

# PUBLIC POLICY

## Overview

The Public Policy Area of Concentration (AOC) is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the major public policy issues facing society. The goal is to equip students with a variety of analytical tools so they can examine complex, multi-faceted policy problems from a non-partisan framework and begin to formulate effective policy solutions. Economic factors and the political process fundamentally impact policy issues, and thus the disciplines of political science and economics constitute the core of the Public Policy AOC. Important insights into specific policy issues can also be gained from a number of other fields, such as sociology, environmental studies, anthropology, international studies, and gender studies.

The usual beginning points for pursuing a Public Policy AOC are the introductory theory course in economics and introductory courses on the American political system. Successful completion of these courses will provide a solid foundation in the economic principles that shape policy formation and analysis, and the political processes and influences that determine whether or not policy proposals are adopted. Students then build on this foundation by taking upper-level courses in political science, economics, and other fields that might inform the particular policy issues that they wish to analyze. The final step in the AOC is the senior thesis, in which students, under the guidance of a faculty mentor, apply the analytical tools and insights they have learned into a comprehensive analysis of a specific issue of their choice. In the past, issues selected by students have included, among others, state constitutional balanced-budget requirements, local energy policy, coastal zone management, racial discrimination, bicycle pathways, and educational policy-making. Students will also have the opportunity to complete internships designed to provide real-world experience in how policy issues are approached at the local, state, national, and international levels. The program is particularly useful to students who wish to pursue careers in the private sector, government service, journalism, law, or nonprofit advocacy.

(See also Political Science (<https://catalog.ncf.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences/political-science/>))

## Public Policy Faculty

### Economics

Tarron Khemraj (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/tarron-khemraj/>), Professor of Economics and International Economics/William and Marie Selby Chair

Tracy Collins (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/tracy-collins/>), Associate Professor of Economics

### Political Science

Frank Alcock (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/frank-r-alcock/>), Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies (On Leave)

Barbara Hicks (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/barbara-e-hicks/>), Professor of Political Science/Social Sciences Division Chair

Jack Reilly (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/jack-reilly/>), Associate Professor of Political Science (On Leave)

## Sociology

Sarah Hernandez (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/sarah-hernandez/>), Associate Professor of Sociology & Caribbean and Latin American Studies

## Requirements for the AOC in Public Policy

A minimum of eleven (11) academic units.

Code	Title
<b>Required Courses</b>	
ECON 2100	Introductory Microeconomics*
ECON 2150	Introductory Macroeconomics*
ECON 3100	Public Finance: Government Expenditures
ECON 3110	Public Finance: Taxation
POLS 2100	Introduction to American Politics*
POLS 3600	Power and Public Policy in the U.S.
STAT 2100	Introduction to Applied Statistics* <sup>1</sup>

### Policy-Related Political Science Courses

Select at least **two** from the following examples:

POLS 2870	Climate Change: Science, Policy, Media, and Politics
POLS 3610	Politics of Health Care Policy in the U.S.
POLS 3650	U.S. Immigration Policy from Origins to Current Issues
POLS 3140	Florida Politics and Government*
POLS 3710	Public Opinion, Polarization, and the Politics of Identity in the United States

### Policy-Related Courses in Other Disciplines

Select **two** additional policy-related courses in other disciplines, for example:

ANTH 3165	Medical Anthropology
ANTH 3325	Anthropology of Humanitarianism and Development
ANTH 4200	Anthropology of Food
ECON 3450	International Trade Theory and Policy
ECON 2400	Environmental Economics
ENVS 3400	Energy, Environment, and Society
ENVS 3310	Global Environmental Politics
SOCI 2300	Environmental Sociology
SOCI 2310	Urban Sociology
SOCI 2420	Sociology of Disasters
SOCI 3034	Sustainable Cities

### Additional Requirement

Senior Thesis in Public Policy and Baccalaureate Exam

<sup>1</sup> Students are strongly encouraged to take courses that develop their quantitative and statistical skills if they plan on pursuing a public policy career.

## Requirements for the Joint AOC in Public Policy

### Joint Economics/Public Policy AOC

A minimum of ten (10) academic units.

Code	Title
<b>Required Courses</b>	
ECON 2100	Introductory Microeconomics*
ECON 2150	Introductory Macroeconomics*
ECON 3500	Intermediate Microeconomics
ECON 3550	Intermediate Macroeconomics
MATH 2055	Math Tools for the Social Sciences* (or equivalent such as Calculus I)
STAT 2100	Introduction to Applied Statistics* (or equivalent such as Quantitative Political Analysis I and/or II)
ECON 3100	Public Finance: Government Expenditures
ECON 3110	Public Finance: Taxation
POLS 2100	Introduction to American Politics*
POLS 3600	Power and Public Policy in the U.S.

#### Highly Recommended

An intermediate-level Statistics course

Internships or summer research projects to complement the learning experience with applications from the world of work

#### Additional Requirement

Senior Thesis in Economics/Public Policy and Baccalaureate Exam <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A member of the Economics faculty must be the thesis sponsor, who will be a signatory to the Thesis Prospectus/Area of Concentration form and will serve on the thesis committee along with a non-economics member of the Public Policy faculty.

### Joint Political Science/Public Policy AOC

A minimum of seventeen (17) academic units. The student must complete all the requirements for an Area of Concentration in Political Science.

Code	Title
<b>Required Courses</b>	
POLS 2041	American Government and Civics*
POLS 2200	Comparative Politics*
POLS 2300	Introduction to World Politics*
POLS 2400	Introduction to Political Theory*
<b>Required for the Joint AOC</b>	
POLS 2100	Introduction to American Politics*
POLS 3600	Power and Public Policy in the U.S.
ECON 2100	Introductory Microeconomics*
ECON 2150	Introductory Macroeconomics*
<b>Quantitative Political Analysis or Statistics Course</b>	
POLS 2500	Quantitative Political Analysis I* <sup>1</sup>

#### Research Design Workshop

POLS 3500	Research Design Workshop in Political Science (recommended for 3rd-year students)
-----------	---

#### 3000- or 4000-Level Courses <sup>2</sup>

Select at least **six** courses at the 3000- or 4000-levels, with at least **one** course in three of the following four subfields (**American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory**). At least **two** of the six must be advanced seminars at the 4000-level, each in a different subfield:

##### American Politics

POLS 3110	Politics of Congress
POLS 3140	Florida Politics and Government*
POLS 3610	Politics of Health Care Policy in the U.S.
POLS 3650	U.S. Immigration Policy from Origins to Current Issues
POLS 3710	Public Opinion, Polarization, and the Politics of Identity in the United States

POLS 4810	Political Geography
-----------	---------------------

##### Comparative Politics

POLS 3210	Politics of Russia
POLS 3240	Politics of Central and Eastern Europe: From "Soviet Bloc" to United Europe
POLS 3250	Modern Authoritarianism
POLS 4250	Transitions to Democracy in Comparative Perspective
POLS 4710	Advanced Seminar: Social Networks and the Context of Political Behavior

##### International Relations

POLS 3310	Global Environmental Politics
POLS 3340	US Foreign Policy
POLS 3350	International Political Economy
POLS 3850	Transitions from War to Peace
POLS 4300	International Law and Politics

##### Political Theory

POLS 3450	Democratic Theory
POLS 4110	Citizenship, Political Authority and the Public Sphere in the U.S.
POLS 4450	Freedom and Slavery in Political Thought
POLS 4480	Contemporary Republican Theory

#### Policy-Related Course in Another Discipline

Select **one** policy-related course in a discipline other than Political Science or Economics:

ANTH 3165	Medical Anthropology
ANTH 3325	Anthropology of Humanitarianism and Development
ANTH 3385	Anthropology and the Law
ANTH 4200	Anthropology of Food
ENVS 3310	Global Environmental Politics
ENVS 3400	Energy, Environment, and Society
SOCI 2300	Environmental Sociology

