

What you can do with your **PUBLIC POLICY MAJOR**



Major Skills



Policy Analysis

You apply theoretical and empirical frameworks from economics, political science, sociology, public administration, public management, and organizational behavior to analyze public policy issues, using evidence to inform recommendations and policy decisions.



Systems Thinking

You identify interests and roles of governmental and non-governmental institutions and other actors in the policy making process; you practice key principles of policy analysis, public administration, public management, and organizational behavior in addressing complex problems in the public interest.



Critical Thinking

You define and analyze problems, considering a range of alternative points of view and evidence; you identify factors that contribute to outcomes and make connections.



Teamwork & Working Across Difference

You work and learn collaboratively across disciplines, effectively anticipating, learning from, and navigating issues where opinions, values, and perspectives often differ or conflict.



Written & Oral Communication

You communicate clearly and effectively about public policy problems and solutions, using evidence-based strategies to address diverse sets of stakeholders.



Evaluation and Analysis

You critically evaluate quantitative and qualitative research, identify its strengths and limitations, and highlight its implications for public policy.

Supplement Your Skills With



Internships, Volunteering, Service-Learning & Part Time Jobs



Career & Self Development



Connecting with Alumni & Networking



Participation & Leadership in Student Orgs



Experience Fostering Professional Equity & Inclusion

Chart Your Path Forward

Activate Your Handshake Account

for connections to jobs, internships, employer, & alumni networking.

Explore Popular Policy Employment Areas,

policy jobs, internships and career resources at the La Follette School Career Hub: go.wisc.edu/6789wt

Get Career & Internship Advising

from SuccessWorks to make a plan, whether you're a first-year student or about to graduate.

Get Started: successworks.wisc.edu

Put your Public Policy major to **WORK**

Frequent Job Titles of Alumni

- Budget Analyst
- Campaign Manager
- City/County Clerk
- Data Analyst
- Foreign Policy Analyst
- Grant Writer
- Health Policy Analyst
- Legislative Assistant
- Management Consultant
- Policy Advisor
- Program Coordinator/Planner
- Research Specialist

Recent Employers of Alumni

- AFL-CIO
- American Family Insurance
- City of Madison
- Clean Wisconsin
- Dane County
- Epic
- Exact Sciences
- Madison Metropolitan School District
- Milwaukee County
- Quarles & Brady LLP
- State of Minnesota (various agencies)
- UnityPoint Health
- University of Wisconsin
- US Congress
- Various campaigns for elected office
- WI Department of Health Services
- WI Legislative Audit Bureau
- WI State Assembly

Alumni Areas of Employment

- Government agencies
- Think tanks and policy research organizations
- Consulting, regulatory affairs and compliance
- Government relations, lobbying and advocacy
- Trade and professional associations and unions
- International relations and development

Where Alumni Live & Work

- 46 %** Wisconsin
- 13%** Illinois
- 9%** New York
- 6%** Washington, DC
- 4%** Georgia
- 4%** Maryland
- 4%** Michigan



"The core set of skills La Follette teaches were identical to what my employer was looking for!"

Andrew VanderMeer, 2024

Fiscal Analyst, Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Madison, WI



"I use my La Follette training every single day. From statistics and data analysis to evaluate program outcomes, to policy analysis and memo writing to provide evidence-based recommendations, to public management and logic models to design and strengthen programs — these skills are core to my daily work."

Awa Maïga, 2024

Director of Operations, Leading Change Africa
San Francisco, CA

Career Communities for Public Policy Majors

SuccessWorks has eight Career Communities to connect you with career advising, resources and programs. Here are a few suggestions on where Public Policy majors can start.

- **Government, Policy, International Affairs & Law**
- **Environment, Sustainability & Conservation**
- **Technology, Data & Analytics**
- **Nonprofit & Education**

Not inspired by these options? Visit SuccessWorks to explore more widely.

successworks.wisc.edu