The Bioscience and Health Policy degree program creates broad options for science students interested in working in biomedical research, health care professions, health care management, for the government, or in governmental relations positions at non-profit organizations, in industry, and in academic institutions. This interdisciplinary program equips students with advanced bioscience skills; teaches quantitative skills and data analysis; provides students with communication skills enabling them to understand and formulate public policy recommendations; and trains students how to integrate science knowledge into developing informed policies and practices.

The Bioscience and Health Policy program gives students an advanced background in bioscience complemented by courses in business, economics, humanities, and policy studies to foster their understanding of the role of science in policy making and the role of public policy in science. The coursework provides research and study skills enabling development of specific policy recommendations. Students will also receive the tool-set necessary to become knowledgeable in the formulation and execution of public policy. Direct access to the Baker Institute will allow students to work closely with policy scholars as well as meet with many of the leaders in science and technology policy.

This degree is one of five degrees in the professional science master’s (PSM) program at Rice housed in the Wiess School of Natural Sciences. These master’s degrees are designed for students seeking to gain further scientific core expertise coupled with enhanced management and communication skills. These degrees instill a level of scholastic proficiency that exceeds that of the bachelor’s level, and they create the cross-functional aptitudes needed in modern industry and government.

Students receiving the MS in Bioscience and Health Policy degree will be able to enter into governmental positions; work in non-governmental agencies, insurance, medical and pharmaceutical companies; serve as governmental relations officers for companies or universities with a vested science interest; or enter into post-graduate training in health care professions or biosciences.

Bioscience and Health Policy does not currently offer an academic program at the undergraduate level.