 1800	3
ECON 1002		3 EXPLORE - Humanities and Fine Arts	3
EXPLORE - Humanities and Fine Arts		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
	15		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POL SCI 3000		3 POL SCI 3440	3
POL SCI 3420		3 POL SCI 3450	3
Elective or minor		3 ENGL 3100	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
	15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POL SCI 3940		3 POL SCI 4950	3
POL SCI XXXX Policy and Institutions Course		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor		3 Elective or minor	2
	15		14

Total Hours: 120

¹ INTDSC 1003 is required only for first-time freshmen and transfer students with less than 24 college credits.

Please Note: This plan is an example of what a four year plan could look like for a typical student. Placement exam scores in math as well as the completion of coursework may change the plan. It should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor each semester. All requirements are subject to change.