To be adopted:

Proposed Major 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**

1. Required Lower-Division Courses: Six (6) courses
   The following core courses are required of all students enrolled in the public policy major. These courses can be used to satisfy college breadth requirements.
   - A. PBPL 001
   - B. POSC 010 or POSC 015
   - C. ECON 003
   - D. PHIL 002 or PHIL 003
   - E. HIST 017B or HIST 020
   - F. One from: ECON 005, PSYC 011, SOC 005, STAT 040

2. Required Upper-Division Courses: Ten (10) courses between two tracks, with no more than seven (7) courses in one track.

   A. Health and Population Policy:
      ANTH147/WMST 140, ANTH160, ECON129, ECON156, ECON183, ENSC141/SWSC 141/MCBL 141, ETST 116/HISA147, POSC 180, PSYC 178, PSYC 179, SOC 137, WMST 140/ANTH 147


   C. Economic Policy:
      ECON132, ECON 135, ECON117/PHIL 119,

D. Urban/Environmental Policy:
ECON 121F, ECON143A/ENSC143A, ECON143B/ENSC143B, ECON146/URST 146, ENSC101, ENSC 141, ENSC143C/ECON143C, LWSO175J, PHIL117, POSC 127, POSC172/URST172, SOC 182/URST182, SOC 184

E. Policy Institutions and Processes:
ECON116, ECON119, ANTH104, HIST111, HISA120B, LWSO100, LWSO193, PHIL165, POSC101, POSC146, POSC150, POSC167, POSC168, POSC170, POSC173, POSC186, PSYC175, RLST174, RLST175, SOC 150, SOC 151, SOC 159

F. International and Foreign Policy:
ECON 187/LNST187, POSC120, POSC125, POSC126, POSC127, POSC129, POSC154, POSC158/LNST148, POSC159, POSC160, POSC162/LNST142, POSC169, RLST173/POSC 109, 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.

4. Domestic or International Policy Practicum
In the third or fourth year of the program (or during the summer between the third and fourth years), students will be required to do a policy practicum (PBPL198I). This will consist of an internship (paid or voluntary) on a policy issue or problem with a local, state or federal government agency, non-profit or for-profit organization, a trade association, a labor/trade union, or a public-affairs firm. Students will be assisted by the Public Policy Program Committee in locating internship opportunities. The summer internship will provide students with an opportunity to gain real-world experience and apply the analytical skills learned in the classroom. Students enrolled in the UCDC, UC-Sacramento or EAP programs can apply that experience toward the policy practicum requirement, and do not need to do a separate
internship.

5. Senior Thesis (for Honors Candidates Only)
Students who have an outstanding academic record in their coursework during the first three years of the program will have an option of becoming candidates for Honors in Public Policy during the spring quarter of their junior year. All honors candidates will have to enroll in a two-quarter senior thesis seminar (PBPL199H) that will culminate in a written thesis covering a real policy problem of the student’s choice. The thesis project could grow out of the practicum experience.

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 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 major 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 Advisory Committee 6/12/06