Public Policy

Bridging Disciplines Programs allow you to earn an interdisciplinary certificate that integrates area requirements, electives, courses for your major, internships, and research experiences.

This BDP focuses on how change happens: how did a journalist’s inquiry into the effects of agricultural chemicals give rise to the environmental movement; how did a black woman’s refusal to yield her bus seat to a white man galvanize the civil rights movement; how did a diplomat’s cable about Russian history give rise to the policy of containment? Students will learn about the policy-making process, beginning with the point at which someone senses a problem or an opportunity and begins to press the matter. We will then walk through the processes by which that sense of a problem is turned into a public policy issue through research, mobilization, the engagement of political leaders, and in some instances, the passage and implementation of new policy.

The Public Policy BDP will be beneficial to students who aspire to positions in policy-relevant institutions such as government agencies, legislative offices, think tanks, and advocacy groups. The program also will help students who plan to pursue careers in business, where success often depends on understanding how government works.

The Public Policy BDP is overseen by a panel of faculty members from across campus. Members include Edwin Dorn (LBJ), Kevin Bacon (LBJ), Bruce Buchanan (Government), Norma Cantu (Education), James Galbraith (LBJ), Madeline Hsu (History and Asian American Studies), Bryan Jones (Government), Talia Stroud (Communication Studies), Jeremi Suri (LBJ and History), and Angela Valenzuela (Mexican American Studies).

The Bridging Disciplines Programs offer interdisciplinary certificates in the following areas:

- Children & Society
- Conflict Resolution & Peace Studies
- Digital Arts & Media
- Environment & Sustainability
- Ethics & Leadership in Business
- Ethics & Leadership in Health Care
- Ethics & Leadership in Law, Politics & Government
- Ethics & Leadership in the Media
- Human Rights & Social Justice
- Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship
- Media, Culture & Identities
- Museum Studies
- Public Policy
- Social Entrepreneurship & Non-profits
- Social Inequality, Health & Policy
- Communication Policy
- Community and Urban Policy
- Economic Policy
- Education Policy
- Race, Immigration, and Citizenship
- Science and Technology Policy
- Other Public Policy

For more information about the Bridging Disciplines Programs, visit FAC 338, go to www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp, or call (512) 232-7564.

Foundation Courses (4 Credit Hours)

Foundation courses introduce key methodologies and issues related to Public Policy. Choose one course from each of the following categories:

I. Forum Seminar
   - BDP 101: Intro to Public Policy
   - BDP 101: Diplomacy in a Globalizing World

II. Public Policy Foundation Course
   - PA 325: Introduction to Public Policy

Connecting Experiences (6 Credit Hours)

Your BDP advisor can help you find internships and research opportunities that connect Public Policy to your major. We call these opportunities “Connecting Experiences” because they play such an important role in integrating your studies. Each Connecting Experience counts for 3 credit hours. You will need to complete two Connecting Experiences.

For more information and for examples of past connecting experiences, visit www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp and consult your BDP advisor.

Strand Courses (9 Credit Hours)

In addition to your Foundation Courses and Connecting Experiences, you must complete 9 credit hours of strand courses drawn from two or more of the following concentrations. At least 6 credit hours of strand courses should be drawn from courses designated as “Policy-Emphasis” courses; the remaining 3 credit hours may be designated as either a “Policy-Emphasis” or “Contexts for Public Policy” course.

You should work with your BDP advisor to choose strand courses that will focus your BDP on your specific interests, and that will provide you with an interdisciplinary perspective on your BDP topic. In order to create an interdisciplinary experience, you must choose courses from a variety of disciplines. Individual course listings for these concentrations are located on the opposite side of this page.

For more information about the Bridging Disciplines Programs, visit FAC 338, go to www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp, or call (512) 232-7564.

Integration Essay

In order to complete your BDP certificate, write a 3-4 page integration essay in which you reflect on what you learned and accomplished through your BDP experience. This essay is your opportunity to draw connections among your interdisciplinary BDP coursework, your Connecting Experiences, and your major. For additional guidelines, please consult your BDP advisor.
Complete 9 credit hours of strand courses drawn from two or more of the following concentrations. At least 6 credit hours of strand courses should be drawn from courses designated as “Policy-Emphasis” courses; the remaining 3 credit hours may be designated as either a “Policy-Emphasis” or “Contexts for Public Policy” course. Please speak with your BDP advisor about your plan for fulfilling your strand course requirements. Note that only one of your strand courses may come from your major department(s), or from courses cross-listed with your major department(s).

**Communication Policy**

*Policy-Emphasis*
- AFR 372E: Social Media/Civic Engagement
- CMS 345P: Communication & Public Opinion
- J 350F: Media Law
- RTF 365: Media, Comm Law, and Ethics

*Contexts for Public Policy*
- CMS 340K: Communication and Social Change
- J 301F: Fundamental Issues in Journalism
- J 346F: Reporting on the Environment
- J 351F: Journalism/Society/Citizen Journalist
- RTF 324F: Democracy, Polit, and the Media
- RTF 342: Global TV: Issues and Problems
- RTF 365: Media Industries and Entrepreneurs

**Community and Urban Policy**

*Policy-Emphasis*
- CRP 381: Particip Methods in Community Planning
- P A 310C: Quant Foundatn for Publ Policy
- SOC 325L: Sociology of Criminal Justice

*Contexts for Public Policy*
- ARC 350R: Global Housing Challenge
- ARC 350R: Urban Design Practice
- GRG 337: The Modern American City
- GRG 356T: Urban Publics
- SW 323K: Social Welfare, Prog, Pol, and Issues
- SOC 307E: Contemporary US Social Problems
- SOC 369K: Population and Society
- URB 301: Introduction to Urban Studies
- URB 350: Urban Politics

**Economic Policy**

*Policy-Emphasis*
- ECO 304L: Introduction to Macroeconomics
- HIS 365G: US Economic History Since 1880

*Contexts for Public Policy*
- ECO 301: Introduction to Economics
- ECO 304K: Introduction to Microeconomics
- ECO 321: Public Economics
- P A 383C: The American Welfare State
  (Instructor permission required; seniors only)

**Education Policy**

*Policy-Emphasis*
- AFR 372D: Politics of Black Education
- HDF 362: Children and Public Policy

*Contexts for Public Policy*
- ALD 327: Sociocul Influences on Learning
- EDP 362: Chicano Educational Struggles
- SOC 308: Education and Society
- SOC 321L: Sociology of Education

**Race, Immigration and Citizenship**

*Policy-Emphasis*
- GOV 365N: Immigration and Compar Politics
- GOV 370K: African American Politics
- GOV 370K: Latino Politics
- MAS 308: Intro to Mex Amer Policy Stds
- MAS 362: Mexican Amer Policy Stds Smnr
- P A 325: American Race Policy
- SOC 321K: Border Control/Deaths

*Contexts for Public Policy*
- AFR 301: African American Culture
- AFR 303: Intro to Black Studies
- AFR 372C: Black Middle Class
- ANS 361: Asian Mobilities
- ANS 372: South Asian Migration to US
- HIS 314K: History of Mexican Amers in US
- HIS 317L: Intro to Asian American Hist
- HIS 317L: Mexican Amer Women, 1910-Pres
- HIS 317L: The Black Power Movement
- HIS 350L: The Chinese in Diaspora
- HIS 356P: The US in the Civil Rights Era
- SOC 321K: US Immigration
- SOC 336D: Race, Class, and Health
Important Notes on Fulfilling Your BDP Requirements

• PREREQUISITES: Some courses may have prerequisites. Please consult your BDP advisor to determine your eligibility for enrolling in specific courses.

• CROSS-LISTINGS: Note that many courses on this list may be cross-listed with other departments. You may take these courses under any of the cross-listed numbers. Please consult the course schedule or your BDP advisor for cross-listing information.

• GRADES AND GPA REQUIREMENTS: In courses taken for a letter grade, you must obtain a grade of C- or better to meet BDP requirements. The cumulative GPA of all courses counting toward your BDP certificate must be at least 2.0.

• PASS/FAIL: Only one BDP course, including connecting experience courses, may be taken pass/fail. Any exceptions will be considered by the faculty panel on an individual basis.

• SIGNATURE COURSES: Many of the First-Year Signature Courses (UGS 302 and UGS 303) that include significant content related to Public Policy may also count toward your certificate; please consult your BDP advisor for more information.

• PETITIONS: You may be able to count courses toward your BDP certificate that do not appear on this curriculum sheet, if enough of the course content relates to your BDP topic. Please consult your BDP advisor if you would like to petition for a course to count toward your BDP.

Science and Technology Policy

Policy-Emphasis
C S 349: Contemp Issues in Computer Sci
H S 330: Health Care Policy in U.S.
HIS 365G: Science, Ethics, & Society

Contexts for Public Policy
ADV 378: Communicating Sustainability
GRG 304E: Encir Sci: A Changing World
GRG 333K: Climate Change
HIS 350R: Envirmntl Hist of North America
M E 379M: Energy, Technology, and Policy
MIS 302F: Intro to Info Tech Mgmt-Nonmaj
MNS 308: Humans and a Changing Ocean
PBH 338: Environmental Health
PHL 325M: Medicine, Ethics, and Society

Other Public Policy

Policy-Emphasis
GOV 312L: Issues & Policies in Amer Gov
(Must be taken in residence)
GOV 320N: Amer Constitutional Devel II
GOV 357M: Constitutional Interpretation
GOV 358: Introduction to Public Policy
GOV 360N: Defense Policy
GOV 370L: Campaigns and Elections
GOV 370L: Policy-Making Process-DC (Archer Program)
GOV 370L: The United States Congress
P A 325: Defense Policy
PHL 325L: Business, Ethics, and Public Policy
SOC 336C: American Dilemmas
SOC 358D: Health Policy & Health Systems

Contexts for Public Policy
BGS 371: Corporate Political Strategy
CMS 369V: Political Research
CMS 373D: Advocacy Appld Settings-DC
(Archer Program)
GOV 327L: Public Opinion and Amer Polit
GOV 330K: The American President
GOV 342N: Public Choice
GOV 357L: Judicial Process and Behavior
GOV 357M: Constitutional Structure of Power
GOV 357M: Supreme Court and Public Policy
GOV 370L: Congress and the Presidency
GOV 370L: Public Opinion/Representation
P A 325: Adv Seminar in Ethical Leadership

(Updated: August 2016)