

The Graduate Certificate in Public Policy



SPIA students are prepared to work at all levels, from City Hall to Capitol Hill.

Public policy—the actions of government and its partners in the nonprofit and private sectors—is the keystone of politics and public administration. The creation, adoption, and implementation of public policy is a complex process. It requires skills in analysis, reasoning, and argumentation—what we call *evidence-based policy advocacy*.

No matter what your profession, at some point

in your career you will be called upon to offer your advice about important matters of public policy. The future of your organization, company, or community will be shaped by your participation. The Graduate Certificate in Public Policy helps you make the most of your skills by providing you with the tools you need to be an effective advocate for realistic, effective, and responsible public policy.

The outstanding scholars and teachers in the School of Public and International Affairs look forward to your application to the program.

The Curriculum

The curriculum is a twelve-credit (four-course) program, consisting of the following courses:

- PA 509: Applied Political Economy
- PA 511: Public Policy Analysis
- PA 598: Public Policy Process
- An elective policy or managerial course, approved by the program coordinator, from virtually any program at NC State. Examples include history, the social sciences, natural resources, agriculture, health, business, or engineering.

Students who do not have coursework at the graduate or advanced undergraduate level in social science statistics will be required to take a statistics course in SPIA, or in any other department of the student's choosing with the approval of the coordinator.

Admissions

Students not attending NC State are required to submit transcripts. Students already enrolled at NC State need not present transcripts, but they must be students in good standing. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in graduate and undergraduate studies is required for admission to the program. Applicants who have a GPA of less than 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in their last two years of undergraduate coursework may be admitted provisionally; details are available from the coordinator.



SPIA is located in Raleigh, North Carolina's capital city, just two miles from major federal, state, and local government offices.

Opportunities for Further Study

Academic success in the certificate program may have a strong bearing on admission to SPIA's MPA program. However, completion of a certificate program in no way guarantees entry into a graduate degree program, which is done through a separate application process. We encourage strong students to consider working toward the MPA and the certificate concurrently.

Information and Applications

For additional information and application materials, contact Dr. Thomas Birkland, Coordinator, at 919-513-7799 or by email at tom_birkland@ncsu.edu.

This brochure and downloadable applications are available at :

http://www4.ncsu.edu/~tabirkla/PP_Home.htm

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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School of Public and International Affairs
Department of Public Administration
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