

# Public Policy



WASHINGTON  
& JEFFERSON  
COLLEGE

The Public Policy Program is a **rigorous, interdisciplinary major** intended for individuals who seek to **analyze public policy issues** and **implement solutions**. The program is designed to give students the tools and background needed to understand **the role of public policy in society**, how public policies are developed and implemented, the conflicts in **fundamental human values** that often animate **policy debates**, and how to evaluate policy options.

## Major Requirements

The Public Policy major requires successful completion of 11 total courses as follows:

- Principles of Macroeconomics (ECN 102)
- Processes of American Government (POL 111)
- Public Policy (PPL 213)
- Introductory Statistics (MTH 125)
- Research Methods (POL 340)
- One ethics course (choose one):
  - Social and Political Philosophy (PHL 135)
  - Environmental Ethics (PHL 231)
  - Political Thought-Modern (POL 342)
  - Global Ethics (PPL 300)
- Three courses within a policy emphasis\*
- One field-specific internship experience that must be pre-approved by PPL director
- One capstone course: Policy Analysis Seminar (PPL 400)

## Policy Emphases and Sample Courses

**Environmental Policy** - Global Environmental Issues (EVS 201), International Environmental Policy (EVS 315), Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ECN 391)

**Law and Policy** - The Legislative Process (POL 315), Economic Analysis of Law (ECN 319), Constitutional Law, Politics, The Federal System (POL 411)

**Public Administration** - Financial Accounting (ACC 211), Organizational Behavior and Management Principles (BUS 301), Public Administration (POL 310)

**US Policy** - Urban Politics (POL 210), Urban and Regional Economics (ECN 309), U.S. Environmental Policy (PPL 313)

\*Any emphasis can choose PPL 350 (with topic approval from the PPL director)

## Minor Requirements

The Public Policy minor requires successful completion of six courses:

- Processes of American Government (POL 111)
- Public Policy (PPL 213)
- Introductory Statistics (MTH 125) or Research Methods (POL 340)
- Policy Analysis Seminar (PPL 400)
- Any two policy courses from the following:
  - Urban Politics (POL 210)
  - Modern State: Health Care Politics (POL 302)
  - Public Administration (POL 310)
  - The Legislative Process (POL 315)
  - U.S. Environmental Policy (PPL 313)
  - Global Resource Politics and Policy (PPL 317)
  - Special Topics in Public Policy (PPL 350)
  - Principles of Microeconomics (ECN 101)

## Department Chair

Mary Ryan, Ph.D.  
mryan@washjeff.edu



W&J Public Policy students take part in a class taught by Dr. Ryan.

## Beyond the Classroom

Are you passionate about **social movements**, **political activism**, and **human rights**? Do you want to contribute to **fixing inequalities** and **creating social and political change** in society? The Public Policy Program can help you prepare for professional success in these areas as well as for a life-long path of **engaged citizenship**.

### Research and Internships

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Public policy majors have completed internships and research projects at a variety of different places including:

- NAACP
- AmeriCorps Vista
- LEED Green Associates Training Project
- United Way of Washington County
- City of Pittsburgh
- Pennsylvania Governor's Office (Tom Wolf Administration)
- Pennsylvania Representative Guy Reschenthaler's Office
- The Borgen Project
- VITA

Public policy students also have the opportunity to present their research in Capstone projects to the campus community as well as externally on blogs, websites, contributions to newspapers and radio programs, and attending academic conferences.

### Alumni

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The Public Policy program attracts students who want to make a difference in creating a better world. Here are a few of our success stories—as you can see, our majors have wide-ranging interests!

- Grace Kovalan is a Business Development Representative at RoadRunner Recycling in Pittsburgh.
- Erin Herock is pursuing a Masters in Urban and Environmental Planning at University of Virginia.
- Adriana Rodriguez-Ruiz will be a Technical Cooperation Intern in the Division of Latin America and the Caribbean with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- Milonna Sauritch is the Learning Coordinator at the Pittsburgh School of Medicine.



Program Website

[washjeff.edu/public-policy](http://washjeff.edu/public-policy)