BA in Public Policy

Program Codes: 20GP5366BA

Degree Requirements

To earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from UIC, students must complete university, college, and department degree requirements. The Department of Public Administration degree requirements are outlined below. Students should consult the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs section for additional degree requirements and college academic policies. Elective courses may have prerequisites.

Summary of Requirements

| General and Basic Education Requirements | 33-36 |
| Core Program Requirements | 46 |
| Electives | 38-41 |
| Total Hours | 120 |

Basic and General Education Requirements

**Required Courses**

- DLG 120 UIC First-Year Dialogue Seminar<sup>b</sup> 1
- ENGL 160 Academic Writing I: Writing in Academic and Public Contexts<sup>6</sup> 6
- ENGL 161 Academic Writing II: Writing for Inquiry and Research<sup>6</sup> 6
- MATH 110 College Algebra 8
- & STAT 101 Introduction to Statistics 4
- ECON 120 Principles of Microeconomics<sup>c</sup> 4
- Understanding the Past course<sup>d</sup> 3
- Understanding the Creative Arts course<sup>d</sup> 3
- Exploring World Cultures course<sup>d</sup> 3
- Analyzing the Natural World course<sup>d</sup> 3-5
- One elective course from any General Education Core category<sup>d</sup> 3

**Total Hours** 33-36

**Electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA 211 Policy Analysis and Alternatives&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 230 Nonprofit Organizations in U.S. Society&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 300 Introduction to Urban Policy Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 303 Urban Government I: Managing the Internal Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 305 Urban Government II: Managing the External Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 309 Public Budgeting and Financial Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 405 Evaluating Public Policies and Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 490 Field Experience in Public Administration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Policy Specialization courses at the 200-level and above&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 46

<sup>a</sup> This course is approved for the Understanding U.S. Society General Education category. Two courses from the major will count toward the university requirement of a total of 24 hours of General Education courses. One must be a course from the Understanding U.S. Society category.

<sup>b</sup> Required for new freshmen only.

<sup>c</sup> This course meets the General Education course requirements for Understanding the Individual and Society.

<sup>d</sup> Consult the General Education (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/degree-programs/general-education) section for lists of approved courses in each of these General Education categories.

Core Program Requirements

**Required Courses**

- PA 100 Individual Action and Democratic Citizenship<sup>b</sup> 3
- POLS 101 Introduction to American Government and Politics<sup>2,3,4</sup> 3
- ECON 220 Microeconomics: Theory and Applications 3
- PA 210 Introduction to Policy Process<sup>a</sup> 3

If any of the three-course specialization classes have prerequisites that are not already covered in the Basic and General Education Requirements, students should choose electives that also serve as prerequisites for their specialization courses. For example, students interested in a Health Policy specialization must take PUBH 100, PUBH 110, and PUBH 120 as prerequisites for PUBH 310, PUBH 330, and PUBH 350. PUBH 100 is a U.S. Society course and PUBH 110 is a World Cultures course, so each one can fulfill General Education requirements as well. Check the Course Descriptions for prerequisite requirements for all courses.

Course Options for Public Policy Specializations

Students may choose any 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses for the 9 hours in specialization requirement. The following groups of courses are offered as guidance to students who may have an interest in any of the educational paths shown below. Students may choose a specialization from the list or customize their own (e.g., communication policy) with consultation and approval of their advisor. All specializations must be approved by the undergraduate program coordinator in the Department of Public Administration, who will seek endorsement from the appropriate department(s) offering the advanced course work. Students interested in pursuing a minor in any of these areas should refer to the Undergraduate
Catalog for further requirements not listed here. Consult the Schedule of Classes for terms during which courses are offered. The Department of Public Administration does not determine course offerings in other departments.

Specialization Course Options

Education Policy
- ED 200 Education Policy Foundations
- ED 252 Contemporary Controversies in U.S. Schools
- ED 402 Philosophy of Education and Urban School Policy
- ED 403 Policy Issues in the History of American Education
- EDPS 412 Politics of Urban Education
- ECON 214 Economics of Education

Environmental Policy
- PA 240 Environmental Policy
- LAS 493 Topics in Sustainability and Energy
- EAES 116 Energy for Future Decision-Makers
- US 230 Practices for Sustainable Cities
- CHEM 305 Environmental Chemistry

Health Policy
- PUBH 310 Public Health and Global Citizenship
- PUBH 330 Health Equity and Health Disparities
- PUBH 350 Health Systems, Health Policy
- ECON 214 Economics of Education
- SOC 251 Health and Medicine

Foreign and Global Policy
- PA 232 International Development Policy in a Globalized World
- MILS 217 Introduction to United States Military History
- POLS 281 United States Foreign Policy
- POLS 284 International Security
- POLS 287 International Law
- POLS 384 International Relations Theory

Social Welfare Policy
- PA 231 The American Safety Net
- PA 232 International Development Policy in a Globalized World
- SOC 225 Racial and Ethnic Groups
- SOC 241 Social Inequalities
- SOC 265 Sociology of Politics
- AAST/SOC 271 African Americans and the Politics of Incarceration

Sample Course Schedule

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
**Freshman Year** |  |  
First Semester |  |  
DLG 120 | UIC First-Year Dialogue Seminar | 1

MATH 110 College Algebra | 4
ENGL 160 Academic Writing I: Writing in Academic and Public Contexts | 3
PA 100 Individual Action and Democratic Citizenship | 3
POLS 101 Introduction to American Government and Politics | 3

**Hours** | **14**

Second Semester
- STAT 101 Introduction to Statistics | 4
- ENGL 161 Academic Writing II: Writing for Inquiry and Research | 3
- ECON 120 Principles of Microeconomics | 4
- General Education course | 3
- General Education course | 3

**Hours** | **17**

Sophomore Year
First Semester
- PA 210 Introduction to Policy Process | 3
- PA 230 Nonprofit Organizations in U.S. Society | 3
- ECON 220 Microeconomics: Theory and Applications | 3
- General Education course | 3
- General Education course | 3

**Hours** | **15**

Second Semester
- PA 211 Policy Analysis and Alternatives | 3
- General Education course | 3
- Elective | 3
- Elective | 3
- Elective | 3

**Hours** | **15**

Junior Year
First Semester
- PA 300 Introduction to Urban Policy Processes | 3
- PA 303 Urban Government I: Managing the Internal Environment | 3
- Elective | 3
- Elective | 3
- Elective | 3

**Hours** | **15**

Second Semester
- PA 305 Urban Government II: Managing the External Environment | 3
- PA 309 Public Budgeting and Financial Management | 3
- Elective | 3
- Elective | 3
- Elective | 3

**Hours** | **15**

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a Prerequisite is CHEM 232.
b Has prerequisite of SOC 100 or SOC 105; both courses meet the Understanding the U.S. Society General Education requirement.
### Senior Year

#### First Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA 405</td>
<td>Evaluating Public Policies and Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Specialization course</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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#### Second Semester

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<td>PA 490</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14</strong></td>
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**Total Hours**: 120