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.

Upon completion of 19 credit hours from the options listed to the right, you will earn a certificate in Public Policy.

The Public Policy BDP is overseen by a panel of faculty members from across campus. Members include Michael Lind (LBJ), Norma Cantu (Education), Joel Cobb (Business), Edwin Dorn (LBJ), Derek Epp (Government), James Galbraith (LBJ), Bryan Jones (Government), Leigh Linden (Economics), Eric McDaniel (Government), Susan Nold (Communication Studies), Talia Stroud (Communication Studies), Jeremi Suri (LBJ and History), Angela Valenzuela (Mexican American Studies), and Ruth Wasem (Public Affairs).

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

- Children & Society
- Conflict Resolution & Peace Studies
- Design Strategies
- Digital Arts & Media
- Environment & Sustainability
- Ethics & Leadership in Business
- Ethics & Leadership in Health Care
- Ethics & Leadership in Law, Politics & Government
- Communication Policy
- Community and Urban Policy
- Economic Policy
- Education Policy
- Human Rights & Social Justice
- Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship
- Museum Studies
- Patients, Practitioners & Cultures of Care
- Public Policy
- Smart Cities
- Social Entrepreneurship & Non-profits
- Social Inequality, Health & Policy
- Other Public Policy

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**
- CMS 345G: Communicating To Government
- CMS 345P: Communication & Public Opinion
- CMS 367: Collective Action
- J 321F: Reporting On City/County Govt
- J 322F: Navigating State Government
- J 349T: News Media & Politics
- J 350F: Media Law
- RTF 365C: Media, Comm Law, And Ethics

### Community and Urban Policy
**Policy-Emphasis**
- ARC 327R: Urban Trans Policy Planning
- P A 325: Quant Foundatn For Publ Policy
- SOC 325L: Sociology Of Criminal Justice
- SW 323K: Social Welfare Prog, Pol, and Issues

### Economic Policy
**Policy-Emphasis**
- BGS 375: Busn Pol Age of Inequality
- ECO 304L: Introduction to Macroeconomics
- ECO 326L: Economics and Education
- GOV 360N: Business & Society
- P A 383C: The American Welfare State (Instructor Permission Required, Seniors Only)

### Education Policy
**Policy-Emphasis**
- BGS 375: Busn Pol Age of Inequality
- GOV 370L: The Politics of Title IX
- HFD 362: Children and Public Policy
- LAH 350: Inqnyt In the Us Educ Sys
- ALD 327: Sociocul Influences on Learn
- SOC 321L: Sociology of Education

### Race, Immigration, and Citizenship
**Policy-Emphasis**
- AAS 335: Migration Crisis
- GOV 314: Latino Pol/Voter Id/Health/Edu
- GOV 370K: Latino Politics
- GOV 370K: African American Politics
- GOV 370K: Race Policing Incarceration
- LAH 350: Race & Gen In Pub Policy
- MAS 308: Intro To Mex Amer Policy Stds
- MAS 362: Mexican Amer Policy Stds Smnr
- SOC 321K: Repressive Justice & Race
- SOC 323D: Border Control/Deaths

### Science & Technology Policy
**Policy-Emphasis**
- CS 349: Contemp Issues in Computer Sci
- H S 330: Health Care Policy in US

### Other Public Policy
**Policy-Emphasis**
- CMS 373D: Advocacy and Politics-DC
- GOV 312L: Issues & Policies in Amer Gov (must be taken in residence)
- GOV 357M: Constitutional Interpretation
- GOV 358: Introduction to Public Policy
- GOV 370C: Campaigns and Elections
- GOV 370E: Congressional Elections
- GOV 370L: Amer Pub Pol in Retrospect
- GOV 370L: The United States Congress
- GOV 370P: *Policy Making Process
- GOV 370V: The Politics of Health Care
- P A 325: Defense Policy
- PHL 325L: Business, Ethics, and Public Policy
- SOC 336C: American Dilemmas

### 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.

(Updated: August 2020)