

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 02/23/26 2:38 pm

## Viewing: BS-PPOL : Bachelor of Science in Public Policy

Last approved: 05/14/24 12:01 pm

Last edit: 02/23/26 2:38 pm

Changes proposed by: sghatak

Catalog Pages  
Using this Program  
[Bachelor of Science in Public Policy](#)

Program Status	Active		
Requestor	Name	<a href="#">Carly Kocurek</a> <a href="#">Yuri Mansury</a>	E-mail
		<a href="mailto:ckocurek@iit.edu">ckocurek@iit.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:ymansury@iit.edu">ymansury@iit.edu</a>
Origination Date	<a href="#">2026-2-23</a> <del>2024-2-16</del>		
Is this an interdisciplinary program?	No		
Is this stem-eligible?	<a href="#">Yes</a>		
Available for direct application?	<a href="#">Yes</a>		
Academic Unit	Social Sciences		
College	Lewis College of Science and Letters		
Program Title	Bachelor of Science in Public Policy		
Effective Academic Year	<a href="#">2026</a> <del>2024</del> - <a href="#">2027</a>	Effective Term	Summer 2026
	<del>2025</del>		
Academic Level	Undergraduate		

### In Workflow

1. SSCI Chair
2. Academic Affairs
3. Undergraduate Academic Affairs
4. LS Dean
5. Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair
6. Faculty Council Chair
7. Academic Affairs

### Approval Path

1. 01/15/26 1:43 pm  
Saran Ghatak (sghatak): Approved for SSCI Chair
2. 01/27/26 3:37 pm  
Ayesha Qamer (aqamer): Rollback to Initiator
3. 02/20/26 10:44 am  
Saran Ghatak (sghatak): Rollback to Initiator
4. 02/20/26 12:40 pm  
Saran Ghatak (sghatak): Approved for SSCI Chair
5. 02/23/26 11:51 am  
Ayesha Qamer (aqamer): Rollback to Initiator
6. 02/23/26 2:39 pm  
Saran Ghatak (sghatak): Approved for SSCI Chair
7. 02/25/26 2:29 pm  
Ayesha Qamer

(aqamer): Approved for Academic Affairs

8. 02/26/26 3:15 pm  
Joseph Gorzkowski (jgorzkow): Approved for Undergraduate Academic Affairs

9. 02/27/26 2:18 pm  
Jennifer deWinter (jdewinter): Approved for LS Dean

### History

1. May 14, 2024 by Yuri Mansury (ymansury)

*If all courses in a subject in your department are required, please enter each subject followed by the number ranges in the "Quick Add" field in the pop up box when you click the green plus button below. For example: ARCH 100-499.*

- What courses will factor the major GPA?
  - CS 105 - Introduction to Computer Programming
  - CS 110 - Computing Principles
  - ~~LCHS 100 - Introduction to the Professions~~
  - MATH 119 - Geometry for Architects
  - MATH 130 - Thinking Mathematically
  - MATH 148 - Preparation for Calculus
  - PSYC 203 - Undergraduate Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences
  - BUS 221 - Business Statistics
  - PS 313 - Comparative Public Policy
  - SSCI 106 - Introduction to Public Policy
  - SSCI 209 - Social Science Research Methods
  - SSCI 486 - Program Evaluation
  - SSCI 493 - Public Service Internship
  - SSCI 100 - Introduction to the Profession
  - SSCI 491 - Directed UG Research
  - PS 497 - Directed Readings in Political Science
  - SOC 497 - Directed Readings

Program Type Degree  
Degree Type Bachelor of Science (BS)

CIP Code  
45.0102 - Research Methodology and Quantitative Methods.

Is there more than one Academic Unit proposer?

No

Program Code           BS-PPOL

Program Attribute

Total Program       121 ~~128~~  
Credit Hours

Rationale for  
change in program  
credit hours.

Adjusting for next year when credit hours can be shared between core and degree in S designation. Updating to 121 credits. Changing the ITP and adding new options for capstone 400 level courses.

Please provide a  
summary and  
rationale for the  
requested program  
revision.

Adjusting for next year when credit hours can be shared between core and degree in S designation. Updating to 121 credits. Changing the ITP and adding new options for capstone 400 level courses.

## Program Narrative and Justification

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Narrative description of how the institution determined the need for the program. For example, describe what need this program will address and how the institution became aware of that need. If the program is replacing a current program(s), identify the current program(s) that is being replaced by the new program(s) and provide details describing the benefits of the new program(s). If the program will be offered in connection with, or in response to, an initiative by a governmental entity, provide details of that initiative.

Public Policy is a social scientific field of study in which the primary objective is the study of government and administrative policy and how it affects the public and private sectors and is in turn influenced by them. Key components of the field take place in an institutionalized, organizational setting, but also interact with political and social considerations that may be less formalized, and involve the question of how proposals, in both government and non-government settings, are created, legitimized (such as getting them on to a public agenda), formulated; implemented and evaluated. There are broad bureaucratic, political and social implications, and it goes to the core of how and whether social problems can be addressed and solved by government, nonprofit and business actors.

The public policy program has been established by faculty with broad and deep experience in sociology, politics and public policy, and geography, in a bid to combine the department's existing degree programs (3) into a single program that is both more serviceable and easier to market. Department faculty have noted the continuing student interest in the Social and Economic Development Policy degree, and advice from the admissions office of the marketability of a public policy degree. Additionally, a Science, Technology and Society degree launched in 2018-19 currently does not have sufficient faculty to service it nor sufficient prospect of new hires to achieve viability and has not generated significant market interest. That said, the STS program, SEDP program and the department's other degree program, Global Studies, all include specializations that fit well into a public policy framework, thanks to a longstanding interest in the department in promoting programs that center on policy questions.

Accordingly, the goal of launching the policy degree program is to stabilize and integrate specializations in three key areas of study – urban and regional policy (derived from the SEDP degree); international development policy (derived from both the SEDP and GS degrees); and science and technology policy (derived from the STS degree) – centered upon a common core curriculum, without generating excessive administrative overhead. The model of a single degree with specializations better fits the department's limited resources, while the packaging of a public policy degree, as well as the broader choice of specializations for students within a single degree program, enhance marketability.

Public policy as a degree field was, until recently, concentrated in graduate programs. Since then, the market has moved significantly – according to U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges Rankings, 99 colleges and universities now offer a bachelor's degree in public policy. Of particular interest to Illinois Tech, these include Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech; Michigan State; Rochester Institute of Technology and Virginia Tech among STEM-focused institutions; and DePaul, Knox College, Northwestern, the University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois-Springfield among Illinois institutions. This spread of universities, while significant, is as noteworthy for its gaps as for those included, and accordingly we believe the market remains ripe for early movers in the field if a decision is made now.

The program leverages Illinois Tech's strengths and distinctiveness in part due to the faculty and the location in Chicago, but also due to leveraging the university's curriculum. It has been designed from the start to include a required minor, with the standard economics minor first conceived for the SEDP degree supplemented with a wider range of options that makes use of the university's strength in science, technology, computing and artificial intelligence, engineering, and architecture. Combined with internship requirements and features such as IPRO, the policy degree draws together established existing specializations into a single program that directs students to integrate the theories and skills behind the study of public policy in general with specializations, both in the degree and in the minor, that enable a strong degree of application of that education by the standards of an undergraduate program.

Funding opportunities are also broadened through this transition. Public Policy falls into the category of social, behavioral and economic sciences, a core mission of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and a STEM-designated field. The NSF's Division of Social and Economic Sciences covers many areas of interest in public policy, including decision, risk & management sciences; economics; human networks & data science; methodology, measurement and statistics; science and technology studies (STS); and the science of organizations. To take just one example, within this field, the Law & Science Program, in its newly reorganized form for 2022, "considers proposals that address social scientific studies of law and law-like systems of rules, as well as studies of how science and technology are applied in legal contexts." These include questions of crime, violence and policing; economic issues; the environment; governance and the courts; legal and ethical issues related to science; and regulation.

Many of the undergraduate programs listed below are liberal arts type programs, while our program emphasizes methodology, professional training and transferable skills in a STEM-oriented undergraduate degree program. Therefore, with this program, Illinois Tech will be able to attract students who wish to combine public policy with technical and scientific degrees.

#### Selected existing programs

##### Carnegie Mellon

Second majors through the engineering school, one in engineering and public policy (for students whose other major is engineering) and one in Science, Technology and Public Policy (for students whose other major is not in engineering). STPP degree includes intro to EPP, an EPP sophomore seminar, Microeconomics, at least one stats course; at least one decision science elective, at least one technical writing course, at least three technology policy courses, an applied methods class and two EPP projects for an equivalent of 33 credits.

##### University of Chicago

BA in Public Policy Studies, through the Harris School of Public Policy. (Equivalent credits used); 9 credits of Calculus/Stats required in the general education core; 15 credit core; 9 credit specialization; 6 credit practicum; 3 credit capstone (thesis or project), 3.4 GPA threshold for honors. Independent studies include internship, BA paper preparation and unrelated reading and research. Joint degrees with Master's in Public Policy (Harris); and MSCAPP (Computational Analysis and Public Policy).

##### DePaul University

BA in Public Policy. 13 course major. 5-class core includes intro to public policy; methods classes in quantitative analysis and qualitative research methods; applied urban/environmental economics; and public policy and politics. 8 electives chosen from 30 different options in the major including an internship; internship is not required; two of these major electives can, with advisor's permission, come from outside public policy from a standing list of 22 courses. Six course minor and coterminial degrees (which DePaul calls combined BA+MA degrees) offered.

#### Georgia Tech

BS in Public Policy. Total credit hours 122. 17 electives; university core includes 2 credits of wellness, 6 English composition, 4 calculus, 3 media computation, 6 humanities, 12 science math and technology, 12 social sciences of which three must be in a US government class. Public policy major includes 21 core major credits and 18 in required related fields (microeconomics, philosophy, political process, organizations and policy, and two STEM electives in science, computing and engineering) for a 39 credit total.

#### Knox College

BA in Public Policy. Equivalent of 30 to 33 credit major; including 3 courses in policy process (one intro PS and one intro econ and an upper level PS); 3 in substantive policy concerns; 3 in formal policy analysis which includes practicum and statistics; one in ethics; and an internship or other comparable experience required. A minor of five to six courses is also offered.

#### Michigan State

BA in Public Policy. 120 credits overall to graduate. The 33 credits in the major are distributed as follows: 10 credits consisting of intro to American politics, field experience in political science and a four credit intro to political science; either a four credit methods in political analysis or three credit data analytics class; three to four credits of either a PS special topic or data visualization; a general public policy course (choose one of two); nine credits of major electives (choose three classes from a list of 11); four credits of capstone.

#### Northwestern

BA in Social Policy, and minor is offered in environmental policy. Credit equivalency is non-standard and highly lockstep with few electives. 24 courses required in the major or in related concentrations; 10 courses in the university's core curriculum, leaving 8 electives in an overall 42 course program equating roughly to 136 IIT credits.

#### University of Illinois at Chicago

BA in Public Policy offered through the college of urban planning and public affairs (CUPPA). This is significantly different from any of the others here in that it is more specialized and has few electives; it more closely resembles our architecture curriculum for organization, except within a smaller overall footprint. 120 overall credits required; 29 to 33 credits of general education core requirements that are customized to the public policy major; 49 credits in the major itself; 38 to 42 electives. Seven specialization options in major include economic development; education; environmental; fiscal; health; foreign & global; and social policy. This program would be almost impossible for transfer students.

#### University of Illinois-Springfield

BA in Public Policy. 41 Credit major for the American public policy track – nine prerequisite

credits in PS and economics, 32 in the major itself – and advertised as being friendly to transfer students. Major credits include 17 credit core with public policy, policy analysis, ethics and a seminar; nine elective credits (three courses) from a shortlist of 11 courses; and six additional political science credits of the student's choice. The comparative/international track swaps out the American government class in the prerequisites for a comparative politics class; and swaps the shortlist of elective credits for international-themed classes.

#### Virginia Tech

BS in International Public Policy. 36 credits in the major including 21 major core and 15 major electives, 21 core degree requirements including 12 hours of foreign language and 9 of international studies in international studies and political science, 45 hours of general education, and 18 hours of free electives.

Note in particular the stark difference between the two University of Illinois programs. Chicago is an undergraduate degree that all but replaces a master's in public policy but has very little breadth. Springfield goes the opposite direction with a relatively lightweight degree that is very close to traditional political science and lots of free electives. We aim for a middle ground between these two relative opposites, with a substantial Illinois-Tech-distinctive STEM component lacking in both the UIC and UI-Springfield programs.

This accordingly drives the nature of public policy programs already instituted at other universities.

#### Rationale for the program.

Public policy is central to a wide range of professions because of the degree to which various levels of government influence what it is possible to do, and because of the degree to which literacy in public policy affects one's powers of persuasion and influence on government bodies, nonprofit groups and peer institutions and businesses. Accordingly, it is in the interest of Illinois Tech students to learn not only how policy is developed in economic, cultural, political, and social contexts. Policy affects scientific endeavors and technological innovation and shapes society, cultural values, power relations, and the distribution of resources. In the degree proposed here, a suite of core major requirements exposes students to a wide range of thinking on those vital issues; then students specialize in an area from which such knowledge is derived and to which it may be applied; and their specialization is coupled with a STEM minor or equivalent STEM content to familiarize them with an applicable technical or scientific field (the program is designed to enable adaptation to combined degrees as well). In that way, students will enter the workforce and/or post-baccalaureate study with the tools to analyze social, economic, scientific and political impacts of policy and the skills needed to communicate and collaborate with scientists and engineers in a wide range of professional settings, including government agencies, community-based organizations, think tanks, news and media organizations, international institutions, non-governmental organizations, and innovative businesses. Students who achieve high levels of academic success in completing the policy bachelor's degree will be able to pursue graduate studies in related fields, such as business administration, law, public policy, scientific and technical disciplines and related masters and doctoral programs, or, with appropriate undergraduate internship experience, find work directly in fields such as policy analysis, political advising, government administration, public affairs, nonprofit organizations, fundraising and advancement.

The range of potential career options is broad due to the inherent interdisciplinarity of public policy degree requirements. In addition to introducing students to a broad assessment of public policy's influence on society from both contemporary and historical perspectives, the degree emphasizes important general skills:

- Critical thinking and analytical problem solving;
- Quantitative, qualitative, and other research skills;
- Communication and presentation skills including writing;
- Cross cultural and cross-disciplinary understanding; and
- The ability to contribute to multicultural and multi-disciplinary teams.

Courses in the policy degree core draw from the offerings in the Social Sciences department as well as the Humanities and Stuart School of Business and highlight existing strengths across Illinois Tech. Overall, the degree strikes a balance between focus and flexibility. It is built around a core that emphasizes social science research methods and theory, as well as humanistic study of science and technology. Within the major students will chose one of three areas of concentration, a specialization in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy; a specialization in Urban and Regional Development; and a specialization in International Development. Free electives, newly expanded in line with the university's push toward modular education and towards normalizing credit requirements with peer institutions, allow students to enhance and focus their training and broaden their perspective. In addition, in order to provide a solid foundation in a scientific, technical or related field, the program requires a minimum of 15 STEM-related credits beyond the core, in the form of a minor or STEM-related coursework, from the College of Science, the College of Engineering, Industrial Technology & Management, Information Security, Business, or Architecture. Advisors will work with students to assure that all three elements of the major (core courses, specialization, and STEM coursework) complement each other and are relevant to the career goals, interests and aptitudes of each student. The STEM content is also structured to be attractive to external transfer students and current IIT students who may be looking for a dual degree or a change of major. The optional internship will students to apply what they are learning, sample possible career paths, and build their resumes and professional networks.

Narrative description of how the program was designed to meet local market needs, or for an online program, regional or national market needs. For example, indicate if Bureau of Labor Statistics data or State labor data systems information was used, and/or if State, regional, or local workforce agencies were consulted. Include how the course content, program length, academic level, admission requirements, and prerequisites were decided; including information received from potential employers about course content; and information regarding the target students and employers.

Typically, it is difficult to link majors in the social sciences and humanities directly to specific careers, though the public policy field does receive some specific measurements. Sources such as O\*NET and the Bureau of Labor Statistics emphasize general skill sets and areas of knowledge that have driven the choice of courses and degree requirements in the proposed degree. This involves promoting professional development by pairing the “soft skills” of social sciences education such as understanding complex institutional environments and analysis of social or political systems, with “hard skills” in both the social sciences and STEM fields such as statistical analysis and modeling, project management, and minor field content across the IIT curriculum, providing a distinct advantage over BA degree policy programs with lower levels of STEM focus. In academia and industry there is a growing recognition that the so-called “soft skills” associated with a blend of social sciences, humanities and science education are essential to the efficiency and effectiveness of STEM training and businesses.

Job market data indicate the benefits of the kind of hybrid of traditional liberal arts education and grounding in STEM fields and research methods that this degree will offer. Recent studies indicate that due to rapid changes in the technologies developed and applied in business and industry, employers now seek new employees that come to them with already well-developed capacity to work with others in dynamic settings and embrace complexity and change. A forthcoming Michigan State University report indicates excellent prospects for new college graduates in the region across a wide range of fields and industries but also contains the following caveats.

- Employers lament the lack of “soft skills” among college graduates, especially the ability to work with diverse personalities and across different functional areas.
- Internships are important since employers prefer to hire those with professional experience.

This substantiates observations by several scholars and practitioners that, as much or more than technical competence, future employers look for communication and problem-solving skills, and the ability to think creatively. In other words, the current emphasis is on cognitive and social rather than technical qualifications. There is wide agreement about this across industrial fields. Moreover, students are expected to enter the job market with these capabilities already developed.

Job placement itself is promising, even though public policy is a relatively new discipline at the undergraduate level given traditional patterns in higher education of reserving it for masters’ degrees and higher. Potential careers include law, government service, consulting, politics, marketing and communications, policy analysis in government agencies and non-profits; administrative and academic positions at colleges and universities; and entrepreneurship involving a wide range of products and services. Specific professions reported by other institutions for their policy graduates who went on for advanced graduate or professional degrees include: public affairs coordinator, project associate, program and policy specialist,

research analyst, legislative assistant/legislative correspondent, policy analyst, research associate, public affairs specialist, community impact and data analyst, and policy officer . Several career paths from combining a public policy BS with an appropriate postgraduate also show strong job growth according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, including medical and health service management – projected to grow 28 percent during the 2020s – law, social and community service management (e.g. in nonprofits and government), and guidance counseling.

Several courses in the specialization and policy core provide direct preparation for graduates seeking such positions. These include: PS 329, Environmental Politics and Policy; PS 338, Energy Policy; SSCI 354 Urban Policy; SSCI 380, International Development; and PS 388, International Law and Organizations. In addition, advisors can authorize substitutions with special topics courses, such as recent offerings in Urbanized Ecosystems, Climate Change Law and Policy, and Environmental Politics and Economic Globalization. A valuable skill set will be provided by the capstone course recommended for this specialization: SSCI 408, Methods of Policy Analysis. Careers such as those described above value research skills and policy impact analysis focused on particular types of industrial, activities, patterns of human settlement, and geography. Courses that provide useful preparation include SSCI 225 and 325, Geographic Information Systems; SSCI 381 Computational Social Science; or selected social science electives, such as SSCI 388, Economic Impact Analysis.

It is expected that the policy undergraduate degree will also provide suitable preparation for several master's programs in existence or under development at Illinois Tech, with an eye toward creating new co-terminal degree programs, including: Master of Public Policy and Administration, Master of Law (L.L.M.), Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Environmental Sustainability, and Master of Science in Technical Communication and Information Architecture.

Finally, a number of policy-related fellowships and internship programs exist for students and graduates. One of the best-known fellowship programs in science and technology policy is run by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, including the Tisdale Fellowship in science and technology policy. In addition, many of the organizations listing employment opportunities consistent with public policy training also offer internships (especially in the government and not-for-profit sectors).

Narrative description of any wage analysis the institution may have performed, including any consideration of Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data related to the new program.

In terms of the relevant job market trends, employment of life, physical, and social science occupations is projected to grow seven percent from 2021 to 2031, roughly in line with the average for all occupations, which will result in about 98,700 new jobs over the decade and around 147,900 new openings of existing jobs per year as the large Baby Boom cohort in these fields retires.

The median annual wage for life sciences, physical sciences, and social science occupations was \$72,740 in May 2021, which was higher than the median wage for all occupations of \$45,760. Highlights for pay with medians over \$100,000 a year, are to be found in situations where students continue for a postgraduate degree in economics and political science as well as in biochemistry/biophysics. With economics and political science as core disciplines in the public policy field, this bodes well for people entering it.

Narrative description of how the program was reviewed or approved by, or developed in conjunction with, one or more of the following: a) business advisory committees; b) program integrity boards; c) public or private oversight or regulatory agencies (not including the state licensing/authorization agency and accrediting agency); and d) businesses that would likely employ graduates of the program. For example, describe the steps taken to develop the program, identify when and with whom discussions were held, provide relevant details of any proposals or correspondence generated, and/or describe any process used to evaluate the program.

The proposal process benefits in part from the foundations laid by an STS degree sound in concept, but struggling in the marketplace, as well as the SEDP degree which consistently generated majors despite modest levels of marketing. Therefore, the aim is to produce a policy degree that's directly relevant in a STEM setting, by drawing on the existing core of the STS and SEDP degrees but modifying some upper-level requirements and electives in order to better align with Illinois Tech's direction and a marketplace that is increasingly resistant to high credit requirements and increasingly expects high quality STEM education.

**Admission Entry Details**

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What are the enrollment estimates?

Year 1 58

Year 2 812

Year 3 1220

Attach Additional Program Justification Document(s)

**Academic Information**

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**Advising**

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Since quality advising is a key component of good retention, graduation, and career placement, how will students be mentored? What student professional organizations will be formed? How will the department work with the Career Services office to develop industry connections?

Students majoring in public policy will be advised by a program director chosen from among the qualified faculty of the Social Sciences Department. Other faculty participating in the program will assist with student mentoring, such as internship supervision and career advice in their areas of expertise once students have chosen their specializations. Students may also get the benefit of input from advisors in the departments of their minors.

A curriculum committee will be formed consisting of three or four faculty from Social Sciences and Humanities. The committee will recommend and review curriculum changes and conduct annual program assessments. The department has not as yet consulted extensively with Career Services due to transition in that office; however, it has solicited information on industry connections from other staff at Illinois Tech and used that to inform planning. It is our intention to build a strong relationship with Career Services.

### Program Resources

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Which program resources are necessary to offer this program?

### Proposed Catalog Entry

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#### Admission

#### Requirements

Requirements will be in line with those currently given for the degree in Social and Economic Development Policy.

The Bachelor of Science in Public Policy (PPOL) (BSPP) is an interdisciplinary degree that focuses on understanding problems and challenges of public interest, as well as the opportunities for addressing these in government, nonprofit, business and consultative settings. It also enables study in how policies are developed and how politics and institutions of governance mediate and implement policy. PP students study the interaction of politics, society, culture and bureaucracy as well as management and leadership, and ultimately go on to careers that often transform public policy and the organizations with which they are involved.

The degree combines coursework in the Social Sciences, Humanities and selected fields in science and technology. This includes broad training in methodology as well as professional development, with qualitative and quantitative research methods, Geographic Information Systems, computational analysis as well as communication and a professional experience through academically-supervised internship and a rigorous, research-based academic capstone focusing on policy or program evaluation and analysis.

## Course Requirements

# Required Courses

<b>Public Policy Requirements</b>		<b>(15)</b> <sup>1</sup>
<a href="#">LCHS 100</a>	<a href="#">Course LCHS 100 Not Found</a>	<b>2</b>
<a href="#">SSCI 106</a>	Introduction to Public Policy	3
<a href="#">SSCI 100</a>	<a href="#">Introduction to the Profession</a>	<b>3</b>
<a href="#">PS 313</a>	Comparative Public Policy	3
<a href="#">SSCI 209</a>	Social Science Research Methods	3
<a href="#">SSCI 493</a>	Public Service Internship	3
or <a href="#">SSCI 486</a>	Program Evaluation	
or <a href="#">SSCI 491</a>	Directed UG Research	
or <a href="#">PS 497</a>	Directed Readings in Political Science	
or <a href="#">SOC 497</a>	Directed Readings	
<b>Public Policy Free Electives</b>		<b>(18)</b>
A total of six other PS, SSCI or SOC courses <sup>2</sup>		18
<b>Mathematics Requirements</b>		<b>(6)</b>
Select two courses at the level of <a href="#">MATH 119</a> or above including <a href="#">PSYC 203</a> or <a href="#">BUS 221</a>		6
<b>Natural Sciences Requirements</b>		<b>(10)</b>
<a href="#">See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, section D</a>		10
<b>Computer Science Requirement</b>		<b>(2)</b>
<a href="#">CS 105</a>	Introduction to Computer Programming	2
or <a href="#">CS 110</a>	Computing Principles	
<b>Humanities and Social Science Requirements</b>		
<b>Humanities Requirements</b>		<b>(9)</b>
<del>Either (i) a minor, (ii) specialization, (iii) free electives, or (iv) credits toward a dual degree</del>		<del>15</del>
<a href="#">See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, sections B and C</a>		9
<b>Interprofessional Projects</b>		<b>(6)</b>
<a href="#">See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, section E</a>		6
<b>Free Electives</b>		<b>(55)</b>
<del>Select 36 credit hours</del>		<del>36</del>
<a href="#">Select 55 credit hours. May be applied to a minor.</a>		<b>55</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>121</b>

<sup>1</sup>  
18 credit-hours if taking both SSCI 493 & SSCI 486.

<sup>2</sup>  
Five other PS, SSCI or SOC courses if taking both SSCI 493 & SSCI 486.

Sample  
Curriculum/Program  
Requirements

			Year 1
Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
<del>LCIS 100</del>	<del>2</del>	<u>PS 313</u>	3
<u>SSCI 106</u>	3	Natural Science or Engineering Elective	4
<u>MATH 130</u> or <u>148</u>	3	<u>PSYC 203</u>	4
Humanities 200-level Course	3	Free Elective	3
Free Elective	3	Free elective	3
<u>SSCI 100</u>	<u>3</u>		
	15		17
			Year 2
Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
<u>SSCI 209</u>	3	<u>CS 105</u>	2
Public Policy Free Elective	3	Public Policy Free Elective	3
Natural Science or Engineering Elective	3	Natural Science or Engineering Elective	3
Free Elective	3	Humanities Elective (300+)	3
Free Elective	3	<del>Switch Credits</del>	<del>3</del>
<del>Social Sciences Elective</del>	<del>3</del>	Free Elective	3
	15		14
			Year 3
Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
<del>SSCI 486</del>	<del>3</del>	Humanities Elective (300+)	3
Public Policy Free Elective	3	IPRO Elective	3
<u>SSCI 493</u>	<u>3</u>	Public Policy Free Elective	3
Free Elective	3	<del>Social Sciences Elective (300+)</del>	<del>3</del>
Free Elective	3	Free Elective	3
Free elective	3	Free Elective	3
	15		15
			Year 4
Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
IPRO Elective	3	<del>SSCI 493</del>	<del>3</del>
Public Policy Free Elective	3	Public Policy Free Elective	3
Free Elective	3	Free elective	3
Free Elective	3	Free Elective	3
Free Elective	3	Free Elective	3
	15	<u>Free Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
			15

Total Credit Hours: 121

Specialization  
Requirements

International Policy Courses taken to fulfill the major requirement cannot be used to satisfy the specialization requirement. Additional courses may be approved by the program director. Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Courses taken to fulfill the major requirement cannot be used to satisfy the specialization requirement. Additional courses may be approved by the program director. Urban and Regional Policy Courses taken to fulfill the major requirement cannot be used to satisfy the specialization requirement. Additional courses may be approved by the program director.

**Required Courses**

PS-214	State and Local Government	3
SSCI-354	Urban Policy	3
SSCI-355	Regional Economic Development	3

**Elective Courses**

Select two of the following (six credit hours):		6
HIST-350	Course HIST-350 Not Found	3
HIST-352	History of Chicago	3
PS-373	East-Asian Political Economy	3
PS-374	Course PS-374 Not Found	3
SSCI-220	Global Chicago	3
SSCI-376	Global Migration	3
Total Credit Hours		0

**Required Courses**

Select three of the following courses (total nine credit hours):		9
HUM-380	Topics in Humanities	3
SOC-250	Course SOC-250 Not Found	3
SOC-301	The Social Dimension of Science	3
SOC-303	Science in Society	3
SOC-362	Technology and Social Change	3

**Elective Courses**

Select two of the following courses (total six credit hours):		6
COM-383	Social Networks	3
SOC-305	Social Communication	3
SSCI-225	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3
SSCI-325	Intermediate Geographic Information Systems	3

SSCI-385	Special Topics	3
SSCI-386	Qualitative Social Science Research Methods	3
SSCI-387	Fieldwork Methods	3
SSCI-389	Urban Planning Analysis	3
Total Credit Hours		0
<b>Required Courses</b>		
PS-230	International Relations	3
PS-388	International Law and Organizations	3
SSCI-318	Global Health	3
or SSCI-376	Global Migration	
or SSCI-380	International Development	
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
Select two of the following (six credit hours):		6
PS-372	Government and Politics in Africa	3
PS-373	East-Asian Political Economy	3
PS-374	Course PS-374 Not Found	3
PS-375	Course PS-375 Not Found	3
SSCI-220	Global Chicago	3
SSCI-323	Problems of Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Religious States	3
SSCI-376	Global Migration	3
Total Credit Hours		0

## Program Outcomes and Assessment Process

What are your learning objectives in this program? Please list each learning objective in the boxes below:

*Note: These should be the same as described in your assessment plan at the bottom of this form.*

Students will demonstrate understanding of major concepts and theoretical principles in the field.

Students will be able to describe and explain political, legal and social impacts of governance on the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Students will demonstrate that they can critically review theoretical explanations of policy problems and solutions.

Students will demonstrate their ability to justify evidence-based assumptions or recommendations.

Upload your  
assessment plan  
here:

[PPOL Assessment Plan December 13 2023.xlsx](#)

## Undergraduate Program Requirements

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What courses will factor the major GPA?	<p>CS 105 - Introduction to Computer Programming</p> <p>CS 110 - Computing Principles</p> <p><del>LCHS 100 - Introduction to the Professions</del></p> <p>MATH 119 - Geometry for Architects</p> <p>MATH 130 - Thinking Mathematically</p> <p>MATH 148 - Preparation for Calculus</p> <p>PSYC 203 - Undergraduate Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences</p> <p>BUS 221 - Business Statistics</p> <p>PS 313 - Comparative Public Policy</p> <p>SSCI 106 - Introduction to Public Policy</p> <p>SSCI 209 - Social Science Research Methods</p> <p>SSCI 486 - Program Evaluation</p> <p>SSCI 493 - Public Service Internship</p> <p><a href="#">SSCI 100 - Introduction to the Profession</a></p> <p><a href="#">SOC 497 - Directed Readings</a></p> <p><a href="#">SSCI 491 - Directed UG Research</a></p> <p><a href="#">PS 497 - Directed Readings in Political Science</a></p>
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## Undergraduate Degree Requirements

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Minimum credit hours	<a href="#">121</a> <del>128</del>
Specialization required?	No

Minor required?

No

**Proposed General Curriculum**

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List Major Course Requirements

<u>LCHS 100</u>	<u>Course LCHS 100 Not Found</u>	<del>2</del>
<u>SSCI 106</u>	Introduction to Public Policy	3
<u>SSCI 100</u>	<u>Introduction to the Profession</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>PS 313</u>	Comparative Public Policy	3
<u>SSCI 209</u>	Social Science Research Methods	3
<u>SSCI 493</u>	Public Service Internship	3
or <u>SSCI 486</u>	Program Evaluation	
or <u>SSCI 491</u>	Directed UG Research	
or <u>PS 497</u>	Directed Readings in Political Science	
or <u>SOC 497</u>	Directed Readings	
<b>Public Policy Free Electives</b>		<b>(18) 18</b>
A total of six other PS, SSCI or SOC courses <sup>3</sup>		18
<b>Switch Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<del>Either (i) a minor, (ii) specialization, (iii) free electives, or (iv) credits toward a dual degree</del>		<del>15</del>

<sup>3</sup> Five other PS, SSCI, or SOC courses if taking both SSCI 493 & SSCI 486.

List Mathematics Requirements

<b>Mathematics Requirements</b>	<b>(6-7)</b>
Select two courses at the level of <u>MATH 119</u> or above including <u>PSYC 203</u> or <u>BUS 221</u>	6-7

List Science Requirements

<b>Natural Sciences Requirements</b>	<b>(10)</b>
<u>See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, section D</u>	10

List Computer Science Requirements

<b>Computer Science Requirement</b>	<b>(2)</b>	
<u>CS 105</u>	Introduction to Computer Programming	2
or <u>CS 110</u>	Computing Principles	

List Humanities and  
Social Sciences  
Requirements

**Humanities and Social Science Requirements**

~~See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, sections B and C~~ ~~24~~

Humanities/ Social Science Requirements (9) 9

List  
Interprofessional  
Project (IPRO)  
Requirements

**Interprofessional Projects** **(6)**

See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, section E 6

List Technical  
Elective Course  
Options

List Free Elective 55 ~~36~~  
Credit Hours (if  
applicable)

Semester-by-  
semester plan of  
study for the  
degree program

Year 1

	Credit Hours		Credit Hours
Semester 1		Semester 2	
<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">LCHS 100</span>	2	<span style="color: red;">PS 313</span>	3
<span style="color: red;">SSCI 106</span>	3	Natural Science or Engineering Elective	4
<span style="color: red;">MATH 130</span> or <span style="color: red;">148</span>	3	<span style="color: red;">PSYC 203</span> or <span style="color: red;">BUS 221</span>	3-4
Humanities 200-level course	3	Switch Credits	3
Free elective	3	Free elective	3
	14		16-17

Year 2

	Credit Hours		Credit Hours
Semester 1		Semester 2	
<span style="color: red;">SSCI 209</span>	3	<span style="color: red;">CS 105</span>	2
Public Policy Free Elective	3	Public Policy Free Elective	3
Natural Science or Engineering Elective	3	Natural Science or Engineering Elective	3
Switch Credits	3	Humanities elective (300+)	3
Social Sciences Elective	3	Switch Credits	3
Free elective	3	Free elective	3
	18		17

			Year 3
Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
<a href="#">SSCI 486</a>	3	Humanities elective (300+)	3
Public Policy Free Elective	3	IPRO elective	3
Switch Credits	3	Switch Credits	3
Free elective	3	Social Sciences Elective (300+)	3
Free elective	3	Free elective	3
		Free elective	3
	15		18
			Year 4
Semester 1	Credit Hours	Semester 2	Credit Hours
IPRO elective	3	<a href="#">SSCI 493</a>	3
Public Policy Free Elective	3	Public Policy Free Elective	3
Social Sciences Elective (300+)	3	Humanities or Social Science elective	3
Free elective	3	Free elective	3
Free elective	3	Free elective	3
	15		15
Total Credit Hours: 128-129			

Report to Faculty Council

Reviewer Comments

**Ayesha Qamer (aqamer) (01/27/26 3:37 pm):** Rollback: Sample curriculum should be revised to show 120 hours to match the new total program credit hours. Additionally please remove any courses that do not exist (any courses that have a red outlined box around the course)

**Saran Ghatak (sghatak) (02/20/26 10:44 am):** Rollback: A minor change is needed

**Ayesha Qamer (aqamer) (02/23/26 11:51 am):** Rollback: Please revise sample curriculum requirements as the total shows 120-121 and the program total credit hours is 121. The range should start at 121 hours.

Key: 618