

COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must have a GPA of 3.0/4.0 in the required courses to earn the certificate. The minimum grade for any course to be applied toward the certificate is a grade of B.
2. No more than three credits may be transferred from another institution for the certificate.
3. The maximum time allowed for completion of the certificate will be three years.
4. Courses may be applied to the certificate that also count toward credit hours required for the students' MA, MS or Ph.D. in their home program.
5. At least one course must be outside the home discipline.
6. The total number of required credits is 12. Specific course requirements are as follows:
 - A. Required Course in the Context of Policy Making: POL 620 or approved substitute.
 - B. Required Course in Policy Analysis Tools: AGEC 608, STAT 50200, STAT 51200, STAT 51300, POL 605, POL 606, or approved substitute.
 - C. Two substantive courses, including any of the following courses or approved substitutes:

POL 622 – Research Seminars in Comparative Social Policy
POL 520 – Gender, Race, Class and Public Policy
POL 524 – Family Policy
AGEC 596C – The Economics of Health Care and Health Policy

CDFS 685F – Families and Health
COM 618C – Evaluating Health Campaigns
HK 688 – Health Policy in the United States
HSCI 590B – Public Health Law and Policy
NUR 632 – Health Policy: Local to Global
SOC 572 – Comparative Healthcare Systems
SOC 573 – The Human Side of Medicine
SOC 574 – The Social Organization of Healthcare

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Students who are already admitted to a Purdue MA, MS or Ph.D. program may apply for consideration into the graduate certificate program in social policy. Students may apply by completing an application at:

www.cla.purdue.edu/polsci/gradprog/certificate.html

A Dual Graduate Program Request form (GS-18) must be submitted with the application. Students also must submit an official application for the certificate via Graduate School admissions at:

<http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/admissions>

The statement of purpose should be a maximum of 250 words.

When a student completes the requirements for a certificate, the certificate will be awarded jointly by the Department of Political Science and the Graduate School. It will bear the signature of the head of the academic unit and the dean of the Graduate School. Certificates will be awarded at the time the final graduate degree is awarded.

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Social Policy Graduate Certificate



Department of
Political Science



College of
Liberal Arts

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This graduate certificate offers an interdisciplinary credential to students who are pursuing a Masters or Doctoral degree on the West Lafayette campus. This graduate certificate is part of a group of similar graduate certificates sponsored by Purdue's Global Policy Research Institute, including: Systems Engineering Policy, Environmental Policy and Information Security Policy. For more information on these certificates, see the GPRI website (www.purdue.edu/globalpolicy).

WHAT IS SOCIAL POLICY?

Social policy refers to collective, official responses to social problems. The study of social policy includes, for example, questions about how best to maintain public health, provide health care, or care for children and elders. Typically, scholars of social policy study income maintenance or social insurance policies ("welfare"). In the United States this includes Social Security and Medicare, as well as Unemployment Insurance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF-formerly AFDC).

The development of social policy is referred to as the creation of a "welfare state" in much of the scholarly literature, but social policy includes a much broader array of policies than just these stereotypical welfare policies. Any form of social provision (such as housing policy, mortgage subsidies, public education programs, student loans, farm subsidies) can be thought of as a kind of social policy. In addition, those policies aimed at securing and extending the citizenship rights of men and women (civil rights act, policies aimed at combating violence against women, etc.) or defining who counts as a citizen (immigration policies) are also social policies.

THE RATIONALE FOR THE PROGRAM

This certificate seeks to give each student some knowledge of the *context*, *content* and *methods* required for meaningful policy analysis in the area of social policy. The four required courses map onto these three areas of desired competence. First, each student who obtains the graduate certificate in public policy should have some basic knowledge about the social context of policy making. Students in the Social Policy certificate program will take POL 620, *Proseminar in Public Policy*, or an approved substitute to meet this requirement. Second, each student who obtains a graduate certificate in public policy should also have a basic understanding of the most common tools used in policy analyses, such as statistical analysis, qualitative analyses (e.g. focus groups and case studies), and cost-benefit analysis. Last, students will be expected to have some in-depth knowledge of a particular policy area. They should be able to acquire this basic knowledge in a sequence of two specialized graduate courses. Specific course options for each of these areas of competence are listed under Completion Requirements.

Obtaining an interdisciplinary graduate certificate in social policy certifies that one knows something about social policy beyond the expertise of those who simply concentrate in the field in question within their discipline. For this reason, at least one of the four required courses for the certificate should be taken outside the student's primary discipline.

Purdue is fortunate to have experts in key areas of social policy (such as family policy, violence against women, immigration, and health) in many schools, departments, and centers. There are many students at Purdue – in fields such as health, child development, family studies, economic development, political science, sociology, and agriculture – who could benefit by adding an interdisciplinary credential in social policy to their portfolio of formally recognized expertise.

Q&A

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Students who are admitted to any Purdue MA, MS or Ph.D. program are eligible to earn a certificate.

HOW TO APPLY:

Fill out the online application form at:

www.cla.purdue.edu/polsci/gradprog/certificate.html

E-mail or mail form to:

Graduate Coordinator
Political Science
BRNG

polgradcoordinator@purdue.edu

GLOBAL POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

