

# Public Administration and Public Policy Minor

## Prepare students for careers in public and nonprofit sectors

### Goal Description:

The department's Public Administration & Public Policy minor provides students a curriculum composed of POLS courses designed to prepare students who wish to pursue careers in the public and nonprofit sectors.

**Providing Department:** Public Administration and Public Policy Minor

### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

#### Gain understanding of national public administration

##### Learning Objective Description:

Students in the Minor in Public Administration and Public Policy will gain an understanding of national public administration with emphasis on the political processes within the surrounding administrative agencies.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

#### Core course in public administration

##### Indicator Description:

Students in the Minor in Public Administration and Public Policy must take POLS 3366 ("Public Administration") as a required course. This course has an objective of introducing students to the national public administration with emphasis on the political processes within the surrounding administrative agencies.

Student performance in these courses is an indicator that they have achieved this objective.

##### Criterion Description:

We expect that at least 85% of students enrolled in POLS 3366 during the academic year will pass with a grade of C or better.

##### Findings Description:

The department offered POLS 3366 in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024.

- Fall 2023 -- 11 students completed the course; 10 (91%) completed the course earning a grade of C or better
- Spring 2024 -- 25 students completed the course; 21 (84%) completed the course earning a grade of C or better

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

#### Action - Core Course in Public Administration

##### Action Description:

We need to come up with a new means of assessing SLOs with respect to the public administration side of this minor. This will likely involve better-specifying the language of the SLOs and coming up with better indicators of progress on those objectives.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

#### Understanding of the process of public policy

##### Learning Objective Description:

Students in the Minor in Public Administration and Public Policy will gain an understanding of the ways in which governmental entities in the U.S. make public policy.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Core course in public policy**

**Indicator Description:**

Students in the Minor in Public Administration and Public Policy must take POLS 3302 ("Public Policy") as a required course. This course has an objective of introducing students to the ways in which governmental entities in the U.S. make public policy.

Student performance in these courses is an indicator that they have achieved this objective.

**Criterion Description:**

We expect that at least 85% of students taking POLS 3302 in the current academic year will pass with a grade of C or better.

**Findings Description:**

The department offered POLS 3302 in Fall 2023. Thirty-five (35) students completed the course. Of these 32 (91%) earned a grade of C or better.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action - Core Course in Public Policy**

**Action Description:**

We need to come up with a new means of assessing SLOs with respect to the public policy side of this minor. This will likely involve better-specifying the language of the SLOs and coming up with better indicators of progress on those objectives.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Plan to assess SLOs of minor**

**Performance Objective Description:**

In 2023-2024, department faculty who teach within the PAPP minor will work to develop a means of assessing student learning outcomes (SLOs) within the minor.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**SLO assessment plan**

**KPI Description:**

Political science faculty teaching within the PAPP minor will meet and, in conjunction with the department chair, develop a plan to assess student learning outcomes

**Target Description:**

Success will be defined as (1) meeting to discuss assessment options for the minor (2) if it is determined that a better measure of SLO is appropriate, developing that measure.

**Results Description:**

Not completed in AY 2023-2024. We plan to revisit and include this as a goal in AY 2024-2025.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**SLO assessment plan**

**Action Description:**

We need to come up with a new means of assessing SLOs with respect to the minor. This will likely involve better-specifying the language of the SLOs and coming up with better indicators of progress on those objectives.

**Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

**Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

**Closing Summary**

For the coming year, the primary goal of the department with respect to this program will be a focused assessment of student learning objectives and some thinking about how to best assess these objectives. In addition, the program will explore the idea of a 15-hour certificate that will mirror the PAPP minor. This fits with the idea of "stackable credentials" and could be very marketable to firefighters, etc.

**Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

We were not able to make progress on these objectives in 2023-2024. Now that we have a new tenure-track faculty member, this will be a priority in 2024-2025.

**New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

**Closing Summary:**

For 2024-2025, the program has two goals:

1. Related to the actions already identified herein: We need to come up with a new means of assessing SLOs for this minor. This will likely involve better-specifying the language of the SLOs and coming up with better indicators of progress on those objectives.
2. The program will explore the idea of a 15-hour certificate that will mirror the PAPP minor. This fits with the idea of "stackable credentials" and could be very marketable to firefighters, etc.

The department chair will have primary responsibility for accomplishing these goals.