Public Policy Analytics Minor

General information and application form

Public policy research increasingly relies on advanced analytical tools and applied data-driven experiences, as do many other careers. 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 t #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 and thus the ranking of the University of Tennessee.

For example, an architect or engineer with a minor in public policy analytics would 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 showing them the importance of informing and persuading stakeholders. A political science major would 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 would 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.

Applications Open Spring 2016

Applications will open in April 2016 for admission in Fall 2016. (Applicants should NOT be graduating earlier than Spring 2017.) The minor requires 18 hours and will be capped at 30 students (or 15 students per year), admitted as a cohort, to provide focused support for students. Students will only be admitted to the minor after completing 45 hours, with a minimum 3.25 GPA and these pre-requisite courses:

Pre-Requisite Courses Required for Admission

• 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)

PUBLIC POLICY ANALYTICS MINOR – Required Courses

• ECON 311 – Intermediate Microeconomics (3)
• ECON 381 – Econometrics (3)
• BCPP 480 – Policy Process and Program Evaluation (3) - team taught by economist and political science/public admin) – Offered Fall 2017
• BCPP 490 Capstone (3) (Research policy project with presentations throughout) – Offered Spring 2017

Select Two Courses from one of the following tracks**:

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
- INSC 490 – Environmental Information
- PUBH 420 – Environmental Public Health
- 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
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.

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

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Legal name in full________________________________________ Gender:  M___ F____ Date of Birth: ________________
Age: _____ (Check one) I am a:  ___US Citizen OR  ___ International student from ______________ (Country)
Permanent Address: ___________________________ Campus Address: ___________________________
Phone number: (____)________________________ E-mail address: ________________________________
(Mobile # Preferred)
Undergraduate major(s): _____________________ Undergraduate minor(s): _______________________
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? What will you offer in return?

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

Return this application to:  Nissa Dahlin-Brown, Baker Center, 1640 Cumberland Ave.  CAMPUS 3340 or email to nissa@utk.edu

Applications are due by 5:00 PM on Monday, April 11, 2015. Interviews will take place the week of April 18, 2016.

3.7.16