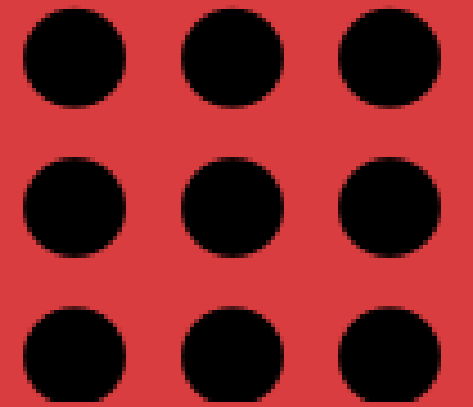


USC Price

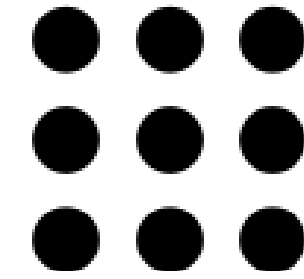
Sol Price School of Public Policy

THE PRICE EXPERIENCE

For students interested in learning more about or changing their major to **Public Policy**.



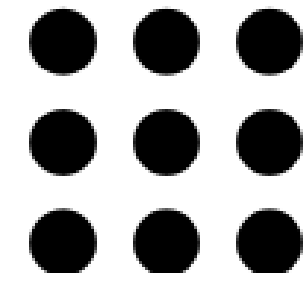
Mission



"The mission of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy is to improve the quality of life for people and their communities, here and abroad. We achieve this mission through education and research that promote innovative solutions to the most critical issues facing society."



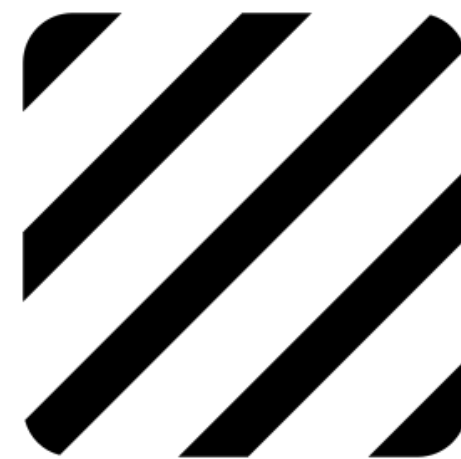
What is Public Policy?



Public policy is the collective effort to **address society's most pressing problems** through analysis, engagement, and advocacy to create practical, innovative, and smart solutions that **create a better tomorrow** for our world.

Our students tackle a range of critical problems ranging from climate change, education and debt, healthcare and access, economic and social inequality, housing and affordability, and more. They learn to use data analysis and an understanding of our economic and political institutions to design practical solutions that make a difference in the complex challenges our future faces.

Our alums have worked as agents of change across numerous public and private organizations, serving in roles such as data analysts in think tanks and private consulting firms, policymakers in state and federal government, and managers in healthcare and non-profit organizations.





Some topics that you will learn in your PPD courses –

- Affordable health care that is accessible
- Environmental sustainability & environmental growth
- Innovative solutions to social problems
- Affordable housing
- Healthy neighborhoods & communities
- Inclusive physical environments
- Social justice & equity



B.S. in Public Policy

At USC Price, a degree in Public Policy equips students with a blend of theoretical knowledge and real-world skills. Our curriculum integrates economics, political science, and quantitative methods with practical expertise in communication, leadership, and policy analysis and implementation. Students gain the tools to analyze complex challenges and drive meaningful change at the local, state, and federal levels—turning vision into action for the common good.



DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- 128 units minimum for one degree (e.g. Public Policy B.S.)
- 160 units minimum for two degrees (e.g. Public Policy B.S. + another major program)
- GE and WRIT requirements are the same
- No foreign language requirement

CORE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Public Policy major requires students to complete MATH 117 and PPD 203. There are several ways to fulfill MATH 117 requirement; see below.

- **MATH 117: Introduction to Mathematics for Business and Economics**
 - Take the math placement exam to determine if you need to take MATH 117
 - If you place into MATH 118/MATH 125, then you will be given a course waiver for MATH 117
 - If you have a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus exam, then you will be given a course waiver for MATH 117
- **PPD 203: Economic Analysis for Public Policy**
 - Pre-requisite/co-requisite is MATH 117 or higher
 - Offered each fall semester
 - Students can satisfy this requirement in one of two ways
 1. If you have a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Microeconomics exam, then you will be given a course waiver for PPD 203
 2. If you transferred in the equivalent of ECON 203, prior to matriculating at USC

MATH 117 & ECON 203 fulfill GE-F category

CORE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Introduction to our Field: Gateway Course

- Solving Public Problems (PPD 225) – 4 units

Contextual Courses

- Citizenship and Public Ethics (PPD 240g) – 4 units
- Social Justice Issues in Public Policy and Planning (PPD 300) – 4 units
- Analytic Foundations for Public Policy (PPD 315) – 4 units

Skills and Methodology Courses

- Statistics for PPD (PPD 303 – prerequisite MATH 117) – 4 units
- Public Policy and Planning Analysis (PPD 373 – prerequisite PPD 225, PPD 203 and PPD 303) – 4 units
- Cross-cutting topics course – 4 units

Practical Application

- PPD Practices: Internship Seminar (PPD 301, CR/NC) – 2 units
 - Requires an internship to take with PPD 301
 - Must get at least 140 hours of work from the internship

MAJOR TRACKS

Students must choose one of five tracks to emphasize in for the Public Policy major.

1. Public Policy and Law
2. Public Policy and Data Analytics
3. Urban Environmental and Sustainability Policy
4. Health Policy and Management
5. Philanthropy, Nonprofits and Social Innovation



Major Track Courses

Below is a sample of some courses that are required in the different major tracks

Public Policy and Law

- Public Policy and Law (PPD 314)
- Crime and Public and Policy (PPD 342)

Public Policy and Data Analytics

- Finance of the Public Sector (PPD 313)
- Empirical Methods for Public Policy (PPD 404)

Urban Environmental and Sustainability Policy

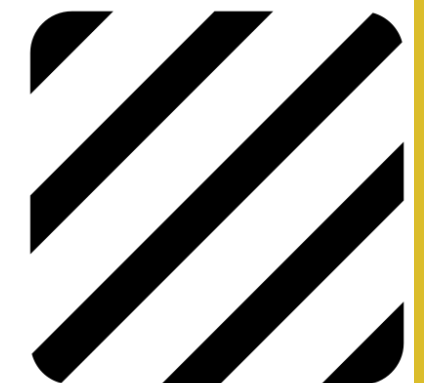
- Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development (PPD 344)
- Sustainable Communities, Policy and Planning (PPD 361)

Health Policy and Management

- Fundamentals of Health Policy and Management (PPD 325)
- Introduction to Health Care Systems (PPD 330)

Philanthropy, Nonprofits, and Social Innovation

- The Nonprofit Sector and the Public Interest (PPD 371)
- Social Innovations (PPD 478)



ACADEMIC + PRACTICAL SKILLS



- **communication skills**

writing, public speaking to communicate policy effectively with diverse urban communities

- **quantitative + qualitative**

data + story-telling; formulate, implement, evaluate policy solutions

- **data + innovation**

GIS, social media, visualization tools to address issues facing cities

UNIQUE FEATURES

● Academic + professional faculty

Learn from full-time research faculty and professional adjunct faculty to gain real world experience.

● Progressive Degree Programs

Want to continue and pursue a Master's degree? Consider a progressive degree program in MPA, MPP, MUP, MHA at USC Price.

● Professional practice + academic research

Internships, research centers, senior capstone or senior thesis*

(*Students can choose to take a studio capstone course or work on a senior thesis alongside a faculty mentor. Students must meet GPA requirement to pursue the senior thesis.)

● Study abroad programs

Study abroad and receive some major credits through a Price Exchange Programs, Dornsife Overseas Programs, or Price Policy Semester in DC

PPD 431 (Maymester)

Students have an opportunity to take PPD 431 capstone as a regular semester course or participate and take it as part of the Maymester program.

In past years, students had the opportunity to travel to New Orleans and Detroit to work on revitalization projects post hurricane to tour sites and meet with key stakeholders in key areas such as economic development and social innovation.



LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

Access **USC Price Office of Career Services**

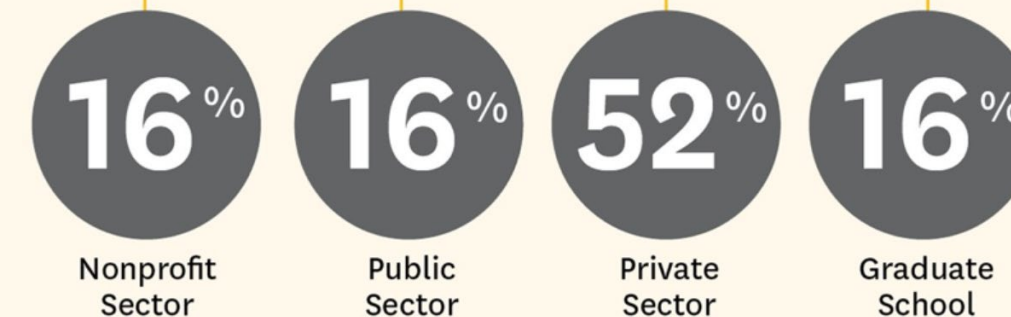
- Handshake job network
- Fall Networking Night
- Internship and Career fairs
- Resume and Cover letter reviews
- Mock Interviews
- Alumni connections
- Professional Mentorship Program

BSPP Employment Data

BSPP 2023 EMPLOYMENT DATA (82% knowledge rate)

100 % of BSPP students secured employment or are pursuing a graduate degree within 1 year of graduation

SECTOR BREAKDOWN



Join **PPUG** (Public Policy Undergraduates) student organization for social and academic activities, such as study sessions, coffee chats, and jeopardy nights.

*Open to all students

Instagram



Newsletter



Next Steps

Contact Us

Interested in declaring the PP or USP major or learning more about it? Submit a [Major Interest Form](#), and an advisor will connect with you to provide guidance and create a course plan for the Public Policy major.

Join an Info Session (Optional - via Zoom)

Meet with the PP and USP advisors in our joint info sessions, held on the last Friday of each month from 12-1 PM. This is a great opportunity to ask general questions and connect with your future advisor!

- Zoom link - <https://bit.ly/4hKoRTK>

Public Policy Major Advisor -

Josephine Le, Academic Program Administrator

kpn@usc.edu

