DEGREE OFFERED: BA

This interdisciplinary major focuses on policy issues that are of public interest. Students in policy studies evaluate and analyze both the determinants and the effects of policy decisions, gaining an understanding of the policy-making process addresses theoretical issues as well as applied and prescriptive policy questions.

Students may take policy studies only as a second major. It complements majors in any university department. For instance, engineering or science majors who are contemplating careers in business or government can investigate how technical innovations or regulations are adopted and implemented as matters of public policy. Humanities majors can explore career options where language skills are particularly valuable.

Students are encouraged to investigate research opportunities with Rice faculty. Students also may elect to participate in the Washington Semester Program at American University, which includes both course work and an internship in the federal government. Students may also participate in the Rice Policy Studies Abroad program in London for course credit, which includes an internship experience in London. See the Policy Studies director and website for more information.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN POLICY STUDIES

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements. Students may take the policy studies major only as a second major (their first major cannot also be in an interdepartmental program). The major contains 11 courses divided into the following elements: a basic curriculum, an area curriculum, and a capstone requirement.

The policy studies basic curriculum introduces students to the fundamental concepts and tools needed to understand and study policy, regardless of the policy area on which they choose to focus. The four courses ensure that all policy studies majors have a common professional vocabulary and conceptual frame of reference. The policy studies area curriculum provides specialized training that builds on students' work in the basic curriculum.

Students also are required to take six courses from one of the following areas of specialization or in an area approved by the Policy Studies director:

- Environmental policy
- Government policy and management
- Healthcare management
- International affairs
- Law and justice
- Business policy and management
- Urban and social change
- Energy Policy Studies
In consultation with the Policy Studies director, each student also must complete an approved capstone requirement. This requirement may be met by participating in the Rice Policy Studies Abroad Program in London, the Policy Studies Research Seminar (POST 400), a School of Social Sciences gateway experience, or another approved internship or research opportunity.

**Four Basic Curriculum Courses**

Choose three courses from the following:
- ECON 111 or 201 *Microeconomics*
- POLI 338/POST 338 *Policy Analysis*
- ECON 245, POLI 337 *Bureaucracy, POST 200 Intro to Policy, POST 300 Public Policy Management and Advocacy, or POST 350 Global Urban Lab*

One advanced analysis or methods course approved by the Policy Studies director

**Six Area Curriculum Courses**

Six courses from one of the following seven groups (course substitutions may be approved by the Policy Studies director)

1. **Environmental Policy** *(Choose six)*
   - ANTH 468 *Palaeoclimate and Human Response*
   - ARCH 313 *Case Studies in Sustainable Design*
   - EBIO 323 *Conservation Biology*
   - EBIO 325 *Ecology*
   - CEVE 201 *Urban and Environmental Systems*
   - CEVE 306 *Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*
   - CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*
   - ECON 480 *Environmental Economics*
   - ENGL 368 *Literature and the Environment*
   - ENST 302 *Environmental Issues: Rice into the Future*
   - ESCI 414 *Physics and Chemistry of the Atmosphere*
   - POLI 331 *Environmental Politics and Policy*
   - POLI 336 *Politics of Regulation*
   - SOCI 367 *Environmental Sociology*

2. **Government Policy and Management** *(Choose six)*
   - ANTH 344 *City/Culture*
   - CEVE 406 *Introduction to Environmental Law*
   - ECON 436 *Regulation*
   - ECON 239 *Business, Law, and Economics*
   - ECON 461 *Urban Economics*
   - ECON 480 *Environmental Economics*
   - ECON 483 *Public Finance: Tax Policy*
   - HEAL 222 *Principles of Public and Community Health*
   - POLI 330 *Minority Politics*
   - POLI 331 *Environmental Politics and Policy*
   - POLI 332/332 *Urban Politics*
   - POLI 335 *Political Environment of Business*
   - POLI 401 *State Politics Research Seminar*
   - POLI 436 *Politics of Regulation*
   - POLI 531 *State Politics*
   - SOCI 308 *Houston: The Sociology of a City*
   - SOCI 451 *Immigration in a Global World*
   - SOSC 330 *Healthcare Reform in the 50 States*
   - POST 430 *The Shaping of Health Policy*

3. **Healthcare Policy and Management** *(Choose six)*
   - ANTH 381 *Medical Anthropology*
   - ANTH 386 *Medical Anthropology of Food and Health*
   - ANTH 388 *Life Cycle: A Biocultural View*
   - HEAL 212 *Consumer Health and the Media*
   - HEAL 222 *Principles of Public and Community Health*
   - HEAL 350 *Understanding Cancer*
   - HEAL 407 *Epidemiology*
   - HEAL 410 *Program Development in Health Education*
   - PHIL 315 *Ethics, Medicine, and Public Policy*
   - SOCI 334 *Sociology of the Family*
   - SOCI 345 *Medical Sociology*
   - SOCI 451 *Immigration in a Global World*
   - SOSC 330 *Healthcare Reform in the 50 States*
   - POST 430 *The Shaping of Health Policy*
   - SPAN 307/308 *The Language of Healthcare*

4. **International Affairs** *(Choose six)*
   - ECON 420 *International Trade*
   - ECON 421 *International Finance*
ECON 451 Political Economy of Latin America
HIST 386 Recent U.S. Foreign Policy
POLI 354 Latin American Politics
POLI 355 Government and Politics of the Middle East
POLI 360 West European Democracies
POLI 372 American Foreign Policy
POLI 373 International Conflict
POLI 378 The Politics of American National Security
POLI 462 Comparative Public Policy

5. Law and Justice (Choose six)
ANTH 326 Anthropology of Law
ANTH 419 Law and Society
CEVE 406 Introduction to Environmental Law
ECON 239 Business, Law, and Economics
ECON 439 Torts, Property, and Contracts
HIST 398 Topics in Legal History
PHIL 307 Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 315 Ethics, Medicine, and Public Policy
PHIL 316 Philosophy of Law
POLI 321 American Constitutional Law
POLI 330 Minority Politics
POLI 438 Race and Public Policy
SOCI 301 Social Inequality
SOCI 309 Race and Ethnic Relations
SOCI 321 Criminology

6. Business Policy and Management (Choose six)
BUSI 305 Financial Accounting
ECON 243 Corporation Finance
ECON 255 Financial Markets
ECON 415 Labor Economics
ECON 420 International Trade
ECON 421 International Finance
ECON 435 Industrial Organization
ECON 436 Regulation
ECON 445 Managerial Economics
ECON 501 Microeconomic Theory
ECON 502 Macroeconomic Theory
PSYC 251 Industrial and Organizational Psychology
POLI 335 Political Environment of Business

7. Urban and Social Change (Choose six)
ANTH 344 City/Culture
ARCH 311 Houston Architecture
ARCH 313 Case Studies in Sustainable Design
ARCH 346 Architecture and the City II
ARCH 455 Housing and Urban Programs: Issues in Policy
ECON 461 Urban Economics
ECON 480 Environmental Economics
PHIL 307 Social and Political Philosophy
POLI 332 Urban Politics
POLI 438 Race and Public Policy
POLI 441 Common Property Resources
SOCI 301 Social Inequality
SOCI 308 Houston: The Sociology of a City
SOCI 309 Race and Ethnic Relations
SOCI 310 Urban Sociology
SOCI 313 Demography

8. Energy Policy Studies (six courses, all students must take ECON 437 and POST 401, at least two more courses from the Core Energy Courses, and up to two courses from the Energy Elective Courses.)
POST 401 Energy Policy
POST 455 Contemporary U.S. Middle East Policy
ESCI 415 Economic Geology–Petroleum
ECON 437 Energy Economics
CEVE 307 Energy and the Environment
ESCI 107 Oceans and Global Change

Energy Elective Courses
CEVE 306 Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development
CEVE 406 Introduction to Environmental Law
CHBE 281 Engineering Sustainable Communities