

Public Policy

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Faculty

John M. Elliott
Codirector, Professor of Political Science

William R. Melick
Codirector, Gensemer Associate Professor of Economics

This concentration stresses the analysis and understanding of public-policy issues. Participants will learn how to apply the disciplines of economics and political science to analyze public-policy problems and to understand how public policy is formulated and implemented. Students begin by taking foundation courses in the two disciplines. The principles learned in these courses will then be applied to specific policy areas in the elective courses. The concentration culminates in an interdisciplinary capstone course focusing on the economic, moral, and political considerations entailed in analyzing and evaluating public policy and its purposes. In a typical program, a student would take ECON 101 and ECON 102 as a first- or second-year student, PSCI 310 in the sophomore year, 1.5 units of electives following these foundation courses, and the capstone course, PPOL 440, in the senior year.

Requirements of the Program

The concentration encompasses 3.5 units in economics and political science. All students are required to take the three foundation courses and

the capstone course. The foundation courses are ECON 101 (Principles of Microeconomics and Public Policy), ECON 102 (Principles of Macroeconomics and International Trade), and PSCI 310 (Public Policy). The remaining 1.5 units will be selected from the electives designated as appropriate for the concentration. Economics majors must take at least 2 units in political science, and political science majors must take at least 2 units in economics, excluding the capstone course. Other majors must take at least 1.5 units in each department.

Required Courses

ECON 101 Principles of Microeconomics and Public Policy
ECON 102 Principles of Macroeconomics and International Trade
ECON 440/PSCI 440 Capstone Seminar in Public Policy
PSCI 310 Public Policy

Economics Electives

ECON 331 Economics of Development
ECON 335 Economics of Immigration
ECON 336 Environmental Economics (offered spring 2007)
ECON 342 Economics of Regulation
ECON 343 Money and Financial Markets (offered fall 2006)
ECON 345 Economic Analysis of Politics and Law
ECON 347 Economics of the Public Sector
ECON 348 Comparative Economic Systems
ECON 358 Health Economics
ECON 372 Macroeconomic Policy
ECON 378 Economics of Women and Work
ECON 383 American Economic History (offered spring 2007)

Political Science Electives

PSCI 241 State and Economy
PSCI 300 Congress and Public Policy-Making (offered fall 2006)
PSCI 305 Urban Politics

PSCI 311 American Public Policy: School Reform
PSCI 313 Making American Foreign Policy
PSCI 342 Politics of Development (offered spring 2007)
PSCI 363 Global Environmental Politics
PSCI 372 U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II (offered fall 2006)
PSCI 380 Women and Politics (offered spring 2007)
PSCI 450 From State to Market: Deregulation and Retrenchment in Advanced Industrial Democracies
PSCI 461 U.S. Defense Strategy (offered spring 2007)
PSCI 462 U.S. Foreign Policy after the Cold War (offered fall 2006)
PSCI 470 Power, States, and Markets
PSCI 480 Science and Politics

The codirectors from the two departments, economics and political science, will certify when students have completed the concentration. Courses taken for the concentration may also count for the major.

First-Semester Course

Capstone Seminar in Public Policy

ECON 440 and PSCI 440 (.5 unit)
John Elliott, professor of political science;
Jay Corrigan, assistant professor of economics

This seminar brings together a political scientist and an economist to consider how these disciplines approach the study of public policy. The course will concentrate on applying both of the disciplines to the study of a selection of public policies, ranging from poverty to budget deficits or globalization. We will explore the substantive issues and the process of governmental policy-making in specific policy domains. How is policy made? What should the policy be? The work of scholars in each discipline will be studied to better understand the differences in approaches and to consider the potential for combining them. What

does political science contribute to the study of economic policy-making? What can the tools and perspective of economics contribute to the study of a topic like welfare reform or global warming? This seminar is required for students completing the Public Policy Concentration, and it is open to other seniors. Prerequisites: ECON 101, ECON 102, and one course in American politics, or permission of instructors. Enrollment limited.