Public Policy
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Faculty & Staff List (https://www.mills.edu/faculty/public-policy)

Students of public policy explore how communities can make better decisions, applying the tools and insights of economics, political science, and other applied social sciences to analyze public problems and design policy solutions. The Public Policy Program at Mills prepares students for engaged citizenship and careers in such fields as law, city planning, economic development, public health, nonprofit management, and government service. We aim to prepare the next generation for public service as analysts, advocates, and leaders. Toward that end, the Public Policy Program often facilitates involvement in the wider Oakland and Bay Area community through guest speakers, class assignments, and student projects.

Mills undergraduate students may pursue their interests in public policy through the policy concentration in the politics, economics, policy and law (PEPL) major, through the public policy minor, and through the BA/MPP Accelerated Master’s Degree program.

Program Goals
• Place policy analysis in context: understand the multi-dimensional nature of social issues and problems, and appreciate both the appropriate application and limitation of skills developed in the core, by developing basic familiarity with the following areas of knowledge:
  • human organization and the cognitive capacities people bring to decision-making in these settings
  • the historical evolution of major public problems and social practices in the U.S.
  • comparative or international governmental institutions and social processes
  • economic systems, complex resource interdependencies, and trade relationships
  • social structures and identity dimensions of gender, race, ethnicity and class, and the role of the individual in relation to these larger forces.
• Understand the relationship between policy, social structures of inequality, and identify dimensions of gender, race, ethnicity, culture and class, and the role of the individual in relation to these larger forces.
• Understand the public policy-making process in the U.S., including the political and institutional contexts surrounding public decisions.
• Understand the process of ethical reasoning and argument and be able to offer, analyze, and critique ethical arguments.
• Understand the basic approaches to legal reasoning and argument, and the constitutional framework relevant to public policy decisions.
• Understand basic quantitative analytical methods needed for assessing public policy problems and options. These methods include basic statistical techniques and fundamental concepts in economic theory.
• Ability to analyze policy problems from different substantive areas, using appropriate analytical techniques and perspectives, and to conduct in-depth research as needed to understand a specific problem.
• Ability to communicate with clarity, conciseness, and coherence in both written and oral reports. The student will be sensitive to the needs of different audiences.

Majors & Minors

Major

Minor

Accelerated Degree Programs
BA/MPP Public Policy (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bampp-accelerated-masters-degree-program)
BA/Joint MPP/MBA (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/joint-mppmba-accelerated-degree-program)

Resources