
Policy Studies

Faculty and Fields of Interest

The Master of Public Policy is delivered through an interdisciplinary Department of Policy Studies with extended multi-disciplinary support from affiliated faculty in the departments of English, economics, sociology, nursing, management, and history.

Barrow, Clyde W (Chairperson, Department of Policy Studies and Director, Center for Policy Analysis) Chancellor Professor of Policy Studies (1987), BA 1977 Texas A&M University, MA 1979, PhD 1984 University of California, Los Angeles. *Specializations:* Public policy: Massachusetts, higher education, policy formation, policy process; Political economy: Massachusetts, economic impact analysis, industry analysis, regional economic development.

Huff, Toby E Chancellor Professor Emeritus of Policy Studies (1971) BA 1965 Northeastern University, MA 1967 Northwestern University, PhD 1972 New School University. *Specializations:* Globalization and internet policy, science and technology policy, quantitative studies of American society, Muslim societies.

Melanson, Philip H Chancellor Professor of Policy Studies (1971), BA 1966, MA 1968, PhD 1972 University of Connecticut. *Specializations:* Public policy: information policy, government secrecy, counter-terrorism policy.

Affiliated Faculty Primary Departments

William Hogan Economics

Susan Krumholz Sociology

Robin A Robinson Sociology

Gail Russell Community Nursing

Mark Santow History

Susanne G Scott Management

Luther Wallin English

Policy Studies at UMass Dartmouth

Department of Policy Studies College of Arts and Sciences

The purpose of the MPP is to build public policy-making and problem solving capacity at the state, local, and regional levels. The program's graduates will gain a knowledge of the policy process including analytical and research skills in applied policy analysis and specialized knowledge in a "concentration area" such as policy analysis and program evaluation, economic development, social policy, crime and justice policy, and global political economy. The program will maintain a special focus on policy issues that concern state, regional, and municipal officials in Massachusetts and New England.

Through its links to UMass Dartmouth's Center for Policy Analysis, the program will provide students with an opportunity to develop applied research and policy analysis skills by participating in funded research projects (see www.umassd.edu/cfpa). MPP students benefit by enhanced opportunities for research, community-based educational programming, and graduate Policy Internships at the Center. The Center for Policy Analysis has completed more than 160 applied policy research projects since 1993, which have generated more than \$575,000 in external grants and contracts in the last three years (FY 2003 - FY 2005). These projects are funded mainly by state and municipal government agencies, but also by school departments, non-profit organizations, and private businesses. The Center offers a unique opportunity for graduate students to learn applied social science research techniques through one-on-one instruction, including the correct use of web-based research, state and federal government data bases, private data bases, and many specialized sources of municipal government data.

The MPP has a seven-member advisory committee established as a sub-committee of the Center for Policy Analysis external Advisory Board. The MPP advisory committee includes three members of the policy studies graduate faculty, who are not members of the Department of Policy Studies, and four individuals who are public policy makers or public administrators in public or non-profit agencies in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Admissions

Prospective students submit an application to the Office of Graduate Affairs along with supporting documents and test scores, in accordance with the established application requirements of that office. Complete applications that meet the MPP's minimum admissions requirements will be reviewed by an Admissions

Committee appointed by the Department Chairperson and consisting of faculty from the Department of Policy Studies and Affiliated Faculty who teach MPP courses.

Applicants to the Master of Public Policy must have an earned baccalaureate degree. It is expected that most applicants will hold degrees in the social sciences, business, and humanities. To make up for gaps in their undergraduate preparation, students may be admitted with conditions to complete one or more undergraduate deficiency courses. Deficiency courses will count in the students load, but not towards the degree requirements. Such conditions will be stated in the letter of admission.

The Personal Statement should explain the applicant's interest in the program and purpose for applying to the program. The essay should discuss the applicant's graduate study objectives, previous policy-related or public management experience, and undergraduate preparation for the course of study. The applicant should also submit a resume or curriculum vitae.

Two letters of recommendation are required, although more may be submitted. At least one letter should be from an academic source testifying to your potential as a student and researcher.

Applicants must submit GRE (general test) or GMAT scores taken within 5 years of the application. The MPP will not require a minimum score for admission, but performance on the examination will be factored into the admissions process.

At least 30 credits (10 courses) of the total required coursework must be completed at UMass Dartmouth through the MPP program, although courses taken as part of formal collaborative arrangements with other colleges and universities will count as resident courses. Courses transferred from other institutions of higher education, will not count toward the 24 credit hours of core courses.

Financial Assistance

The students enrolled in the Master of Public Policy degree will be eligible to apply for financial aid that is generally available to graduate students at UMass Dartmouth. The MPP program also offers paid teaching assistantships, and the Center for Policy Analysis offers paid research assistantships.

Overview of the Academic Program

The Policy Studies graduate program leads to the Master of Public Policy degree (MPP). It is a two-year professional program that requires students to complete 39 credits of coursework in policy studies, including an internship. The curriculum is designed to provide students with the ability to reason and analyze from both a normative and problem-solving perspective, to develop technical methodological skills, and to develop substantive policy or leadership expertise in one concentration area. The curriculum is organized on a foundation of eight core courses, a three-course concentration area, an internship, and a capstone research seminar and portfolio.

The UMass Dartmouth MPP program was designed to comply with the accreditation standards established by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), which is the national accrediting association for graduate level public policy, public administration, and related degrees in the United States. See NASPAA's Standards for Professional Master's Degree Programs in Public Affairs, Policy, and Administration (<http://www.naspaa.org/copra>). UMass Dartmouth will apply to NASPAA for accreditation at the earliest possible opportunity.

What is the MPP Degree?

The Master of Public Policy has a comprehensive focus and a distinct professional application. It differs from the Masters of Public Administration in having a different curriculum and complementary but different career expectations. A Q&A presentation from NASPAA helps distinguish the two degrees (www.naspaa.org/).

While the MPA focuses on management careers in public institutions, the MPP, in contrast:

"...emphasizes analyzing and evaluating information to solve policy problems. As analysts, managers, and leaders, MPP graduates work with quantitative and qualitative information and data to develop, assess, and evaluate alternative approaches to current and emerging issues. Their careers are in a variety of public service fields and in all levels of government (federal, state, local, and regional), in nonprofits, in the international arena, and in the private sector."

Contact

Dr Clyde Barrow
Chairperson, Department of Policy Studies
508 999-9265
cbarrow@umassd.edu

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Road
North Dartmouth, MA 02747-2300

Degree Requirements—Masters in Public Policy degree (MPP)

The MPP is a two-year professional degree, although part-time students may take 4 to 6 years to complete the degree. All students will normally be required to complete 39 credits of coursework (13 courses), including 24 credits (8 courses) in the common curriculum component, 9 credit hours (3 courses) in a policy concentration area, 3 credits of free elective (1 course), and a 3 credit research seminar. Full-time status will require students to enroll in three graduate level courses per semester and to complete one summer internship.

Common Curriculum Component

PST 500	Public Institutions and the Policy Process
MGT 500	Statistical Analysis
PST 510	Public Management
PST 530	Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
PST 540	Microeconomics for Public Policy
PST 541	State and Local Public Finance
PST 585	Applied Policy Research Laboratory
PST 599	Internship (see below)

Some courses in the common curriculum component have prerequisites that may have been fulfilled by courses taken as an undergraduate. If the prerequisite is not fulfilled by a course taken in obtaining a bachelor's degree, the Free Elective may be used to fulfill one prerequisite, including one undergraduate course. Otherwise, no other upper-division courses taken as prerequisites will count toward the MPP degree requirements.

Internship Requirement

The Master of Public Policy will require an Internship (3 credits) for students with less than two years of substantial and relevant public policy or public management experience. The field work component of the Internship (2 credits) will be waived if an individual has at least two years substantial and relevant work experience in a policy making or appropriate public management position, although all students must enroll in the academic course component (1 credit) of the Internship to graduate. All students will be required to participate in the 1 credit academic seminar component of the Internship for purposes of reviewing the students' portfolios.

Students will select an Internship venue from a pre-approved list of local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and private sector businesses. The Internship's objective is to expose students to a policy-related public setting that allows them to integrate public

policy theory (in their academic course) and the real world of policy making in their area of substantive interest. In addition to the field experience, the Internship includes a 1 credit seminar during the same semester, where Interns share workplace experiences, analyze these experiences within the framework of public policy and public management theory, and share the contents of a professional portfolio.

The external Advisory Board of the Center for Policy Analysis, consisting of state legislators, school superintendents, local economic development officers, and business executives, has volunteered to assist in developing Policy Internships for graduate students in areas such as economic development agencies, community development agencies, conservation commissions and environmental agencies, local planning boards, local boards of health, selectmen's and mayor's offices, tourism and recreation departments, town or city departments of administration and finance, and chambers of commerce, among others.

The Professional Portfolio

In their final semester students present a professional portfolio for review and approval as a part of the work required for the internship. Students will begin building toward the internship starting with their matriculation into the MPP, when each student will be required to start constructing a professional portfolio. The professional portfolio will include:

- research papers written for courses taken in the program,
- policy white papers written for courses taken in the program,
- work products, consultant reports, or other written analysis prepared as a research assistant or research associate at the Center for Policy Analysis,
- research papers or other products from the course in Applied Policy Research,
- documentation of other professional or scholarly achievements over the course of their enrollment in the MPP,
- newspaper clippings about the individual's achievements, public service, and awards,
- published articles in trade magazines or newspapers,
- professional certifications, licenses, and other evidence of professional development,
- evidence of presentations or attendance at meetings of relevant professional associations,
- letters of commendation and letters of

recommendation from supervisors or others in a position to evaluate the individual's academic and work performance,

- other items of importance as determined by the student.

As part of the Internship, the Internship Director will also convene a 1 credit seminar of all current interns in consultation with a committee of the Policy Studies Faculty. Students will present the contents of their professional portfolio to the seminar and to the faculty. Students will present their portfolio to the faculty committee and the seminar, and discuss how it represents their learning in the program and its potential impact on their future careers. The portfolio will be reviewed and evaluated by the Internship Director and the Faculty Committee to insure that it meets and reflects the overall educational objectives of the MPP and provides a platform for seeking employment or advancement in the broad area of public policy. The faculty committee's portfolio evaluation will be incorporated into the student's final grade for the Internship, and no student will graduate from the program without a portfolio approved by the faculty committee.

The Concentration Areas

The policy area concentration is fulfilled by taking three or more courses on a related topic(s). Special Topics courses and Independent Study courses may count toward the concentration if they are relevant to the student's declared area of concentration (consult with advisor). The concentration areas are Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation, Economic Development, Global Political Economy, Social Policy, and Crime and Justice Policy.

Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation (any 3 of the following courses):

- PST 501 Theories of Policy Formation
- PST 539 Public Policy in Massachusetts
- PST 538 Public Policy in America
- PST 503 Public Policy Problems: Process and Practitioners
- MGT 651 Operations Analysis

Economic Development (PST 545 Regional Economic Development Policy and PST 546 Political Economy of Massachusetts required, plus any one of the following other courses):

- ECO 417 Economics and Population Analysis
- ECO 461 Urban Economics
- PST 545 Regional Economic Development Policy

- PST 546 Political Economy of Massachusetts
- PST 548 Regional Conservation Planning
- PST 640 Introduction to Globalization (Kassel University)
- PST 644 The Impact of Globalization on National and Local Economies (Kassel University)

Global Political Economy (offered only through Kassel University – any 3 of the following):

- PST 640 Introduction to Globalization
- PST 641 International Economics
- PST 642 Governance of the World Market
- PST 643 Theories of International Political Economy
- PST 644 The Impact of Globalization on National and Local Economies

Social Policy (any 3 of the following courses):

- SOC 555 Social Policy (required for concentration)
- SOC 536 Women and Social Policy
- NUR 5xx Health Policy (course under consideration for approval)
- NUR 520 Health Care Systems
- HST 514 History of Urban America

Note: 3xx-level courses are to be offered under a 5xx number, and the graduate-level students will do additional research and be expected to do work at a graduate level.

Crime and Justice Policy (any 3 of the following courses):

- CRJ 565 Female Crime and Deviance
- CRJ 566 Crime, Justice, and Policy
- CRJ 567 Contemporary Topics in Crime and Justice

Individualized Concentration Area

Students may propose an individualized concentration area from available courses and submit it for approval of the program director before the end of the student's first semester.

Policy Research Seminar

In the final semester, all students are required to complete a capstone research seminar. Each student will conduct independent policy research and produce a final research paper. Students are expected to demonstrate practical mastery of the MPP curriculum in their research paper, including quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis, and to synthesize the policy area knowledge and public management skills acquired in the program.

Policy Studies Courses

Recommended Schedule for sequencing courses to complete the program in two years

		<i>credits</i>
<i>Semester One</i>		
PST 500	Public Institutions & the Policy Process	3
PST 580	Statistical Analysis Free Elective (may be used to fulfill prerequisite for other courses)	3 3
<i>Semester Two</i>		
PST 510	Public Management	3
PST 540	Microeconomics of Public Policy Concentration Area Course	3 3
<i>Semester Three</i>		
PST 541	State & Local Public Finance	3
PST 585	Applied Policy Research Laboratory Concentration Area Course	3 3 3
<i>Summer</i>		
PST 599	Internship (2 credits waived with at least two years substantial, relevant work experience)	3
<i>Semester Four</i>		
PST 530	Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation Concentration Area Course	3 3 3
PST 599	Policy Research Seminar	3

Total **39 credits**

The Department of Policy Studies will make a special effort to recruit and retain returning professionals by responding to demands for scheduling flexibility. The program will offer some courses during the evening (after 5 pm), Saturdays, or in summer. The Department expects that about two-thirds of its enrolled students will be returning professionals enrolled as part-time students, who will have flexible access to faculty for advising. A student must remain continuously enrolled in the MPP on at least a part-time basis unless granted a leave of absence by the Department Chair.

Articulation and Exchange Agreement with Kassel University (Germany)

The Policy Studies faculties at UMass Dartmouth and Kassel University (Germany) have agreed to a course sharing arrangement as well as regular student and faculty exchanges, that will give UMass Dartmouth's MPP a unique international component.

All courses in Germany are taught in English and are pre-approved for transfer to UMass Dartmouth. These courses are available to eligible UMass Dartmouth students at no cost (i.e., no tuition or fees). UMass Dartmouth students attending Kassel University for a semester or summer program can take courses leading to a concentration in Global Political Economy.

PST 500 three credits

Political Institutions and the Policy Process

Prerequisites: PSC 101 or PST 102
The institutional, political, and normative context of the public policy process. The course introduces students to the central issues and major areas in U.S. public policy, such as health and welfare, education, economic policy, tax policy, and environmental policy. The course also reviews the key concepts and process models used to analyze public policy in the United States.

PST 510 three credits

Public Management

Overview of the responsibilities of a public administrator in the context of specific areas of public management, to create a context of professional understanding for the public policy professional. Areas include organizational structure; strategic planning; management decision-making; staffing, training, and motivating employees; leadership development; budgeting, program design, implementation, and evaluation; ethical considerations for public managers, and providing support to policy makers.

PST 530 three credits

Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation

Prerequisites: PST 580 and PST 585
Reviews the theory and practice of program evaluation and its role in the policy-making process. Topics include policy history, evaluation design and methodology, data collection and data analysis, policy feasibility, and the ability to analyze the impact of government programs. The course emphasizes both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and policy analysis.

PST 540 three credits

Microeconomics for Public Policy

Prerequisites: ECO 231 and ECO 232, or permission of instructor
Development of microeconomic theory, applications, and price policy. Covers the theory of price determination, resource allocation, income distribution, and welfare economics, with particular emphasis to public policy issues. Perfectly competitive markets and models of imperfect competition are covered, including applications of game theory. Theory is integrated with public policy questions.

PST 541 three credits

State and Local Public Finance

Prerequisite: PST 540 or permission of instructor
Explores the major economic decisions of subnational governments regarding taxation

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and expenditures. Considers how these decisions affect the allocation of both private and public resources. Focuses on constraints imposed on state and local governments that are not placed on the federal government, including the requirement of annually balanced budgets. Includes a detailed examination of economic and other data available on state and local governments, a review of existing relevant laws and policies pertaining to state and local public finance, and an examination of issues involving public goods and externalities in the particular context of states and municipalities.

PST 580/MGT 500 three credits

Statistical Analysis

A case study approach involving the following statistical concepts: descriptive statistics, probability, sampling, probability distribution, statistical estimation, chi-square testing, analysis of variance and simple regression-correlation analysis.

PST 585 three credits

Applied Policy Research Laboratory

Prerequisites: PST 500 and PST 580

Methods, techniques, and data sources for preparing analytic reports designed to influence decision-making in government, business, education, and other organizational settings. The course reviews the origins of policy analysis in the United States, the nature of policy research, the process of preparing to conduct applied research, how to conceptualize a research project, and how to conduct technical analysis and best-practices research. Students learn how to communicate research findings to an appropriate audience through briefing papers, press releases, newspaper editorials, and formal testimony.

PST 595 one to six credits

Independent Study

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor, Department Chair, and College Dean. Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area not otherwise part of the discipline's course offerings. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

PST 596 three credits

Directed Study

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor, Department Chair, and College Dean. Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area covered in a regular course not currently being offered. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

PST 599 one to three credits

Public Policy Internship

Prerequisites: Must have completed 9 hours of coursework in the MPP.

A policy-related internship tailored to each student's career preferences or academic interests. The selection of an internship venue will occur in consultation with the student's MPP advisor and with the approval of the MPP Internship Coordinator. The Internship venue is usually selected from a pre-approved list of local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and private sector businesses.

Note: The field work component of the internship (two credits) is waived if an individual has at least two years substantial and relevant work experience in a policy making or public management position, although students must still enroll in the academic course component (one credit) of the internship to graduate.

PST 650 three credits

Special Topics in Policy Studies

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor Seminar conducted on a graduate school model. The seminar requires students to do in-depth research on a specific policy area. The topics will vary depending on the instructor's current research and policy consulting activities and in response to the emergence of significant public policy issues. Sample topics include freedom of information and information policy, science and technology policy, regional economic development, marine policy, and environmental policy.