

HISTORY OF PUBLIC POLICY

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

High School Preparation

Recommended as part of, or in addition to, UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

Language, expository writing, basic mathematics, American and world history, politics and government, social sciences, student government.

Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

Two of the following one-year sequences:

History of western civilization,
American history,
History of world civilization.

Four courses chosen from at least three of the following fields:

Anthropology (cultural),
Economics (macro or micro),
Political science (American government and politics),
Philosophy (critical thinking or ethics),
Environmental studies, or
Sociology (social organization).

One course in African, Asian, Middle Eastern, or Latin American history,

Recommended:

Statistics,
Two years of a foreign language.

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* (www.catalog.ucsb.edu) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see www.assist.org.

UCSB's Bachelor of Arts degree in the History of Public Policy is the first of its kind to be offered in American higher education. The major, opened by the History Department in 1982-83, meets the educational needs of students planning careers in public life, be they in politics, government, law, management, public advocacy, or public affairs.

The major prepares students for these careers by concentrating on the social process that is central and common to them all, namely, the making of public policy. In addition, the major studies the history of public policy in various nations and time periods, from the ancient Greeks to our present day world. By studying how public policymaking has evolved over time, students come to understand the effects of various factors—economic, social, and those we attribute to chance—on the process. They begin to understand how governments in their own times reached critical policy decisions and the difficulties they encountered when implementing those policies.

Such an approach, which explores actual rather than abstract or hypothetical situations, results in a clear, accurate, and sensitive understanding of public affairs. Such awareness allows UCSB's public policy graduates to bring a strong sense of history to their public leadership roles, and to enter their chosen fields with realistic expectations.

The Department

UCSB's History Department is regarded as one of the most solidly innovative in any American university. In the 1970s, the department pioneered the idea of "public history," creating the first graduate program in public historical studies. In so doing, the department stimulated a national and international move toward the study of public history, of which the History of Public Policy major is an important component.

The 40-member faculty of UCSB's History Department includes a large number of scholars whose work centers on public policy issues ranging from taxation and minority-majority relations to party ideologies and the distribution of power in communities. Faculty members regularly serve as consultants to public agencies.

The Major

To prepare for the History of Public Policy major, students must complete 32 lower-division (freshman and sophomore level) quarter units in history including History 7, Great Issues in the History of Public Policy; two of the following three sequences: History 2 ABC, the core sequence in world civilization; History 4 ABC, the core sequence in Western civilization; and History 17 ABC, the core sequence in American history; and four units in the history of countries or cultures outside of Europe and the United States. This requirement allows pre-majors to look broadly at European and American history, and at significant issues in the history of public policy over many centuries. Students must also complete four courses (at least 16 quarter units) in cognate policy-related fields, with at least one course from three of the following five disciplines: economics, political science, philosophy, environmental studies, and sociology.

Recommended for students who intend graduate study in the field: a course in statistics and completion of course five of a foreign language appropriate to the area of historical emphasis chosen in the major.

To further prepare for the major, students must complete coursework in computer operations and foreign language (through the fifth quarter). This last requirement ensures that graduates will possess computing skills and command of at least one foreign language. The major requires completion of upper-division (junior and senior level) courses in comparative studies in history including a senior thesis and courses in a related academic discipline. The major requirements enable students to undertake grouped comparative studies in history while pursuing the equivalent of a “minor” in a policy-related academic discipline. Coursework undertaken for the major must be selected with the approval of the Public Policy departmental advisor, with whom students consult at least once each quarter.

The Public Policy major emphasizes the development of high level skills in research and writing, which are essential to those aiming at positions of influence. This emphasis culminates in the writing of a senior thesis. Internships in government and public affairs are strongly recommended and are part of most students’ programs.

The Atmosphere in the Program

The department sponsors a number of extracurricular activities, such as discussion groups and special gatherings, that provide opportunities for regular intellectual and social interchange between students. These and other elements combine to create a supportive, collegial atmosphere in which the student can flourish. From enrollment to graduation, the Public Policy student receives the close personal attention necessary for success.

For more information on the History of Public Policy major, please call or write to:

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