

Public Policy PhD Student Handbook

May 2013¹

This handbook presents the most up-to-date authoritative information on the program and its requirements. Take the time to read this handbook in its entirety as you begin your graduate school career and keep it as a reference for the future. If the Handbook does not adequately answer your questions, see the program administrator or Director (Dr. Beth A. Rubin).

This Handbook is designed as a supplement to the general University Catalog. There is information in the general catalog of relevance to all graduate students at UNCC and you should familiarize yourself with that information. The material in this handbook assumes that you have carefully read the most recent graduate catalog. It can be found here: <http://catalog.uncc.edu/graduate-catalogs>. Please pay very careful attention to the following 2 sections as they are not re-printed here but are extremely relevant to you:

- Academic Regulations And Degree Requirements
- University Regulation Of Student Conduct

¹ This Handbook is a working document and subject to change; it draws heavily on handbooks from other programs such as Organizational Science and Health Services Research. 5/16/2013

General Information

Introduction

The Ph.D. in Public Policy at UNC Charlotte is an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program focusing on the development, implementation and evaluation of policy solutions to public problems. It stresses the development of skills, tools, and specialties, as well as a theoretical understanding of them, that contribute to our understanding of the structure of institutional systems and sub-systems and of how policy should be shaped within political, social and economic environments. The program stresses the acquisition of skills necessary to design and conduct policy-relevant research and allows students to develop individualized and innovative programs of study tailored to the policy field of their career interest. The program is based on three core principles:

Interdisciplinary Perspective

Effective policy analysis and policy formation is not informed by any single discipline. Rather, it requires an understanding of the social, historical, cultural, political, institutional, geographic and economic aspects that frame each policy arena.

Applied and Empirical Policy Analysis

Public policy is an inherently applied endeavor that seeks practical solutions and cogent analysis. While all research and analysis is informed by theory, the purpose of policy research is to elevate public discourse and improve public decision-making.

Place-Based Research

To exercise applied policy analysis in an interdisciplinary context, policy research must be place-based. Valid policy analysis, based on real data, applied to actual policy settings is one of the main strengths of the program. Students work with professors in numerous capacities, to develop the practical skills underpinning place-based research.

Mission and Vision

Our mission is to be leaders in public policy scholarship, to achieve excellence in public policy doctoral education and, through both, to advance the design and conduct of public policy application and research in a local, regional, state, national and international context.

Our vision is that political leaders and engaged citizens will come to Public Policy at UNC Charlotte, the state's urban research university, for scholars who can provide reliable, innovative, non-partisan policy research, training and evaluation on issues of concern to the local, regional, state, national and international community.

Doctoral Education

We intend our program to be recognized nationally and internationally for its excellence in the training of future public policy scientists. We aspire for our students to achieve the following educational objectives:

- Demonstrate competence in synthesizing and transcending disciplinary perspectives to generate novel, useful, and robust understandings of public policy phenomena.
- Demonstrate competence in planning, conducting, and evaluating public policy research.
- Demonstrate competence in teaching, communicating, and disseminating public policy knowledge to others in an effective and pedagogically appropriate manner.
- Demonstrate competence in collaborating with a diverse group of professionals, students, research participants, and consumers of public policy research and services.

By meeting these objectives, graduates of the program will be prepared to assume leadership roles as public policy scholars, researchers, and educators in academic institutions and as practitioners and policy makers in a wide range of public and private settings. By so doing, our graduating doctoral students will further promote our core mission to advance the design and conduct of public policy application and research in a local, regional, state, national and international context.

Our Values

- Commitment to openness, honesty, forthrightness, and the highest standards of integrity and ethical professional behavior in all that we do.
- Maintain a professional, collegial, respectful, and inclusive community.
- Promote communication, cooperation, and collaborations among faculty members and between faculty members and students in this interdisciplinary program.
- Promote the application of public policy scholarship and methods to the improvement of policy development, evaluation, and research.
- Support public policy students and faculty in their efforts to study, research, develop, apply, and teach the principles, findings, and methods of public policy scholarship.
- Value all types of high quality research from various disciplines be it qualitative, quantitative, lab-based, field-based, micro in-orientation, macro in-orientation, very basic, or very applied.
- Maintain and foster our interdisciplinary foundation.
- Commitment to thoughtfulness, reflection, flexibility, and the rigorous scrutiny of ideas.

Degree Requirements and Notes

Students progress through the program in five stages:

1. Core courses
2. Qualifying examinations
3. Advanced analysis coursework and specialty policy field courses
4. Dissertation proposal defense
5. Dissertation and defense

The total number of hours will be established by the student's advisor according to a plan of study that must be presented after the successful completion of 18 hours of coursework. The Ph.D. Program requires 24 hours of core course credit, at least 6 hours of advanced analysis coursework, 18 hours of dissertation credit (enrollment contingent on admission to candidacy) and a minimum of 15 hours credit for specialty electives. It is unlikely that students will be able to complete this degree, including mastery of a subject-matter specialty, in 65 hours; 70-75 hours is more likely.

A PhD in public policy from UNC Charlotte requires students to complete 2 courses in economics for public policy analysis. Further, students take a minimum of three advanced analysis classes (quantitative methods and 2 others). Students who are not prepared for this course work should seek out courses prior to attending or they will have to take additional course work and will then be a year behind since they are unable to take the exams at the end of their first year (see below). Students might consider some of the following to strengthen their preparation for the program:

- <https://www.khanacademy.org/science/microeconomics> is a good sight for the fundamentals of Microeconomic Principles.
- [Virtually any Principles of Microeconomics text for review](#). It doesn't need to be the latest edition. Edwin Dolan is a good choice. It is inexpensive and reasonably challenging. Bradley Schiller, et al. is another option. But really, most intro texts will do.
- Students will be benefit if they at least familiarize themselves with an intermediate level Microeconomics text to see what they can expect. Nicholson (2005) Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions, 9th Edition, is a good choice; it is primarily graphical and algebraic, and does not require calculus. But again, most Intermediate Microeconomic Theory texts will do.
- Finally, an online course, such as the course offered at MIT on Microeconomic Principles, taught by Jonathan Gruber, may be useful to some, but it is Calculus-based. There is an Intermediate course as well. The site is <http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/economics/index.htm>. That course can also be accessed from http://www.openculture.com/economics_free_courses as can a Microeconomic Principles course by Brad DeLong, but the latter requires iTunes.

Core Courses:

The Ph.D. program requires 24 hours of core course credit.

The Nature of the Field

PPOL 8600 Policy Process I

PPOL 8602 Research Design

PPOL 8635 Ethics of Public Policy

PPOL 8690 Seminar in Public Policy*

Methods of Analysis

PPOL 8620 Quantitative Analysis I

PPOL 8630 Advanced Program Evaluation

Economic Analysis

PPOL 8640 Economic Analysis I

PPOL 8641 Economic Analysis II

**PPOL 8690 is a one credit hour course. Students must enroll in it consecutively (Fall Semester) three separate times.*

Advanced Analysis Coursework

Prior to defending a dissertation proposal, students must complete at least six (6) credit hours of advanced analysis coursework at the doctoral level. These credits may be taken outside the PPOL program with the approval of the Program Director. Students are encouraged to choose courses that cover the types of analyses that are prevalent in the student's policy area of interest.

Specialty Areas

In addition to completing 24 core course hours and 6 advanced analysis course hours, the student is expected to have broad knowledge of a relevant subject matter specialty. Students are required to complete *a minimum* of 5 courses (15 hours) in a coherent specialty area determined in cooperation with the student's advisor and in consultation with the Program Director. The Program Director serves as the students' advisor until the student has identified an advisor. That person typically will also be the dissertation chairperson. The Public Policy Ph.D. program currently has strengths in the following specialty areas: health policy, social policy, urban regional development, criminal justice policy, economic policy and environment/infrastructure policy. As faculty personnel and interests change, other policy areas may also be represented such as employment and labor policy, welfare and family policy, foreign policy and so forth. *Students are encouraged to work with their advisor and the Program Director to design a program of study tailored to their policy interests by combining courses in several of these specialty areas.* While the particular courses required in each specialty area may vary according to pre-requisites needed by the student or individual programs of study, the minimum number of required courses in any given specialty area is five

(5) for 15 credit hours. *Note in the examples below that some of these courses are not offered often so the student planning on specializing in an area must work with their advisor to find suitable replacements for infrequently offered courses rather than waiting an undefined amount of time for the course to be offered.*

Examples of such areas and typical course sequences include:

Urban Regional Development and Infrastructure

The Urban & Regional Development Policy Field stresses applied and empirical policy research that is grounded in an interdisciplinary theoretical foundation. Students will be prepared in analytical techniques suitable for research and policy analysis through courses addressing several topics at the neighborhood, city and regional levels, including: Economic Development; Transportation Policy; Infrastructure Provision; Public Service Delivery; Growth Management; Regionalism and Governance.

Courses for this specialty typically include:

PPOL 8610 Urban Regional Environment
PPOL 8611 Metropolitan Governance and Administration
PPOL 8613 Transportation Policy

Two additional courses from these or other choices:

PPOL 8612 Theory of Urban Development
PPOL 8614 Colloquium in 20th Century Black Urban History
PPOL 8615 The Restructuring City
PPOL 8616 Urban Planning Theory and Practice
PPOL 8617 Law and Management
PPOL 8618 Growth Management Systems
PPOL 8642 Regional Economic Development
PPOL 8643 Rural Development Issues
PPOL 8644 Public Budgeting and Financing
and others as available

Health Policy

The Policy Field in Health Policy focuses on applied research in the organization, delivery and financing of healthcare and population-based issues in health (including mental health). A multidisciplinary faculty in epidemiology, health economics and finance, health policy, medical sociology, bioethics, and health law is ideally suited to prepare quantitative health service researchers and health policy analysts. Qualified students without a relevant Master's degree can prepare for the Ph.D. by completing coursework in the Master of Health Administration (MHA), the MA in medical sociology, or the Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) while enrolled in the Ph.D. with a field specialty in Health Policy.

Courses for this for this specialty typically include:

PPOL 8661 Social Organization of Healthcare
PPOL 8663 Health Policy
PPOL 8665 Analytic Epidemiology
PPOL 8667 Economics of Health and Healthcare
PPOL 8669 Investigating Health and Health Services

Justice Policy

The Justice Policy Field provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of crime and society's response to it. This concentration prepares students to conduct research and policy analysis on local, state, and national policies and policy initiatives and provide information for policy makers. The primary goal of this specialization is to provide students with the tools necessary for critically and objectively assessing policies related to the administration of justice. Toward that end, students gain the appropriate analytical skills, an understanding of the nature of criminal behavior and its impact, and knowledge about the criminal justice system as well as about a variety of issues related to the control of crime. They also become familiar with the process of making and implementing justice policy and with those organizations involved in this process.

Courses for this specialty typically include:

PPOL 8671 Criminal Justice Policy
PPOL 8672 Theories of Crime and Justice
PPOL 8000 Criminal Justice Management*

Also two elective courses approved by the department.

*Needs approval for a new course number because PPOL 8000 is reserved for Topics in Public Policy.

Social Policy

The Policy Field in Social Policy prepares scholars, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to address crucial social issues facing communities and our nation including social welfare, education, poverty, housing and homelessness and the role of public, nonprofit, and private sectors in alleviating and contributing to such problems. In addition to dealing with these topics in their own right, the social policy field focuses on the complex interrelationships among these issues and the manner in which they are influenced by--and in turn influence--prevailing patterns of racial, ethnic, and gender stratification. The social policy specialization provides the theoretical background, methodological training, and substantive knowledge that will allow students to make important contributions to the development, implementation, and evaluation of public policies addressing the most vexing and important social issues of our time.

Courses for this specialty typically include:

PPOL 8681 Race, Gender, Class and Public Policy
PPOL 8682 Stratification and Social Policy
PPOL 8683 Population Dynamics and Social Policy

Two additional courses from these or other choices:

- PPOL 8685 Aging and Social Policy
- PPOL 8687 Education Policy
- PPOL 8688 Political Economy & School Reform
- PPOL 8689 The Social Context of Schooling

Environmental/Infrastructure Policy

The Policy Field in Environmental/Infrastructure Policy focuses on environmental issues impacted by energy production and consumption, growth, pollution, and population change. This specialty allows interested students to gain knowledge on the economic factors related to environmental degradation and improvement. It also allows them the opportunity to become familiar with the scientific aspects of urban air, water, and earth systems. Policy making and policy analysis related to these issues will all be covered by courses in this specialty.

Courses for this specialty typically include:

- PPOL 8600 Transportation Policy
- PPOL 8650 Environmental Policy
- PPOL 8652 Energy and Environmental Economics

Two additional courses from these or other choices:

- PPOL 8653 Urban Air Quality
- PPOL 8655 Watershed Science and Policy
- PPOL 8656 Earth Systems Analysis: Biogeochemical Cycles

Economic Policy

The Policy Field in Economic Policy focuses on the study of policy issues related to market, government, firm, and individual behavior. The specialty allows students to build knowledge regarding economic theory and tools used by economists to consider policy issues. In addition, the specialty offers several courses in which theoretical and statistical tools are applied to specific policy areas, including public economics, urban and regional economics, and health economics.

The following advanced quantitative methods courses are strongly recommended, and students are encouraged to work with their advisor to identify other relevant advanced methods courses:

- BPHD 8120 Econometrics I
- BPHD 8130 Econometrics II

Students are encouraged to choose courses of interest from the following offerings:

- PPOL 8667 Economics of Health and Health Care
- PPOL 8705 Advanced Urban and Regional Economics
- PPOL 8707 Game Theory and Experiments
- PPOL 8709 Public Economics

PPOL 8711 Monetary and Financial Theory

In addition, the following economic theory courses are recommended for students without Master's level training in Economics:

PPOL 8701 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory

PPOL 8703 Advanced Microeconomic Theory

Other courses appropriate for each specialty may be available and students may take these or substitute them for one of the listed classes in consultation with their Advisor and the Director of the Program.

Students are encouraged to develop a focus in other related fields or design their specialty based on faculty resources available. As with all programs, such a program would need the approval of the student's advisor and the Director of the Program. Program faculty will continue to develop additional substantive and methods courses.

Directed Study Courses (Independent Study)

There are no specific limitations imposed by the Graduate School on the number of direct study credits for a PhD student. Students considering more than a total of 6 credits of directed study should consult with the Program Director. Directed study courses will rarely be used to satisfy a core course and typically will not be approved to satisfy existing courses that are offered in the semester that the directed study is taken or that are scheduled for the following semester. The Program Director must approve all independent study courses taken to fulfill requirements of the PPOL program. Students will submit the Independent Study form (see Appendix).

Public Policy Qualifying Examinations

Qualifying examinations and admission to candidacy:

After completing the ten core courses, the student are required to take a qualifying exam comprised of three components: the nature of the field (policy process and research design), analysis and methodology, and applied, economic skills. We call this exam "qualifying" rather than comprehensive to indicate that students who pass them are qualified to pursue the more advanced and specialized research that culminates in the dissertation writing process. Following successful completion of these examinations allows students to proceed to their specialty coursework, the dissertation proposal preparation and oral defense stage.

Students typically take all three exams in August after their first year (unless they have been unable to enroll in core courses). The economics exam is a 4-6 hour examination that students take on campus. Students are allowed to bring one 8 ½ *11" sheet of notes. They are not permitted *any* other materials. The analysis examination is a two-part examination that students take the week following the economics exam. The first part, administered in the

morning, covers quantitative analysis. Student then take a one hour break for lunch (that they may forgo if desired) and then take the second part of the exam, covering program evaluation, during the afternoon session. Students may use notes and books for this exam but may not consult the internet or one another. The third examination is a take-home examination that covers theory and research methods and is the "Nature of the Field" examination. Students receive the examination on a Friday morning and it is due the following Monday morning. All examinations are graded blind. The Director will notify students about the results of the exam as soon as possible after completion.

If a student fails any one of the exams, it may be repeated once the following time it is offered. In some instances the Nature of the Field examination committee exam may award a conditional pass that requires a student rewrite one of the answers if the exam is partially acceptable.

Except *under very special circumstances*, students are terminated from the program if they fail to pass an exam on the second effort. The Graduate School Handbook indicates that:

"Each student must complete a qualifying examination.To sit for this examination, the student must have at least a 3.0 GPA and must have removed any conditions upon admission. Qualifying assessments are administered by graduate program faculty. Students who fail a qualifying assessment are subject to termination and should discuss options with their graduate program director. With program approval, a qualifying assessment may be retaken one time. The reexamination may take place no sooner than the beginning of the semester following the one in which the failure occurred. If the student fails the exam a second time, the program may, in rare circumstance and with compelling evidence, allow a student to, within four months, retake the exam (or portion of the exam). In such cases, the program must document the circumstances under which the student is allowed to retake portions of the exam and demonstrate that the student's committee unanimously supports the decision. Documentation must be submitted to the Graduate School for review prior to the exam date. In no instance will the student be allowed to take the exam (or portion of the exam) a fourth time. Students may only appeal a termination to the Graduate School if their appeal to retake the exam is based on a procedural error or discrimination (please see the Category 2 of the Graduate Catalogue appeal description under Appeal for Academic Termination) and their initial appeal to the program was denied."

In addition to documenting extraordinary circumstances, students should note the following further requirements specific to the PPOL program. The Public Policy program *will not allow* students who have received more than 1 C in any class take the exam for the third time. Further, any student with a GPA below 3.5 in their courses will not have the option to retake any part of the qualifying examination for a third time. Finally, Students who fail more than one component of the Qualifying examination on the second try will be terminated from the program.

The exams are graded as High Pass, Pass, Low Pass or Fail.

Post-Examination Enrollment

Continuous Registration

After passing qualifying examinations, students then complete their specialty area related courses. Students must enroll continuously until all requirements for the degree are completed, and each enrollment shall reflect as accurately as possible, the candidate's demands on faculty time and University facilities. [From the Graduate Catalogue:] "Students are not required to enroll in any summer terms unless they are using campus facilities or they are completing degree requirements in that term. The continuous registration requirement begins with the semester in which the student first registers for his/her thesis, dissertation project, or directed study. GRAD 9999 (graduate residence) has no fees associated with it (only tuition) and is only a one credit course and is an option only for the term of graduation though the graduate school will let a student register for it twice if necessary. If students are going to have an active dissertation committee and use University resources doctoral *students are to continue to enroll in 3 dissertation credit hours* even though they have completed the 18 credit hours. Doctoral students that are not using University resources and have already defended their dissertation- and have yet to graduate-can register for 1 credit hour of GRAD 9999. Students who have completed their coursework and must remain continuously enrolled but are not using University resources should apply for a leave of absence. Students choosing this option must file a Special Request for a leave of absence that states they will not use University resources during the leave period. If the leave of absence extends beyond one calendar year, the student's matriculation is closed and the student must reapply for active status in the graduate program. International students on F-1 visa/status must remain continuously enrolled until the dissertation is completed. Those international students who wish to apply for a leave of absence are advised to consult with the International Student/Scholar Office prior to filing the Special Request for leave of absence. **Students must be enrolled during the term (semester or summer) in which they graduate from the University."**

The Dissertation – Topic Approval, Dissertation proposal and dissertation process

All Ph.D. students successfully completing their exams and coursework must form a committee, have a topic approval meeting and defend a dissertation proposal. *The Dissertation Proposal Defense serves as a comprehensive examination.* In an interdisciplinary program, the comprehensive exam does not refer to the entire field of public policy. The concept of a comprehensive exam assumes a well-defined test specification that can be written; that is, that the domain of relevant knowledge can be clearly proscribed. Achieving this consensus is particularly problematic in interdisciplinary programs. In this context, the comprehensive exam refers to the topic on which the dissertation focuses. It signifies a level of accomplishment and skill acquisition necessary to conceptualize, execute and complete a research project.

The Dissertation Process:

Note regarding forms: the Graduate School requires the forms described below. So that the PPOL PhD program has a complete record of each student's progress, each form should be submitted to the PPOL PhD Program Director and filed with the Administrative Assistant for the Program. A copy of each form will be included in the student's program file. The PPOL PhD Program Director will forward the original forms to the Graduate School.

1) Select Dissertation Chair. The Chair must be a member of the PPOL PhD Program Faculty, or a member of the Affiliated Faculty with a co-Chair who is a member of the Program Faculty. Note that even if students have a co-chair, only one faculty member may escort and hood the student at graduation. Students should consult with their faculty advisor and the Program Director as they develop their plans for selecting the dissertation committee chair (who ideally is their faculty advisor), and for forming the dissertation committee. It is important that the Chair of the dissertation committee is actively involved with the selection of the other committee members; having identified a Chair who agrees to serve in that role, the student should work closely with the Chair on identifying other committee members, and typically should approach other faculty about serving on the committee only after consulting with the Chair.

2) Select Dissertation Committee. It must include at least 4 members. Three must be from the PPOL PhD Program Faculty or Affiliated Faculty (one of whom is the Chair). The student submits the form, "Appointment of Doctoral Committee." The Graduate School appoints the 4th member.* *Note: the Graduate Dean has agreed that since we are a large, interdisciplinary program, PPOL students can have as their "outside" faculty member someone who is in the PPOL Program but who is in a different discipline from the student's chair. Experts in the University who are not members of the Program or Participating Faculty may be nominated for membership on the committee at the appropriate level. Interested faculty should contact the PPOL PhD Program Director. Experts outside the university who can contribute usefully to the dissertation committee can also be nominated for participation in consultation with the Program Director. All committee members, including any qualified expert from outside the university, must be formally appointed to the Graduate Faculty by the Graduate School. The four members of the dissertation committee will serve as the student's committee for the refinement of the dissertation topic, the development and defense of the dissertation proposal, the development of the dissertation, and dissertation defense.

3) The Chair of the dissertation committee and the student together select the dissertation topic. The Chair is responsible to ensure that all members of the committee are actively involved and agree to the direction and the specifics of the proposal (e.g., data, methods). Ensuring this involvement and agreement is a major goal of the *Topic Approval Meeting*. When the Chair approves the topic and approach to the dissertation, the student schedules the *Topic Approval Meeting* with the Dissertation Committee (this meeting should also include the Graduate School Representative who must attend the Proposal Defense). The student submits

a 2-3 page description of the dissertation plan to the Dissertation Committee at least 2 weeks prior to the *Topic Approval Meeting*. This single-spaced description of the topic includes the following sections:

- Specific Aims and objectives. Is the research exploratory, descriptive or analytical?
- Significance of the problem/topic.
- Justification: This section is not a complete literature review but should state concisely what is known, not known and how the proposed research fills existing gaps in the literature/research.
- Preliminary data/pilots as relevant (reminder: IRB approval **must** be secured before undertaking any individual level analysis).
- Conceptual diagram that provides a framework for theoretical or empirical analysis.
- Limitations.

The topic approval meeting is not typically open to visitors. Students will present a brief oral summary of: the dissertation topic, the context of related research literature, data and methods, and implications for policy and practice, followed by questions and discussion among the committee and the student. The topic approval meeting may be repeated as needed; this meeting is *not* a graded activity.

4) Following the Topic Approval, the student writes the dissertation proposal and prepares for the Oral Proposal Defense.

Thus, the proposal includes the following standard sections:

- A. Specific Aims
- B. Background and Significance
- C. Research Design and Methods
- D. Potential Limitations
- E. Human Subjects (as relevant)

All members of the committee must receive the full proposal ***at least 2 weeks*** before the Proposal Defense.

5) The submission of the proposal is followed by the **Oral Dissertation Proposal Defense**. During the Proposal Defense, the committee (and other visitors, see below) will ask the doctoral student to respond not only to questions about their proposed research, but to demonstrate competence in the broader area of Public Policy on which the student has concentrated her/his study and research in coursework and beyond. Consequently, anyone can ask a question of the candidate relevant to the candidate's area of specialization or concentration. In preparation for the Defense, the doctoral student should prepare a summary of all coursework and readings taken in her or his area of concentration and distribute it to members of the dissertation committee.

The Oral Proposal Defense is open to PPOL PhD faculty and PPOL PhD students. The student's advisor must provide the title of the proposed dissertation, and the date, time and location of the Proposal Defense to the Program Director no later than *two weeks* prior to the Proposal Defense. This requirement is designed to ensure that interested PPOL PhD faculty and students have adequate notice to attend the Proposal Defense. PPOL PhD students and faculty are encouraged to attend these Proposal Defenses.

The student should prepare a presentation approximately 20 minutes in length summarizing the research proposal. Following the student's presentation, the committee will ask questions about the research plan, theory, etc. The student (and typically all guests) will be excused from the meeting to permit the committee to discuss the merits of the proposal, after which the student will return to the meeting to receive the committee's comments and required modifications to the research plan. After successful completion of the Oral Proposal Defense, the student submits three forms, "*Graduate School Petition for Topic Approval*," "*Report of Comprehensive exam or Qualifying exam (Doctoral)*," and "*Application for Admission to Candidacy*."

A doctoral student advances to candidacy after the dissertation topic and approach has been approved by the student's advisory committee and the Dean of the Graduate School. NOTE: Completing Step 3 above, the topic approval meeting, *does not constitute advancement to candidacy*. Advancement to candidacy requires approval of both the topic and the detailed dissertation plan at the time of the oral proposal defense, including any required plan for the protection of human subjects. If Human Subjects are involved, the Petition for Topic Approval requires the attachment of the IRB approval.

Candidacy must be achieved at least six months before the degree is conferred.

All members of the committee must usually be physically present at the Proposal Defense. The Graduate School provides for one exception only for a single committee member who may participate remotely via audio- or videoconferencing, where the latter is preferred. Remote participation requires the form, "*Approval of Remote Committee Participation*." All conditions listed on the form must be fulfilled.

A student who fails to complete the Oral Proposal Defense / Comprehensive Examination satisfactorily may be given the opportunity to revise components of the research proposal under the direction of the Chair and/or to repeat the Oral Proposal Defense, at the discretion of the Dissertation Committee; *a second failure results in dismissal from the PhD program*. The Graduate School does not provide any appeal process for pleading extenuating circumstances in the case of a second failure. Generally, the advisor will not allow students to defend their proposal until there is reasonable expectation that the student will pass.

6) The student conducts the proposed research and writes the dissertation. The student is required to maintain continuous enrollment in dissertation study until the dissertation is

completed (see above). The continuous enrollment requirement begins in the semester after the dissertation topic is approved. Students conducting dissertation research should meet regularly with their committee Chair and other members of the committee. At a minimum, the student must meet with the committee Chair once each semester.

7) When the chair of the dissertation committee agrees that all work on the dissertation, including the defense, is likely to be completed successfully, the candidate completes the *"Application for Degree"* and submits it to the Graduate School. The application is submitted through Banner Self Service. See the section, *"Deadlines for Form Submission,"* below.

8) The Final Examination on the dissertation research, commonly called the Dissertation Defense, is the culminating activity of doctoral studies. Typically the dissertation chair and committee should not schedule the defense until they are reasonably confident that the dissertation is likely to be approved, either as-is or with relatively minor revisions. The Graduate School requires that the dissertation must be submitted to the committee at least three weeks before the date of the final examination in which the dissertation is defended.

The student also must inform the Program Director of the final dissertation title, and the place and time of the scheduled final examination, ***at least 3 weeks before the final examination.*** The final examination is open to the university community. All members of the committee must usually be physically present at the Dissertation Defense. The Graduate School provides for one exception only, for a single committee member who may participate remotely via audio- or videoconferencing. Remote participation requires the form, *"Approval of Remote Committee Participation."* All conditions listed on the form must be fulfilled. In some instances the dissertation committee may not approve the dissertation at the time of the first defense. In keeping with the Graduate School's regulations, no student is permitted to attempt a dissertation defense more than twice. Guidelines for the preparation of the dissertation are available from the Graduate School and on the Graduate School website.

Along with the accepted dissertation, the student files the form, *"Dissertation Defense Report for Doctoral Candidates."* This form requires the signatures of the entire dissertation committee, and should be completed at the conclusion of the successful dissertation defense. The physical form of the dissertation is governed by the University. Dissertations must conform to required margins, paper type, and so forth, in order to be accepted by the Graduate School. The student should consult these resources at The Graduate School early in the dissertation process:

Manual of Basic Requirements for Theses and Dissertations (July 2008), and also
Thesis/Dissertation
Manual Sample Pages.

9) PPOL has one additional requirement that differs from the Graduate School. PPOL requires each student to provide two black book bound copies of the dissertation. One will go to the student's dissertation committee chair and the other will go to the Program for its collection. The Graduate School provides the black binding for dissertations right here on campus for a

modest fee. All you need to do is bring them two unbound copies of the document. The cost structure is listed in the dissertation guide provided by the Grad School (http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/images/stories/Graduation/Manual_March_2011.pdf).

It is also traditional for the student to provide an unofficial copy to the other committee members. These do not have to be on special paper and copies of the signature page will suffice. These committee copies can be simply bound with binding combs (the PPOL office has a machine the student can use to do this task, or any copy shop will provide this service for a fee). The student should first check with the committee members to see if they would like one of these copies before making the copies. Then the students should inform the Administrative Assistant if the student plans to the binding here in the office.

None of the copies are required before the final version turned in to the Graduate School. These can be submitted after the main deadline.

Deadlines for Form Submission

Deadlines for submission of various forms, such as for *Admission to Candidacy* and *Application for Graduation* in a particular semester, are available in the Academic Calendar, <http://www.registrar.uncc.edu/calendar.asp>. Students should note that dates for submission of candidacy forms and applications for graduation occur very early in each semester; for May graduation, for example, the date for the *Application for Graduation* and the final date for the *Application for Candidacy* typically occurs in the 3rd week of January. *The Application for Candidacy for a Degree and the Application for Candidacy for Graduate Certificate* forms are paper forms that are available from the "Graduate School Forms" page of the Graduate School Website at: http://www.uncc.edu/gradmiss/gs_forms.html. Similarly, the last day to file a dissertation with the Graduate School for May graduation typically occurs the second week of April. See the Academic Calendar for exact dates that apply for a given semester.

Further Definition of the Doctoral Dissertation

An appropriate dissertation provides an *original* and *significant contribution* to Public Policy research as judged by the candidate's doctoral dissertation committee. The dissertation is the culminating research experience of the PPOL PhD program. "Original contribution" implies that the body of work undertaken and intellectual contribution of the research is the candidate's own. It is expected that the candidate will be an expert in the contributions of others scholars to provide a foundation for his or her original research. "Significant contribution" implies that the result of the dissertation scholarship notably advances a useful area of public policy research as judged by peer scholars. The most meaningful criterion in this regard is that committee judges the research as appropriate as either submission of a book or as two or three manuscripts to scholarly peer-reviewed journals. It is our expectation that doctoral candidates will be able to demonstrate competent application of research methods that are appropriate to the area of study; research methods include qualitative or quantitative methods, or mixed methods.

Ethical Procedures Approval, Institutional Review Board (IRB): All dissertation-related materials must comply with ethical review guidelines current at the time of review. Students are required to submit all required documents for review and receive formal approval prior to beginning any research involving human subjects.

Dissertation Format: Either of two formats may be used, at the discretion of the dissertation committee (these are *suggestive/illustrative* guidelines):

The traditional dissertation has a five-chapter format:

Chapter One: Introduction: A relatively brief statement of the topic, and why it is important.

Chapter Two: Literature Review: A thorough review of all literature relevant to the topic. The literature review should focus on developing hypotheses the research will test and/or research questions the study addresses; the chapter should conclude with the hypotheses and/or questions.

Chapter Three: Methods. A description of all methods the research will use to complete the research. The chapter should describe a conceptual framework if relevant. The research design section includes a discussion of data; what data will the student analyze? Why are these data appropriate? Etc. A second section should indicate and describe all variables, dependent, independent, control, etc. The description of variables should include both the conceptual and operational description. A third component of the research design section describes and explains the analytic approach. Finally, this section indicates how the researcher will address the hypotheses and/or research questions.

Chapter Four: Results. This chapter presents all results. Typically the chapter first presents descriptive findings, followed by bivariate, and then multivariate (if appropriate to the research design). The chapter may organize the results by hypotheses and/or research questions.

Chapter Five: Discussion, Conclusions and Policy Recommendations. This chapter should include a brief summary of the findings with respect to the theory and research questions, the limitations of the research, a discussion of the implications of the research for policy and practice, and suggestions for future study.

Separate manuscript format:

Students who elect this option will complete Chapter One, as described above. Two or three manuscripts will replace Chapters 2, 3, and 4. Each manuscript must be complete and prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Each manuscript will include a title page, abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, results, and discussion sections, as well as references, and tables/figures. Appendices to the manuscripts may provide additional detail. The dissertation may include an additional final chapter that briefly summarizes the dissertation

findings, and discusses implications for policy and practice, as well research extensions, in greater detail. The dissertation committee will determine the specific format of the dissertation.

Graduation

During the semester before the PhD candidate expects to receive the degree, the candidate will review his/her academic record and progress on the dissertation with the chair of his/her dissertation committee. If the chair of the dissertation committee agrees that all work on the dissertation, including the defense, is likely to be successfully completed by the end of the following semester, the candidate will complete the “*Application for Degree*” form on Banner Self Service. The candidate will then be billed by Student Accounts for the Application for Degree fee. Students may order graduation announcements through the campus bookstore. Students may rent or purchase caps, gowns, and hoods through the bookstore. Students should leave a copy of their final title page for program files.

The student signs the form and submits it to the advisor, who verifies that the listed courses fulfill the requirements for the degree. Once all signatures are in place, this constitutes an agreement between the student and the University, guaranteeing that the student will receive the degree if the listed courses are completed satisfactorily. For this reason, the form *must* be completed well in advance of graduation; otherwise graduation may be delayed.

Academic Standards and Graduation Requirements

UNC Charlotte requires that graduate students maintain academic standards as outlined in the Graduate School Bulletin.

- Graduate students must average at least B (3.0 on a 4 point system) over all courses attempted as part of the requirements to qualify to receive a graduate degree.
- Complied with relevant university policies and procedure including:
 - a. Candidacy and Diploma. The timely application and payments of fees for candidacy and for the diploma (See Graduate school website for specific deadlines and fees).

Accumulated low grades.

Doctoral studies typically require excellence in academic performance. The general expectation is that most PhD students will earn “A” grades in most or all of their courses. A student earning a large number of “B” grades as a doctoral student should recognize that these grades may indicate questionable preparation for the dissertation or poor fit with the program. The graduate school catalogue (p. 46) indicates the following policy: “A graduate student will be allowed to repeat a maximum of two courses in which the student has been assigned a grade of C or U (but not an I). If the course grade has resulted in suspension or termination of enrollment, the student must appeal to be reinstated in order to repeat the course. A given course may be repeated one time only....Enrollment will be terminated if a student receives a

grade of U in a repeated course for which a student previously earned a U.” *In the Public Policy program a grade of C grades results in a suspension; a second C results in termination. A suspended student may not register for classes unless approved for reinstatement. If the program reinstates a student, a subsequent grade of C or U will result in immediate dismissal from the program. If a program does not approve reinstatement, the student is dismissed from the program. (Note that even a single C grade is unexpected in doctoral study; it is unlikely that the PPOL PhD program will consider reinstating a student in this situation in the absence of unusual extenuating circumstances). The Graduate Catalogue outlines an appeals process that is available to students who have been terminated from a doctoral program.*

Funding

The Benefits of a Graduate Assistantship

Exceptionally qualified full-time students may be offered graduate assistantships. The assistantship provides a stipend (salary), currently \$14,000 per year for a 9-month position with a work commitment of 20 hours per week (excluding university holiday periods). There is likelihood that students will also receive summer funding during the 10 week session (about \$2000). Students with assistantships will assist faculty with research, teaching, and/or service. The PPOL PhD program provides students an opportunity to teach a number of courses in the major contributing departments (most typically in Political Science and Public Administration, Sociology, Economics, Geography and Earth Sciences, Criminal Justice) under the supervision of a faculty member. The PPOL PhD program strives to match student research interests with those of the faculty with whom they are assigned for the graduate assistantship, although this cannot be guaranteed in every instance.

For students with assistantships, the University’s Graduate Assistance Support Plan (GASP) provides a highly competitive multi-year support package, used to attract and retain top tier graduate students to UNC Charlotte. The award package covers both resident and non-resident tuition (as relevant), and provides coverage under the University’s student health insurance program. For NC residents the total award is approximately \$3600 for the academic year. For non-residents it is approximately \$13,800, which is *in addition to* assistantships and/or fellowship stipends. Other student fees totaling about \$900 each semester are *not* covered by this award. The PPOL program attempts to provide full support or help students obtain that support for at least their first three years. Students with assistantships must maintain good academic standing.

Students who begin graduate study at UNC Charlotte as non-residents are expected to seek resident status as soon as they can qualify for this status under the policies of the UNC Charlotte Residency Determination Office. PhD students who fail to obtain residency in a timely manner may lose GASP support. The Graduate School states: *“Because North Carolina residents are entitled to substantially lower tuition rates than out-of-state residents, GASP scholars who are non-residents of North Carolina for tuition purposes should make every effort possible to establish North Carolina residency. Students with permanent resident alien status are eligible to*

*apply. However, some students are not eligible to establish NC residency (e.g., international students on J-1 visa). You may find information on eligibility and the requirements to establish N.C. residency on the Residency Determination Office web site: www.resdetermination.uncc.edu . GASP scholars who are eligible to become North Carolina residents for tuition purposes but fail to become reclassified 12 months after first enrolling in GASP **may lose their non-resident tuition benefit.**”*

Professional Responsibilities of Students with Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistantships are intended to serve as an extension of the teaching and research mission of PPOL PhD program, by giving students experience in research and teaching. Students with assistantships will also gain experience with fulfilling academic service needs, and in this way will learn more about becoming a productive and successful member of an academic community. While serving in on- or off-campus graduate assistantships, students are representatives of UNC Charlotte. As such, they will act with total professionalism at all times. Graduate assistants are expected to provide service to the PPOL PhD program, the College, the University, and the community. Such service can include attending orientation for 1st year PPOL PhD students (for 2nd year students and above), mentoring 1st year doctoral students, attending faculty candidate research presentations, meeting with faculty candidates during times scheduled for students, service as an officer or active member of the GPPA PhD student organization, membership on departmental, College, or University committees, assisting the Program Director with occasional information gathering required by the PPOL PhD program and the College, performing service in the community as a representative of the PPOL PhD program, and so forth. *Although success in the PPOL PhD program is judged primarily by scholarship, the PPOL PhD program takes the student’s record of service into consideration when recommending students for fellowships and grants, including travel grants ,tuition support, and competitive dissertation-year fellowships at the university.*

A graduate assistant must register for at least six graduate level semester hours during each semester in which an assistantship is awarded. Graduate assistants whose tuition support comes from the Graduate Assistance Support Plan (GASP) must register for a minimum of 9 graduate credit hours each term. **Students with support from the Graduate Assistance Support Plan must maintain at least a 3.0 average to be eligible for continued support.**

If a student does not have an assistantship, the Graduate School does not impose any limitations on either part-time or full time employment. Students with assistantships are limited to no more than 20 hours of total weekly employment. Thus, students with assistantships of 20 hours per week are not permitted to have additional employment. Students with assistantships who consider taking part-time teaching positions at the University must consult with the Program Director, as in this situation the number of hours devoted to the assistantship must be reduced to limit total weekly work hours to 20. Note that the 20 hour limit excludes non-paid commitments such as involvement in campus leadership roles.

Conference Travel Support through the PPOL PhD Program

The Director has allocated **\$500** annually to every graduate student in the program to support conference and research travel. In some instances, particularly in cases where students have informed the director they will not use the allocated funds, more support may be available. In order to ensure you receive those funds, you must inform the graduate director and Administrative Assistant by April 1.

Support can include conference registration, air and ground travel, food and lodging. Podium and poster presentations will be given equal priority. Individuals seeking PPOL PhD travel support must complete necessary travel documents and submit them to the Administrative Assistant. For conferences in the spring through the end of the fiscal year, we will reserve travel dollars for students who are awaiting acceptance for submitted abstracts, assuming that the student has provided a copy of the submitted abstract and the conference information to the Program Director and the student has met with the PPOL administrative assistant to estimate conference travel costs. Students receiving conference travel support are expected to provide all required receipts and evidence of conference attendance (e.g. boarding passes) to the PPOL administrative assistant within one week following their return from the conference. Students are expected to seek funding from the UNC Charlotte Graduate & Professional Student Government. Students will not be reimbursed for support dollars that would typically be funded by GPSG travel funds. Travel forms are available at <http://gpsg.uncc.edu/treasurer/Forms.asp>

Typical Schedule (assuming no preparation courses required)*

<p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p><i>Fall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPOL 8600 Public Policy Process (3) - PPOL 8602 Research Design (3) - PPOL 8640 Economic Analysis I (3) - PPOL 8690-001 Seminar in Public Policy (1) - GRAD 8990-002 Academic Integrity (2) <p><i>Spring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPOL 8620 Quantitative Methods I (3) - PPOL 8641 Economic Analysis II (3) - PPOL 8630 Advanced Program Evaluation (3) <p><i>Summer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qualifying Examinations 	<p><u>Year 3</u></p> <p><i>Fall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concentration Elective (3) - Advanced Analysis Course 2 (3) - Dissertation 1 (2) - PPOL 8690-003 Seminar in Public Policy (1) <p><i>Spring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concentration Elective (3) - Prepare Dissertation Proposal - Dissertation II (6) <p><i>Spring/Summer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Propose dissertation
<p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p><i>Fall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concentration Elective(3) - Concentration Elective (3) - Advanced Analysis Course (3) - PPOL 8690-002 Seminar in Public Policy (1) <p><i>Spring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPOL 8635 Ethics of Public Policy (3) - Concentration Elective (3) - Concentration Elective (3) <p><i>Summer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Analysis Course (optional) 	<p><u>Year 4</u></p> <p><i>Fall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissertation III (6) Dissertation Writing <p><i>Spring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissertation Defense IV (3) <p>Graduate May</p>

Forms

A set of relevant forms you will need throughout your graduate student career can be found here: http://www.uncc.edu/gradmiss/gs_forms.html

Key dates for forms to graduate can be found here: <http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/forms>

Special note: Show all forms to the Administrative Assistant before submitting to the Graduate School.

Summary of all forms

Graduate Assistantship Application	To apply for a Graduate Assistantship.
Special Request Form (graduate)	To late add or late drop a course or make any other special request.
Application for Transfer of Credit (graduate)	To request the transfer of credit from another college/university.
Petition for Topic Approval	To report approval of a thesis or dissertation topic.
Report of Qualifying Exam or Comprehensive Exam (Doctoral)	To report completion of qualifying or comprehensive exam.
Application for Admission to Candidacy	To apply for candidacy for a masters or doctoral degree.
Application for Degree	To apply to graduate with a masters or doctoral degree.
Doctoral Committee Appointment Form	To have doctoral committee appointed.
Application for Qualifying Exam for Doctoral Candidates	To apply for the doctoral qualifying examination.
Residency for Tuition Application	Graduate application to establish residency at UNC Charlotte.
Suspension Appeal Form	To appeal suspension from the Graduate School at UNC Charlotte.
Research Projects involving Human Subjects (IRB)	Guidelines and forms to assist graduate students and faculty in IRB review/approval process for research projects involving human subjects.

Course Descriptions

PPOL 8000. Topics in Public Policy. (1-4). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or Permission of the Instructor. Study of selected topics in Public Policy. May be repeated for credit. (*On demand*).

PPOL 8600. Policy Process I. (3). Pre-requisite: Prior course work or experience relevant to political and legal processes, behaviors, and institutions. Examination of the field of public policy analysis to include both theory and practice. Process includes everything from sources of public problems to feedback mechanisms after policy implementation. Emphasis on the policy process in growing urban regions and the ability to communicate with stakeholders to determine value conflicts and to communicate policy solutions. Examination of the context (legal, institutional, historical, philosophical, social, political, physical and spatial) within which policy is made with sensitivity to gender, race and ethnicity, and class concerns. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8602. Research Design in Public Policy. (3) Introduces students to various quantitative and qualitative approaches to doing policy research. Considers such major issues in philosophy of science as causality, measurement, and post-positive approaches to research. Students may use the course to prepare their dissertation proposals or research grant and contract proposals. Students should have completed at least two quantitative analysis courses and one qualitative analysis course before registering for PPOL 8602. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8610. Urban Regional Environment. (3). Cross-listed as GEOG 6123 and 8123. Pre-requisite: Prior course work or experience relevant to the nature of urban regions. Examination of the nature of urban regions. The basic factors that shape urban regions as they grow. Impact of: geography; history; social factors; economic factors; concerns about gender, race and ethnicity, and class; and other determinants of the nature of urban regions, their problems, and possible policy solutions. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8611. Metropolitan Governance and Administration. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Introduction of major issues in urban politics and related trends and problems in urban governance and administration. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8612. Theory of Urban Development. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Analysis of urban economics and politics within the context of public policy and planning. Focuses on theory and application to understand the rationale for and effects of urban policy, urban economic development, and planning. Provides basic understanding of the operation of urban real estate markets and the motivation for public sector interventions. Applies theoretical foundations to the study of current urban problems and controversies. Familiarity with introductory microeconomics is required. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8613. Transportation Policy. (3). Cross-listed as GEOG 6600 and 8600. Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the instructor. This course examines surface transportation from a broad public policy perspective with a special focus on its institutional components and the changing role of government in transportation policy-making including the evolution of, and relationships among, various federal, state and local policies that affect investment decisions in transportation infrastructure. (*On demand*)

PPOL 8614. Colloquium in 20th Century Black Urban History. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Examination of major and topical monographic works in African-American urban history during the twentieth century. The focus will be on such topics as" classical urban examinations by black scholars, ghettoization and alternative theories, community and its institutions, riots and urban rebellions, biography, black mayors, and urban policy. (*Fall as needed*)

PPOL 8615. The Restructuring City. (3). Cross-listed as GEOG 6210 and 8210. Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course places at center stage the causes and consequences of contemporary urban restructuring and evaluates the theoretical, planning, and policy challenges inevitably presented. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8616. Urban Planning Theory and Practice. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Alternative planning theories and application of theories in urban planning practices. (*Alternate years*)

PPOL 8617. Law and Management. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Constitutional and administrative law issues, including a survey of academic debates over contested issues, and selected areas in constitutional law on civil liberties and civil rights. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8618. Growth Management Systems. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Exploration of growth management programs, legal and planning issues, and legislation to determine their merits, weaknesses and abilities to promote more sustainable development patterns. Will emphasize difficulty of changing traditional procedures of development and land use. (*On demand*)

PPOL 8620. Quantitative Methods in Public Policy I. (3). Pre-requisite: graduate level social science methods or statistics course. Advanced quantitative methods as applied to analysis and solution of public problems. Use of quantitative methods to analyze public problems; devise appropriate, effective, acceptable public policies; evaluate public programs; and present the results of quantitative analysis to appropriate audiences. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8621. Quantitative Methods in Public Policy II. (3). Pre-requisite: PPOL 8620. Advanced quantitative methods as applied to analysis and solution of public problems. Use of quantitative methods to analyze public problems; to devise appropriate, effective, acceptable public

policies; to evaluate public programs; and to present the results of quantitative analysis to appropriate audiences. (*Fall, Spring*)

PPOL 8622. Qualitative Methods in Public Policy (3). Pre-requisite: Advanced qualitative methods as applied to analysis and solution of public problems. Use of qualitative methods to analyze public problems; to devise appropriate, effective, acceptable public policies; to evaluate public programs; and to present the results of qualitative analysis to appropriate audiences. (*On demand*)

PPOL 8625. Advanced Seminar in Spatial Decisions Support Systems. (3) Cross-listed as GEOG 8625. Pre-requisite: GEOG 5120 or consent of the Instructor. Theoretical aspects of spatial DSS including technical, social, political and psychological considerations; systems design; systems manipulation; and case studies. Three hours of lecture and one-two hour lab per week. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8630. Advanced Program Evaluation (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the instructor. Development and application of policy analysis to the evaluation of existing public policies. Particular attention to the use of multiple techniques of analysis and presentation of program evaluations to relevant audiences. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8635. Ethics and Public Policy (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the instructor. Ethical questions in the study, formation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies. Ethical dilemmas faced by the public policy analyst, and the importance of use of values analysis. Emphasis on understanding how values are communicated by a variety of stakeholders in policy systems and how communicating public policy solutions involves an understanding of the role of values in successful policy formation and implementation. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8636. The Social Context of Mental Health (3). Cross-listed as SOCY 6635, SOWK 6635, and PSYC 8636. Prerequisite: Admission to graduate program or permission of instructor. This course draws upon contributions from the field of psychiatry, psychology, social work, and anthropology. The focus is on mental health and illness in its social context, with an emphasis on the relationship between social structure and mental health/disorder. We will examine the social factors which shape psychiatric diagnosis, the effects of socio-demographic variables on mental health, and the role of social support and stress for different groups. The course also examines the organization, delivery, and evaluation of mental health services, and mental healthcare policy.

PPOL 8640. Economic Analysis of Public Policy I. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the instructor. Economic role of government, efficiency versus equity, externalities, and public goods, market failures and government failures, economics of centralized versus decentralized decision making, public choice theory, economics of privatization, economic role of non-profits and non-governmental organizations. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8641. Economic Analysis of Public Policy II. (3). Pre-requisite: PPOL 8640 or permission of the instructor. Economics of taxation and government borrowing, benefit-cost analysis, regional growth and development, econometric analysis of local and regional public policy issues. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8642. Regional Economic Development. (3). Cross-listed as GEEOG 6302 and 8302. Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy; PPOL 8610; Intermediate microeconomics; or permission of the Instructor. Course covers classical, neo-classical and contemporary theories of trade, economic geography, and regional development. Topics include theories of urban and regional growth, location theories, human capital, labor force and entrepreneurial contributions to growth. Policy dimensions of urban growth and development are addressed from theoretical and empirical perspectives. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8643. Rural Development Issues. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course provides research experiences that focus on policy formulation, and demographic, economic and planning issues in rural areas. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8644. Public Budgeting and Financing. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Focus is on the public budget process as a means of policy development, analysis and implementation. It will also address in more depth issues of financing the policies authorized in the budget and for which appropriations are sought. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8650. Environmental Policy. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course draws upon concepts and tools from economics, geography, law, sociology, political science, and planning to explore the concept of sustainable development, a central tenet of environmental policy. Environmental policy will be analyzed within the federalist framework. (*On demand*)

PPOL 8652. Energy and Environmental Economics. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Economics issues of both energy and environment. Energy issues include the historical development of energy resources, supply and demand considerations, and projections of the future energy balance. Environmental issues are externalities, common property resources, and government regulation. Policy considerations include environmental standards, pollution charges, and property rights. Cost-benefit analysis and microeconomic theory are applied. (*On demand*)

PPOL 8653. Urban Air Quality. (3). Pre-requisites: Ph.D. student and permission of instructor. Examination of the relationships between climatic processes and urban air quality with emphasis on trends and patterns. Topics will include health and environmental effects of air pollution, ozone climatology, pollutant transport, transportation related emissions, risk assessment, and air quality management. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8655. Watershed Science Policy. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Examination of the cycling of water and chemical elements within forested, agricultural and urbanized watersheds. Land use regulations designed to protect water quality are examined with respect to hydrologic and biogeochemical process that operate at the watershed scale. (*On demand*)

PPOL 8656. Earth Systems Analysis: Biogeochemical Cycles. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course examines the Earth's water and major elemental cycles including those of carbon, nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus and the major crustal elements. Uncertainties in the current state of global elemental cycles are examined. Special emphasis is placed on how these cycles are currently being modified through human activities. (*On demand*)

PPOL 8661. Social Organization of Healthcare. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Focuses on the structures and operations of health care institutions and providers. The topics covered include the socio-historical development of the existing health care system, health care occupations and professions, professional power and autonomy, professional socialization, inter-professional and provider-client relations, health care organizations, and how change affects the delivery of health care services. (*Summer*)

PPOL 8663. Health Policy. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy and a graduate level course providing an adequate introduction to the U.S. health care system such as HADM 6112, MPAD 6172, HPKD 8112 or permission of the Instructor. This doctoral seminar examines the formulation, adoption, implementation, and evaluation of health policy at national, state, and local levels through extensive readings in relevant health and policy literatures. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8665. Analytic Epidemiology. (3). Cross-listed as HCIP6220 and HSRD 8003. Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy and a graduate level course such as HPKD 6189 and HADM 6103 or permission of the Instructor. Principles and methods of studying advanced epidemiology, with emphasis on analytical approach. Includes advanced techniques in the establishment of disease causation in groups and communities. Such topics as risk assessment, environmental exposures, stratification and adjustment, and multivariate analysis in epidemiology are covered. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8667. Economics of Health and Health Care. (3). Cross-listed as Econ 6260 and HSRD 8004. Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy, PPOL 8640 and PPOL 8641 or permission of the Instructor. This course will use economic theory and econometrics to analyze the functioning of the health care sector and appropriate public policy. Topics will include: how markets for medical care differ from other markets, the demand for medical care, the demand and supply of health insurance, the role of competition in medical markets,

managed care, managed competition, and the role of the public sector in regulating and financing health care. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8669. Investigating Health and Health Services. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy and PPOL 8620 and PPOL 8621 or permission of the Instructor. The emphasis of this course is how to conduct and evaluate research necessary to health policy. Students will be expected to conduct research utilizing a variety of methodologies and will also learn how to access available secondary data sets relevant to health care and policy. The specific topics include: multidisciplinary collaboration, measurement of health related constructs and health care outcomes, and health evaluation (cost, quality, access). Students will be expected to develop their dissertation proposals as one outcome of this class. This class is designed to be a seminar, and active participation in class discussion and activities is essential. (*Fall/Spring*)

PPOL 8671. Criminal Justice Policy.(3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Examination of the criminal justice subsystems (law enforcement, courts, corrections) with particular focus on the development of policy and the effectiveness of current policies aimed at reducing crime. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8672. Theories of Crime and Justice. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course is designed to expose students to mainstream and critical theoretical approaches to crime, justice, and criminal behavior. An emphasis on both broad conceptual orientations allows us to assess the development of criminology within an array of historical and philosophical contexts during the past three centuries. (*On demand*)

PPOL 8000. Criminal Justice Management*. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course applies generic principles of management and organizations to operational problems confronted by criminal justice agencies with particular attention to decision and policy-making. Students will also be required to complete workshops on decision and policy-making and grant proposal writing. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8673. Law and Social Control. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Examines how the criminal law functions as a powerful tool of social control in our society. Particular emphasis is given to understanding the constitutional limitations placed on construction of law, the elements of criminal offenses, and criminal defenses. (*Fall*)

PPOL 8681. Race, Gender, Class and Public Policy. (3) Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course is designed as an overview of major theories, trends and debates on the topic of gender, race and economic inequality in the contemporary United States. (*Spring*)

PPOL 8682. Stratification and Social Policy. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course examines (a) structures and processes underlying social stratification in the United States, particularly the inequality that is grounded in social class, gender, ethnicity, and race; and (b) the social policy implications that follow from our analysis of the nature and sources of stratification. *(Spring)*

PPOL 8683. Population Dynamics and Social Policy. (3) Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Basic population characteristics, such as age distribution, life expectancy, fertility, and trends in these characteristics are relevant to nearly all social policy. This class is an introduction to basic concepts and tools of demographic analysis and how they may be applied to the study of social policy including family policy, aging policy, and minority groups' policy. *(Spring)*

PPOL 8685. Aging and Social Policy. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course is designed to utilize the concepts of social gerontology as a springboard for examining social policy for an aging population. Examination of the public policy making process with attention to aging policy. Consideration of determinants of aging policy and institutions and actors in the policy making process and piecemeal development of legislation will be analyzed as factors related to the making of policy for the aged. *(Spring)*

PPOL 8687. Education Policy. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course examines equity, efficiency, and diversity tradeoffs among alternative systems of delivering K-12 education. The course also examines how to evaluate educational policies and programs. *(On demand)*

PPOL 8688. Political Economy of School Reform.(3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. This course examines business leaders' vision for school reform and the school restructuring movement, the reforms which arise from their construction of the problem, local educational restructuring efforts within the context of the larger national reform movement, and the opportunities and dangers of corporate-inspired educational policies. *(Spring)*

PPOL 8689. The Social Context of Schooling. (3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. The purpose of this course is to examine the relationships among certain aspects of the contemporary social structure and educational processes and outcomes. It explores the ways that the social class structure, race, and gender stratification affect the ways individuals experience, understand, and acquire education. *(Fall)*

PPOL 8690. Seminar in Public Policy. (1). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy or permission of the Instructor. Series of guest speakers giving monthly seminars on a range of policy issues. Designed to increase familiarity with the variety of topics and

methods covered by policy making and analysis. Student participation and oral critique of a selected speaker and their topic. *(Fall)*

PPOL 8701. Advanced Macroeconomic Theory. (3) Cross-listed as ECON 6201. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate program and permission of program coordinator. Theories of aggregate income determination, inflation, unemployment, interest rates and economic growth; macro-economic consumption and investment behavior; the business cycle. *(Spring)*

PPOL 8703. Advanced Microeconomic Theory. (3) Cross-listed as ECON 6202. Prerequisite: Admission to graduate program and permission of program coordinator. Theories of the firm, of the consumer, and of resource owners; determination of prices under different market structures; general equilibrium analysis and welfare economics. *(Fall, Spring)*

PPOL 8705. Advanced Urban and Regional Economics. (3) Cross-listed as ECON 6250. Prerequisite: Admission to graduate program. Applications of microeconomic theory to problems of cities, metropolitan areas and regions; methods in regional analysis, location theory, land use planning, measurement of economic activity; transportation, housing, poverty, and growth issues. *(Spring)*

PPOL 8707. Game Theory and Experiments. (3) Cross-listed as ECON 6206. Prerequisite: Permission of the graduate program coordinator. The focus of this course will be on game theoretic analysis and the experimental methodology which can be used to test game theoretic models. The primary topics in game theory covered will be static games with complete information, dynamic games with complete information, static games with incomplete information, and dynamic games with incomplete information. Some topics will be introduced by way of an economic experiment, and the experiment will be followed by a rigorous analysis of the game theoretic solution to the game. The latter part of the course will focus on how to design economic experiments as a means of testing the predictions of game theoretic models. *(Spring)*

PPOL 8709. Public Economics. (3) Cross-listed as ECON 6256. Prerequisite: MATH 1241 or equivalent, and permission of the program coordinator. Public economics is the study of the way governments choose spending, taxation, and regulatory policy; the ways such policies may affect economic welfare; and mechanisms to evaluate the economic effects of such policies. *(Yearly)*

PPOL 8711. Monetary and Financial Theory. (3) Cross-listed as ECON 6235. Prerequisites: ECON 6112 or equivalent and either ECON 6201 or 6202. Theory and empirical tests of money supply, money demand, and financial markets; portfolio theory with special attention to portfolio choices of banks; term structure of interest rates; dynamic models of money and economic activity. *(On demand)*

PPOL 8800. Independent Study in Public Policy. (1-3). Pre-requisite: Full graduate standing in the Ph.D. in Public Policy and permission of the instructor. Directed study of current topics in Public Policy. May be repeated for credit. (*Fall, Spring, Summer*).

PPOL 8801. Dissertation. (1-9). Pre-requisite: Passage of qualifying examinations, and approval of dissertation topic by the student's advisory committee. In-depth study of a practical problem in public policy. Analysis of the problem, preparation of a policy solution, and presentation of the solution to appropriate stakeholders and the public. Pass/no credit grading. Maximum of 18 hours allowed under this course designation.

PPOL 9999. Doctoral Graduate Residency. (1). Pre-requisite: completed enrollment in 18 hours of dissertation with grade of IP, In Progress. This course is to allow a student who has taken all permissible 18 hours of dissertation to remain in residence to finish work on the dissertation. Pass/no credit grading. Credit for this course does not count toward the degree. (*Fall, Spring*)

*Needs approval for a new course number because PPOL 8000 is reserved for Topics in Public Policy.