

# Master of Public Administration at the Evans School: Key Learning Goals

**The core competencies** vital to effective public leadership:

ANALYSIS

ECONOMICS

VALUES OF PUBLIC LIFE

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

These competencies are learned and applied throughout the entire curriculum, and a combination of *three core courses* and *three restricted elective requirements* assures a high degree of focus on each of the competencies. The *degree project requirement* demonstrates student learning outcomes in these core competencies. The rest of the curriculum is composed of *four additional core courses, policy focus area electives, and skills workshops*.

**Key learning goals** of the *core course requirements*:

General goals, in agreement with NASPAA standards:

**Management fundamentals of public service organizations**, including

- human resources
- budgeting and financial processes
- information management, technology applications, and policy

**Application of quantitative and qualitative techniques of analysis**, including

- policy and program formulation, implementation and evaluation
- decision-making and problem-solving

**Understanding of the public policy and organizational environment**, including

- political and legal institutions and processes
- economic and social institutions and processes
- organization and management concepts and behavior
- individual and contextual differences relating to social identity categories such as race, ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, age, and veterans

Specific goals of the Evans School required courses:

- Understand the basic principles of economics and how they relate to public policy
- Develop knowledge of microeconomic theory and use it as a framework for policy analysis
- Build skills for designing and evaluating policies from an economic perspective
- Exposure to and understanding of a variety of patterns and problems in public and non-profit organizations
- How to work effectively within organizations and institutions to achieve core policy goals
- Exploration of the challenges in interagency collaborations

- How to think and act strategically
- How to manage budgeting and financial issues to support policy objectives
- Understand the tools of operations management, including communications, public relations and marketing, human resources, etc.
- Ability to assess the political, policy, management and other contexts in which new public policies are reviewed, formulated, and adopted
- Design and use of customized, client-specific policy analytical processes
- Assess problems and devise criteria through which to judge conceivable policy responses
- Construct policy alternatives; use established criteria to weigh options; determine a course of action; and consider implementation steps
- Apply qualitative and quantitative measures to policy analysis
- Gain an understanding of research and statistical analyses as ways to explore, describe, or explain management or policy concerns
- Use descriptive statistics and statistical inference to address policy or management problems
- Understand the meaning of analyses using confidence intervals, test statistics, and p-values
- Recognize the implications of the quality and quantity of data
- Demonstrate your ability to use software to manipulate data
- Write about statistical results for a non-technical audience

**Learning objectives** of the *policy focus area electives*:

**In-depth engagement** in a substantive policy topic of current social import  
**Cutting-edge knowledge** of the scientific, political, social, economic, and technological context for problem-solving and decision-making

**Means available** by which to pursue the creation of new knowledge, policy-making, and other positive change in the topic area

Policy areas available for in-depth study in the Evans School are:

- Nonprofit management
- Urban planning
- Poverty studies
- International affairs
- Environmental policy and management
- Social policy
- Education policy and management

**Learning objectives** of the *skills workshops*:

**Practical analytic** and managerial techniques

**Practical professional experience**

**Valuable networking opportunities** that benefit students as they seek to enter full-time employment

Skills workshop topics include:

- Grant writing
- Art of facilitation

- Tribal governance
- Olympia policy-making
- Navigating the MPA job search

## **Ph.D. Program in Public Policy and Management at the Evans School: Key Learning Goals**

*The Evans School's Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management prepares its graduates for careers as faculty in university programs for public policy and management, and for research positions in the public and nonprofit sectors. Our Ph.D. program takes a rigorous, interdisciplinary perspective in its curriculum, integrating theoretical and methodological foundations of policy analysis and management.*

The program leverages the strengths of the Evans School, the University of Washington, and the Pacific Northwest, including:

- An integrated program focused on both public policy analysis and management
- Access to competitive funding and research opportunities as part of the University of Washington, which receives more federal research dollars than any other public university
- Teaching assistantships through the Evans School and other UW departments
- Mentoring from award-winning faculty with groundbreaking leadership across a range of specializations, including:
  - Leadership and decision-making
  - Public, private, and nonprofit networks
  - Public management and finance
  - Policy analysis
  - Cost-benefit analysis
  - Nonprofit management
  - Poverty studies
  - Housing, land use, and transportation policies
  - Environmental policy and management
  - Analysis of individual choice behavior
  - International affairs
  - Public health
  - Education policy and management
  - Health policy and management
  - Information technology
  - Social policy
  - Urban simulation

Year 1 includes coursework designed to prepare students for independent research in public policy and management.

Year 2 includes coursework that enhances research skills while focusing on a chosen field of specialization in public or nonprofit management or a related policy field (e.g. education, environment, land use, international development, etc.) and also engages the student in teaching.