PUBLIC POLICY AND
ADMINISTRATION

College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies

Program Description
The graduate programs in the Department of Public Policy and Administration prepare students for a career in public service through a deeper understanding of how to address complex issues relating to public policy and administration. We serve the State of California and Sacramento Region by developing leaders possessing strong analytical tools, and a deep commitment to public service.

Note: The Department of Public Policy and Administration, in collaboration with the College of Business Administration, also offers an interdisciplinary Master's of Science in Urban Land Development. In addition, it offers an interdisciplinary doctorate in education in collaboration with the College of Education. Both of these programs are listed separately in this catalog.

Special Features
• The proximity of Sacramento State to the State Capitol offers significant advantages to students by providing them with a ready "laboratory" for observing the policy and administrative issues they will confront professionally, and for gaining experience alongside existing practitioners in public policy and administration.
• The graduate program's curricular design and scheduling of courses allow students to complete the program in four semesters if enrolled full-time. In addition, part-time students may complete the program after five or a six semesters of attendance. Classes are scheduled in the evening, and sometimes on Saturday, to accommodate the scheduling needs of students who are employed in the daytime, or who have other obligations that require non-traditional schedules.
• As a reflection of the growing interest in collaborative processes to solve public concerns, and the need for mid-level administrators in the judicial system, the PPA Department also offers certificates in Collaborative Governance and Judicial Administration (through the College of Continuing Education).

Career Possibilities
Policy analyst and/or public administrator for state, federal, or local government; private firm or association; or not-for profit organization

Contact Information
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Faculty
LASCHER, JR., EDWARD L.
MCCLELLAN, SARA E.
WASSMER, ROBERT W.

PPA 100. Introduction to Public Policy and Administration. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): GOVT 1 or GOVT 150 or equivalent.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Explores context and process for policy making by national and California state governments, including ethical dimensions. Applications are developed from students' and instructor's areas of interest including K-12 and higher education, land-use policy, and aging issues such as elder advocacy, Social Security, and Medicaid. Provides background and skills for entry level positions in public or non-profit organizations. Cross Listed: GERO 102; only one may be counted for credit.

PPA 200. Introduction to Public Policy and Administration. 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Examines public policy and administration by exploring major policy processes, particularly in California state and local government. Topics include the emergence and specification of issues, developing and selecting policy options, implementing and administering policies and evaluating and terminating public policies. The course approach is comprehensive, transdisciplinary and human centered – concerned with the interplay of values in shaping policy outcomes. The intent is to provide conceptual frameworks and operational principles required in identifying and resolving issues emerging in public settings.

Note: Satisfies the Graduate Writing Intensive Requirement (GWI).

PPA 205. Research in Public Policy and Administration. 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Emphasizes fundamental research and management skills necessary in generating accurate and useful decision-related information for policy makers. Topics include conceptualizing and structuring research questions, collecting valid and relevant data and interpreting and presenting results. The course approach is pragmatic, transdisciplinary, and oriented to producers and users of policy research information. The intent is to enhance research skills in analyzing and resolving policy issues.

PPA 207. Quantitative Methods in Public Policy and Administration. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 205 or instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Study of quantitative methods as applied in public policy analysis. Concentrates on interpreting the results of econometric, statistical, and other public policy studies, and on determining the relevance and applicability of quantitative analysis with the larger scheme of public policy decision making.

PPA 210. Political Environment of Policy Making. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 200 or instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Assists students in learning to identify the political factors imposing on the policy process and in learning to cope with them. With special emphasis on the California political environment and issues, employs case studies, structured role-playing, and including politically feasible policy alternatives and advice to hypothetical clients. The goal is to equip students to work effectively as politically aware policy analysts.
PPA 220A. Applied Economic Analysis I.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): ECON 1B, or instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 220B. Applied Economic Analysis II.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 220A.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 230. Public Budgeting and Finance.  3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 240A. Public Management and Administration I.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): 1) graduate standing and 2) completion of PPA program prerequisites, or instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 240B. Public Management and Administration II.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 240A.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 250. California Land Use Policy.  3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 251. Urban Problems, Economics and Public Policy.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 220A or ECON 100B.
Corequisite(s): ECON 251; only one of these courses may be counted for credit.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 270. Introduction to Collaborative Policy Making.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 200 and PPA 210, or approval of instructor.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 272. Collaborative Governance Advanced Practice.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 270 with a grade of B- or better, or instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 284. Urban Policy.  3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 291. Court Governance and Operations.  3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 292. Court Management.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 291 or instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 294. Court Management.  3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PPA 295. Urban Problems, Economics and Public Policy.  3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 220A or ECON 100B.
Corequisite(s): ECON 251; only one of these courses may be counted for credit.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

The course descriptions and requirements are designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of various aspects of public policy and administration, including economic analysis, budgeting, management, budgeting, and urban policy.
PPA 293. Court Leadership. 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Examines leadership in the court environment as distinct from management. Investigates how leadership principles are exercised in pivotal areas of the courts such as: community relations, creativity and innovation, organizational change, workforce development, succession planning, strategic planning and re-engineering.

PPA 294. Emerging Issues in Judicial Administration. 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Addresses pressing issues in judicial administration (e.g., courts in an electronic world, rising administrative workloads, greater number of self-represented litigants). Specific topics may change from year to year depending on the urgency of topics and nature of policy implications.

PPA 296E. Intergovernmental Relations. 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
A review of the origins of federalism in the U.S. and various theoretical approaches to understanding the relationships between various levels of government, including ways in which the different levels of government relate to one another both vertically and horizontally.

PPA 296M. Policy Prototyping. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): At least one graduate course in political science, economics, and administration or management; no more than one of which may be taken as a co-requisite.
Term Typically Offered: Spring only
Applies policy and administrative prototyping to policy topics such as transportation and mobility, environment and resources, and education, workforce, and justice. The course uses the drafting and iteration of statutes, ordinances, and regulations, budget and personnel plans, organizational designs, and vote counts, along with sketching design thinking applications, to explore innovative strategies for addressing these policy topics, with an emphasis on implementation.

PPA 297A. Executive Fellows Introductory Seminar. 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Seminar will enhance Executive Fellows’ understanding of the state policy making and administrative process, policy implementation, ethical responsibilities of policy and administrative actors.
Note: Open only to students admitted to the Executive Fellowship Program.

PPA 297B. Executive Fellows Policy Seminar. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): PPA 297A
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Seminar will extend the examination and analysis of the Executive branch of government to include alternative administrative practices, policy implementation strategies, and related administrative issues.
Note: Open only to students admitted to the Executive Fellowship Program.

PPA 298B. Judicial Administration Fellows Policy Seminar. 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Analyzes procedural issues and policy questions within the California judicial system with emphasis on the interdependence of the judicial, legislative and executive branches.
Note: Open only to students admitted to the Judicial Administration Fellows Program.

PPA 299. Special Problems. 1 - 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): Permission of faculty supervisor and the Department Chair.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Supervised independent study in public policy and administration. Credit/No Credit

PPA 500. Culminating Experience. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): Advanced to candidacy and permission of the graduate coordinator.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Completion of a comprehensive exam or project approved for the Master’s degree.