Public Policy Course Descriptions

UAPP 110 Changing the World: The Role of Public Policy

Is "Going Green" making a difference? Who are the haves and the have not's? Does politics matter? Can you get a job AND make a difference in the world? The answers to these questions can be found through sound Public Policy. Public Policy begins with you, and challenges us to engage contemporary questions and issues through institutional and public venues that enhance civil society (i.e., citizens, government, institutions). This course examines major policy issues confronting contemporary society, and the basic concepts and strategies that are used to address them.

UAPP 225 Crafting Public Policy

The course provides a view of how the processes of public policy operate from agenda setting through formulation and legitimation, to implementation and eventual evaluation with examples drawn from several areas of policy (e.g., health, education, and environment). The focus will be primarily on domestic public policy.

UAPP 300 Field Experience

Field Experience will involve the student in policy-oriented, experiential learning. Faculty within SPPA's public service and research centers will provide a mentoring experience in the form of both internal and external research projects, supervised service learning projects, internships and Study Abroad. This course counts as Public Policy majors Discovery Learning Experience. Supervised by student's SPPA advisor.

UAPP 325 Public Policy Analysis

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles and concepts of policy analysis. Policy analysis is considered a problem-solving and policy-design process. The course will also consider the relationship between public goals and the design of policy and will survey the use of generic policy tools such as regulation, contracting and privatization, mandates, inducements, markets, and subsidies. These concepts will be presented using practical examples involving the public policy issues. Students will practice application through problem solving and critical examination of policy analyses conducted by prominent research groups within the field as well as through case study problem-solving.

UAPP 440 Contemporary Policy Issues

This capstone course will serve as a culminating learning experience for students during their senior year. It will involve an integration of the policy skills that they have developed within applied contexts related to their minors or areas of interests. The capstone will change annually based on current policy topics. The capstone will incorporate the policy research of SPPA Ph.D. candidates and will follow a problem-based learning model.

UAPP 487 State Government Policy and Management

Focuses on roles and functions of United States state government. Topics include legislative policy making and operations, executive branch organization and functions, structure and role of state courts, and the role of the governor and the states in intergovernmental policy making. State government in the mid-atlantic region will receive special attention.