Careers in international economics, finance, government regulation, robust and flexible analytical tools will prepare students for rewarding work and how decisions by firms, households, and policy-makers influence the allocation of resources in the economy. The emphasis on finding from the study of human institutions and behavior. The legal role of law in contemporary society. The PEPL foundation provides students with the core methodological and analytic skills of its four disciplines while allowing students to explore issues that transcend disciplinary boundaries. It produces students with diverse analytical, methodological, and practical skills who can become leaders in legal, government, non-profit, or business careers or pursue graduate programs in political science, economics, sociology, public policy, politics, and law. Many of our graduates go on to become community leaders, including lawyers, advocates, city councilmembers, policy directors, legislative staff, elected officials, and nonprofit leaders.

Students have great academic freedom in this major. They can dive into one concentration or one issue, pursuing a passion, or they can sample courses from a variety of disciplines. PEPL advisors work one-on-one with students to create the major that truly fits their needs and interests. The rigorous curriculum is delivered by noted academic researchers, elected officials, industry practitioners, and policy makers. The major places special emphasis on the integration of theory and practice and providing students with professional networking and internship opportunities.

The PEPL major serves as a perfect entryway into Mills College's innovative Bachelor's-to-Master's Accelerated Degree Programs in Public Policy, Applied Economics, or Business Administration.

**Politics Concentration**

The study of politics at Mills is the study of power, influence, and change in the US and abroad. We include the study of political institutions, like Congress and the United Nations, but we go beyond, asking why people make the political decisions they do, how governments impact our lives, and how people change politics. Students are introduced to the core concepts and theories of political science then asked to apply them to the study of the many issues and areas covered by many elective options in the PEPL major.

**Economic Analysis Concentration**

This concentration prepares students for doing economic analysis in a variety of organizations, including established corporations, startups, government agencies, and non-profits. The concentration adds to the PEPL foundation by deepening student understanding of how markets work and how decisions by firms, households, and policy-makers influence the allocation of resources in the economy. The emphasis on robust and flexible analytical tools will prepare students for rewarding careers in international economics, finance, government regulation, environmental management, corporate planning, and many other fields.

**Public Policy Concentration**

This concentration in the PEPL program is similar to an undergraduate major in public policy. The academic discipline of public policy offers an integrative framework for solving the challenges of our communities today with innovative solutions, and drawing on the PEPL disciplines of economics, political science, and social science. Public policy at Mills College prepares students for engaged citizenship and community leadership, graduate programs, and careers in such fields as city and regional planning, community and economic development, public health, affordable housing, nonprofit and government leadership, law, politics, advocacy, and policy analysis.

Students in the public policy concentration build a "toolbox" of research and policy analytic methods and ethical and legal applications.

**Legal Analysis Concentration**

This concentration serves both students who seek a career in law and those who plan to pursue other careers both in the public or private sectors and who will benefit from a deep understanding of the role of law in contemporary society. The PEPL foundation provides students with analytic, problem solving, and methodological skills and findings from the study of human institutions and behavior. The legal concentration adds to the foundation by (1) familiarizing students with legal institutions and processes in the United States and internationally, (2) exposing students to the philosophy and reasoning behind legal decision making, and (3) improving students' ability to analyze the relationship between law, politics, economics and society.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Distinguish and critically analyze the diverse forms of power that characterize various political systems.
- Investigate and critique fundamental scholarship and cutting-edge research in political science, economics, public policy, and law.
- Formulate alternative explanations for events and trends in contemporary political, economic, and legal affairs.
- Demonstrate competency in basic research methods, both quantitative and qualitative, which are required to analyze political, economic, policy, and legal problems and to assess possible solutions.

**Major & Minors**

**Major**

Politics, Economics, Policy and Law Major—BA

**Minors**

Legal Studies Minor

Political Science Minor

Public Policy Minor
Accelerated Degree Programs

BA/MAE Applied Economics (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bamae-applied-economics-program/)

BA/MBA Business Administration (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bamba-accelerated-degree/)

BA/MPP Public Policy (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bampp-accelerated-masters-degree-program/)