



STUDENT LIFE

# THE CAREER CENTER

## Public Policy

### FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. The Ford School bachelor's degree program is a competitive interdisciplinary program open to qualified students interested in national and global policy challenges. Students apply during their sophomore year and transfer to the Ford School their junior and senior years. Fifty to sixty students are admitted each year.

As a Public Policy concentrator, you will take courses in Public Policy, Economics, Statistics, and Political Science to develop your analytical skills and substantive knowledge. You will learn to think critically, collaborate on teams, and express yourself clearly and concisely in writing and in oral presentations.

**Related fields include** Political Science, Economics, History, International Studies, Communications, Sociology, Psychology, Public Health, Mathematics, Statistics, and Survey Research.

### SKILLS AND ABILITIES

#### Quantitative/Financial Skills

- Understanding survey research methods
- Evaluating financial reports
- Performing cost/benefit analysis
- Understanding budgets

#### Research/Analytical Skills

- Defining problems
- Understanding the dimensions of complex problems
- Assessing needs
- Developing research designs and models
- Relating theory to practice
- Interpreting data
- Understanding research findings
- Understanding policy reports
- Interpreting issues and evidence
- Evaluating proposed policy solutions

#### Interpersonal Skills

- Working in teams
- Understanding different viewpoints
- Mediating/negotiating conflicts
- Synthesizing different perspectives
- Making decisions

#### Communication Skills

- Writing policy proposals
- Creating models/visuals to represent complex data
- Presenting ideas and evidence clearly
- Influencing and persuading others
- Speaking in public

### BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations, research with Public Policy faculty members, and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community.

Public Policy students are typically highly involved in campus life and hold leadership positions in organizations like Michigan Student Assembly, the Roosevelt Institute,

College Democrats, College Republicans and Greek Life. Many have participated in the Career Center's Summer Public Service Internship Program (PSIP) in Washington, DC. Concentrators are encouraged to spend a semester studying away from Ann Arbor; options include study abroad, Michigan in Washington, or the Semester in Detroit.

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## FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Public Policy concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, the ability to define a problem and conduct research may be equally useful whether working as a

foundation project manager, a corporate recruiter, or a freelance journalist. Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Public Policy graduates.

### Quantitative/Financial Skills

Budget analyst, state and federal level  
Budget analyst, utility company  
Legislative aide, state senate finance committee  
Sustainability consultant 

### Research/Analytical Skills

Policy analyst, federal and state government  
Policy analyst, non-profits  
Research scientist, higher education   
Legislative aide  
Intelligence officer  
Urban planner   
Public interest lawyer 

### Interpersonal Skills

Manager of a public agency  
Management consultant  
Foundation program officer  
Foreign service officer   
Lobbyist  
Grassroots organizer and advocate

### Communication Skills

Elected official  
Election campaign staffer  
Public affairs officer  
Journalist/reporter all media  
Editor/editorial assistant

 = Green Jobs

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O\*Net at [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

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## CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The program combines core courses in economics, political science and statistics with policy electives that develop students' analytical skills and substantive knowledge.

Prerequisites to apply include Econ 101 and 102 and one additional introductory social science class, such as Public Policy 201 or various courses in Political Science, History, Sociology, or Communications.

The concentration requires 16 credit hours of core courses in Public Policy as well as Stats 250. Concentrators will also take 18 hours of electives in a subject area of their own choosing.

For more information visit the website below.

### Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Joan and Sanford Weill Hall  
735 South State Street  
734-764-0453  
[fordschool.umich.edu](http://fordschool.umich.edu)

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## NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

For internships in Washington, DC, visit either: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/psip](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/psip) or [lsa.umich.edu/michinwash](http://lsa.umich.edu/michinwash)

Semester in Detroit can be found at: [lsa.umich.edu/rc/currentstudents/semesterindetroit](http://lsa.umich.edu/rc/currentstudents/semesterindetroit)

To explore opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: [lsa.umich.edu/cgis](http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis) or [global.umich.edu](http://global.umich.edu)

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin)

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To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3)

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: [maizepages.umich.edu](http://maizepages.umich.edu)

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: [studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX\\_Home.aspx](http://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx)

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: [connect2community.umich.edu](http://connect2community.umich.edu)

### The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building  
734-764-7460  
[careercenter.umich.edu](http://careercenter.umich.edu)  
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[linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan](https://linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan)