



Public Policy Analytics Minor

General information and application form

The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy is excited to announce UTK's first Public Policy Analytics Minor. The Center offers this minor for students pursuing majors in all colleges. Students must successfully complete the following 18 hours of requirements:

- ECON 311 – Intermediate Microeconomics (3 hours)
- ECON 381 – Econometrics (3 hours) **OR** BAS 320 - Regression Modeling **OR** POLS 301 - Research Methods
- BCPP 480 – Policy Process and Program Evaluation I (3 hours) – Offered in Fall
- BCPP 481 - Policy Process and Program Evaluation II (3 hours) – Offered in Spring
- Take 2 courses in one of the following tracks from **approved list*** (follows below) or customize your own.
 - Environmental & Natural Resources Policy
 - Global Security Policy
 - Fiscal and Regulatory Policy
 - Health and Social Justice Policy
 - Foreign Policy

Admission Process and Timeline

Admission to the minor will be capped at 15 students per year, admitted as a cohort each Spring semester, to provide focused support for students. The cohort will take BCPP 480 in the Fall followed by BCPP 490 in the Spring. Applications will be accepted until the cohort is at capacity. Applications will be reviewed and interviews conducted on a rolling basis.

Pre-Requisites for Admission

Students must have completed 45 hours with a minimum 3.25 GPA, including these pre-requisite courses:

- BCPP 101 (Intro to Public Policy) **OR** POLS 240 (Intro to Public Admin.) **OR** POLS 311 (Contemporary issues in American Public Policy)
- CMST 210/217 (Public Speaking) **OR** CMST 240/247 (Business & Professional Communications)
- STATS 201/207 (Statistics - pre-requisite of Math 125, 141 or 152)
- ECON 201/207 (Economics) **OR** ECON 211 (Microeconomics)

Rationale: The minor was developed with input from faculty from law, economics, political science and university honors following an internal review of other programs at the University of Tennessee and universities elsewhere. Students will be exposed to the foundations of public policy and the policymaking process, analytical tools from economics and political science, quantitative methods and program evaluation techniques, subject matter from a student's selected public policy field and a capstone experience that requires hands-on applications in conducting public policy research.



The policy analytics minor would benefit students majoring in numerous fields and would enhance job prospects and preparation for graduate and professional school. This minor will enable students to:

- recognize and identify viable solutions to today's pressing problems,
- examine alternative approaches, budgets and implementation factors,
- evaluate policies using cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis,
- understand and work with the constraints and conflicts presented among stakeholders in the policy debate, and
- apply this knowledge within the context of a particular policy field, such as foreign policy or environmental policy.

These and related analytical skills are increasingly valued by business, think tanks, nonprofits and the public sector. For example, LinkedIn's *25 Hottest Skills for 2014*, lists at #1 *Statistical Analysis and Data Mining* and at #18 *Economics*. (<http://blog.linkedin.com/2014/12/17/the-25-hottest-skills-that-got-people-hired-in-2014/>) We know from our students and job listings that these skills are critical in landing jobs in public policy and will enhance student employability.

For example, an architect or engineer with a minor in public policy analytics will learn how cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis are used to evaluate the desirability of investing in public infrastructure, from parks to roads and bridges, while also seeing the importance of informing and persuading stakeholders. A political science major will complement his or her training in political institutions and processes through a deeper understanding of data analytics applied to the evaluation of public policies and increase their job potential with this understanding of data-driven decision-making. A student pursuing a degree in communication and information will learn subject matter expertise on how academicians, researchers and policymakers engage in public policy research and analysis, with improved capacity for writing persuasive speeches or critical, informed articles on policy matters. The proposed capstone experience will ensure that all students are able to take analytical tools and concepts, place them in context and apply them to address practical policymaking.

*Policy Tracks – Approved Course List

Environmental & Natural Resources Policy

AREC 470 – Policy Analysis for Environmental and Natural Resource Management
 ECON 362 – Environmental & Natural Resources Policy
 ECON 463 – Environmental Economics
 ESS 462 – Environmental Climatology
 SOCI 465 – Social Values and the Environment
 EEB 306 – Ecology and Society
 EEB 309 – Biology of Human Affairs

Global Security Policy

POLS 451 – Ethnic Conflict in Foreign Countries
 POLS 470 – International Law
 POLS 472 – Conflict Processes
 POLS 473 – Negotiation, Bargaining, and Diplomacy
 POLS 479 – Regional Analysis of International Politics



Fiscal and Regulatory Policy

- ECON 331 – Government & Business
- ECON 471 – Public Finance: Expenditure Analysis
- ECON 472 – Public Finance: Taxation and Fiscal Federalism
- POLS 441 – Public Budgeting
- POLS 442 – Administrative Law and Regulatory Policymaking

Health and Social Justice Policy

- ECON 436 – Economics of Health & HealthCare
- ECON 441 – Labor Economics
- PUBH 330 – Emergency Management
- PUBH 401 – Global Public Health
- PUBH 420 – Environmental Public Health
- SOCI 341 – Social Inequalities
- SOCI 442 – Comparative Poverty and Development
- SOCI 446 – The Modern World System
- SOCI 449 – Juvenile Delinquency and Social Policy
- SOCI 452 – Race, Ethnicity, Crime, and Justice
- SOCI 465 – Social Values and the Environment
- SOWK 416 – Social Welfare Policies and Issues

Foreign Policy**

- ECON 421 – International Economics
- GEOG 451 – The Global Economy
- PHIL 441 – Global Justice and Human Rights
- POLS 366 – United States Foreign Policy Process
- POLS 370 – Contemporary International Problems
- POLS 461 – Comparative Public Policy
- POLS 471 – International Political Economy
- POLS 473 – Negotiation, Bargaining, and Diplomacy
- POLS 479 – Regional Analysis of International Politics
- SOCI 442 – Comparative Poverty and Development
- SOCI 446 – The Modern World System
- WGS 370 – Gender and Globalization

****Can only take one of the following to satisfy requirement:**

- POLS 452 – The Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa
- POLS 453 – Western European Politics
- POLS 454 – Government and Politics of China and Japan
- POLS 455 – South Asian Government and Politics
- POLS 456 – Latin American Government and Politics
- POLS 459 – Government and Politics of Post-Communist Countries
- POLS 463 – Contemporary Middle East Politics

***Students can petition to customize a two-course track that better fits their career aspirations.



Public Policy Analytics Minor Application

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Legal name in full _____ Gender: M ___ F ___ Date of Birth: _____

(Check one) I am a: ___ US Citizen OR ___ International student from _____ (Country)

Mailing Address: _____

Phone number: (____) _____ E-mail address: _____
(Mobile # Preferred)

Undergraduate major(s): _____ Undergraduate minor(s): _____

Student ID # _____ Cumulative GPA: _____ Expected date to receive degree: _____

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Please answer the following question (NO more than one page-250 words).

What would you like to get out of the Policy Analytics Minor and what will you offer in return?

2. Attach your resume and a copy of your academic history to your application.

Return this application to: **Dr. Jonathan Ring**, Director of Student Programs jring7@utk.edu

Applications will be accepted until the cohort is at capacity. Applications will be reviewed and interviews conducted on a rolling basis.