To be adopted:

Proposed Minor in Public Policy

Public policy analysis is the use of decision-making theory and evidence-based methods to the study of substantive public policy problems. The objective of public policy analysis is to improve the quality of public policy-making by critically examining the design and relevance of public policies, their implementation and execution, and their impact on households, communities, and the society at large. By its very nature, policy analysis is multidisciplinary. Thus, for instance, policies to address health problems in society have to draw upon developments in philosophy, economics, political science, medicine, and ethics (among other disciplines).

PRESENT PROPOSED

1. Lower-Division Requirements: Four (4) courses
The following three core courses are required of all students enrolled in the public policy minor. These courses can be used to satisfy college breadth requirements.
   A. PBPL001
   B. One from: ECON 005, PSYC011, SOC 005, STAT 040
   C. HIST 017B or HIST 020
   In addition, students will need to take one of the following core courses:
   D. POSC 010, POSC 015, ECON003, PHIL002 or PHIL003

2. Upper-Division Requirements: Six (6) courses in two tracks

A. Health and Population Policy:
   ANTH147/WMST 140, ANTH160, ECON129, ECON156, ECON183, ENSC141/SWSC141/MCBL 141, ETST116/HISA147, POSC 180, PSYC 178, PSYC 179, SOC 137, WMST140/ANTH147

B. Social, Cultural, and Family Policy:
C. Economic Policy:
ECON132, ECON135, ECON117/PHIL 119, ECON118,
ECON152/BUS152, ECON153/BUS153,
ECON160/BUS160, ETST109F, HIST124, PHIL116,
POSC 164, POSC186

D. Urban / Environmental Policy:
ECON121F, ECON143A/ENSC143A,
ECON143B/ENSC143B, ECON146/URST146,
ENSC101, ENSC141, ENSC143C/ECON143C, LWSO175J,
PHIL117, POSC127, POSC172/URST 172, SOC 184

E. Policy Institutions and Processes:
ECON116, ECON119, ANTH 104, HIST111, HISA120B,
LWSO100, LWSO193, PHIL 165, POSC101, POSC146,
POSC150, POSC166, POSC167, POSC168, POSC170,
POSC173, POSC 186, PSYC 175, RLST 174, RLST 175,
SOC 150, SOC 151, SOC 159

F. International and Foreign Policy:
ECON187/LNST187, POSC120, POSC125, POSC126,
POSC127, POSC129, POSC154, POSC155,
POSC158/LNST148, POSC159, POSC160, POSC169,
RLST173/POSC109, SOC 135, SOC 181

3. Public Policy Seminar/Colloquia
In addition, during their junior and senior years, students will
be required to enroll in PBPL191 (“Seminar on Critical Issues
in Public Policy”), which will include attendance at public
lectures to the campus community by outside speakers –
typically policy makers, administrators and researchers – on
timely and important policy issues facing the Inland Empire,
the state, the nation, and the world. The Public Policy
Initiative on campus already has a Public Policy Seminar
series, which will become part of PBPL191.

JUSTIFICATION:

The field of policy analysis has become critically important as societies have grown more
complex and as governments and public organizations increasingly play a more active role in addressing
social problems and influencing the quality of people’s lives. Policies are increasingly developed on the
basis of information about household and community behavior, and programs and projects are regularly
subjected to scientific evaluations and assessments. This has created a demand for professionals trained in
public policy analysis among all levels of governments as well as among not-for-profit and for-profit
organizations. At the same time, there is increasing interest among undergraduate students, especially
those attracted to the pursuit of public service and energized by a desire to help make the world a better
place, in explicit pre-professional and professional training that is connected to real-world policy issues
and problems. A public policy major and minor would address both the rising demand among local and
state governments for policy analysts and the increasing demand among students for the study of social problems and their potential solutions.

The public policy minor will prepare students for careers in public service. Undergraduate public policy programs have only recently started becoming very popular in U.S. universities, with universities such as Brown, Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Stanford, UCLA, and USC offering an undergraduate major or minor in public policy.

The UCR Public Policy Initiative (PPI) was launched by CHASS in AY 2004-05. A steering committee was established to consider how the study of public policy could be furthered at UCR. Among the accomplishments of the PPI during that academic year were the launch of a Public Policy Seminar Series and a campus town-hall meeting to brainstorm the scope of public policy studies at UCR. In view of the tremendous campus-wide support for the PPI evidenced at the town-hall meeting, (i) the Executive Vice Chancellor appointed a university-wide task force to prepare a proposal for a School of Public Policy at UCR, and (ii) the Interim Dean of CHASS appointed a Public Policy Program Planning Committee to consider the establishment of an undergraduate curriculum in public policy. The Committee recommends that immediate steps be taken by faculty and administrators to establish both major and minor programs in Public Policy in CHASS.

Approvals:

Public Policy Program Planning Committee 2/14/06
CHASS Executive Committee 3/15/06
Committee on Educational Policy 6/6/06
Endorsed by the Advisory Committee 6/12/06