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.


SKILLS AND ABILITIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantitative/Financial Skills</th>
<th>Research/Analytical Skills</th>
<th>Interpersonal Skills</th>
<th>Communication Skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding survey research methods</td>
<td>Defining problems</td>
<td>Working in teams</td>
<td>Writing policy proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluating financial reports</td>
<td>Understanding the dimensions of complex problems</td>
<td>Understanding different viewpoints</td>
<td>Creating models/visuals to represent complex data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performing cost/benefit analysis</td>
<td>Assessing needs</td>
<td>Mediating/negotiating conflicts</td>
<td>Presenting ideas and evidence clearly</td>
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<td>Understanding budgets</td>
<td>Developing research designs and models</td>
<td>Synthesizing different perspectives</td>
<td>Influencing and persuading others</td>
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<td>Relating theory to practice</td>
<td>Making decisions</td>
<td>Speaking in public</td>
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<td>Interpreting data</td>
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<td>Understanding research findings</td>
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<td>Understanding policy reports</td>
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<td>Interpreting issues and evidence</td>
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<td>Evaluating proposed policy solutions</td>
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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.

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.

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

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
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734-764-0453
fordschool.umich.edu

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

For internships in Washington, DC, visit either:
careercenter.umich.edu/article/psip or
lsa.umich.edu/michinwash

Semester in Detroit can be found at:
lsa.umich.edu/rc/currentstudents/semesterindetroit

To explore opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: lsa.umich.edu/cgis or
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

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