

## Public Policy Minor

Contact: Dr. Kali Wright-Smith  
Email: kali.wright-smith@wcmo.edu

Public Policy is a branch of political science that focuses specifically on what government does to address certain problems that affect the broader populace. More specifically, the primary focus of this public policy program is on the formulation of state programs, as well as evaluative of the effective public policy on public and private behavior. It provides both a theoretical understanding of the policy process as well as an empirically data-driven approach. It explores how political and economic factors affect policy formulation and implementation, as well as an explanation of the design or different types of policy instruments, and finally it provides a thorough explanation of the politics of a specific policy area. Ultimately, this is a flexible interdisciplinary minor that includes a diversity of policy fields that includes economic, financial, homeland security, cybersecurity, environmental, racial, and foreign policy.

To properly explore each aspect of the public policy process, students are required to take POL 2XX: Introduction to Public Policy, which is a survey course that explores each stage of the public policy process. Students are expected to take POL 3XX: Public Policy Analysis, which focuses on evaluating whether a policy is effective—a common point of discussion through many of these policy areas. This course will also allow for students to acquire basic data analytics skills to strengthen their ability to evaluate causal claims. Additionally, students will look more closely at the institutional mechanism beyond the adoption of either domestic and foreign policy in the United States. Also, students are exposed to the fields of economics to understand the complex interactions of the state and firms/markets. Finally, students can pick courses that expose them to diversity of topics within the field, which include the effects of governmental policies on economic behavior, and the array of public policies that exist in the United States and internationally.

Students contemplating graduate school in public policy are strongly encouraged to take at least one advanced course in statistics (MAT 114), and a relevant methods course such as MAT 313, PSY 270, PSY 274, or ECN 367.

Students will not be able to complete both a Homeland Security Certificate and complete this Public Policy minor. Students will not be able to complete both an Environmental Studies Certificate and complete this Public Policy minor.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY SHEET

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

Student's Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Advisor Date Major Declared

| Course Code   | Title                                 | Hours | Semester | Grade |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| <b>Required Courses (6 credits)</b>                   |                                       |       |          |       |
| POL 210   | Introduction to the Policy Process    | 3     |          |       |
| POL 3XX   | Public Policy Analysis                | 3     |          |       |
| <b>Choose one of the following* (3 credits)</b>       |                                       |       |          |       |
| ECN 211   | Principles of Macroeconomics          | 3     |          |       |
| ECN 212   | Principles of Microeconomics          | 3     |          |       |
| <b>Choose one of the applied fields** (9 credits)</b> |                                       |       |          |       |
| <i>Financial</i>                                      |                                       |       |          |       |
| ACC 215   | Principles of Financial Accounting    | 3     |          |       |
| ACC 216   | Principles of Managerial Accounting   | 3     |          |       |
| ACC 307 OR  | Government and Non-Profit Accounting  | 3     |          |       |
| ACC 319   | Federal Income Tax I                  | 3     |          |       |
| <i>Economic*</i>                                      |                                       |       |          |       |
| ECN 211 OR  | Principles of Macroeconomics          | 3     |          |       |
| ECN 212   | Principles of Microeconomics          | 3     |          |       |
| ECN 311 OR  | Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory     | 3     |          |       |
| ECN 310   | International Trade and Finance       | 3     |          |       |
| ECN 325   | Money, Banking, and Financial Markets | 3     |          |       |
| <i>Cybersecurity</i>                                  |                                       |       |          |       |
| CBR 110 OR  | Introduction to Cybersecurity         | 3     |          |       |
| CBR 220   | Information Security                  | 3     |          |       |
| CBR 360   | Cyber Law and Ethics                  | 3     |          |       |
| CBR 415   | Information Security Policy           | 3     |          |       |
| <i>Social Justice</i>                                 |                                       |       |          |       |
| POL 370   | Drugs, Politics, and Public Policy    | 3     |          |       |
| POL 3XX   | Environmental Justice                 | 3     |          |       |
| POL 3XX   | Race and Politics                     | 3     |          |       |