

La Follette MPA and MIPA Electives

What counts as a La Follette elective? La Follette offers a number of public affairs electives in the fall and spring semesters. Students can also take electives from other departments. To count toward graduation requirements, the course should be policy related and/or public affairs career related. The course level has to be 300 or above for graduate credit and taken for a grade. The grade “S/U” does count as a grade. To count for credit, a student must earn a C or above in an elective course. (A BC and above is necessary to pass a core course.)

The list of courses on the back of the “Course Planning Worksheet” gives you an idea of the breadth of courses that a La Follette student can take as electives. It is not a comprehensive list. New courses are added every semester and departments may not teach a course every year. Look at the timetable before each registration period to see what will be offered.

What are Special Topics courses? Each department can offer courses under the title of “special topics”. These courses tend to be relevant to current issues. In the timetable, special topics are listed under the department’s dedicated special topic number. La Follette’s special topic number is 974. See the chart below for other departments’ special topic course number.

When will the course be offered again? When you look up the course in the course catalog you see the date the course was last offered. The date last offered gives you an idea of which term the course may be offered again. Not every course is taught every year. Check the timetable before each semester to see what will be offered the next semester. The Course Catalog can be accessed on the La Follette School website on the student page or at the Graduate School web page.

How do I get permission to take a class from another department? To get permission to take a course in another department, a student must contact the professor directly to get permission to take the course. If the instructor approves, forward the email from that professor to the department administrator of the department that teaches the course with your campus ID and desired section. That person will input permission and let you know when you can enroll.

Where should I send the email that gives me permission from the professor?

Dept	Contact	Email	Special Topics Number
AAE	Barbara Forrest	bforrest@wisc.edu	575
Business	Mark Matosian (above #700) Nicole Bollig (below #700)	mmatosian@bus.wisc.edu nbollig@bus.wisc.edu	765
Economics	Kim Grocholski	kgrochol@ssc.wisc.edu	none
Ed Leadership & Policy	Shari Smith	ssmith@education.wisc.edu	ELPA 940
Education Policy	Mary Jo Gessler	gessler@education.wisc.edu	780
Environmental Studies	Tara Mohan	temohan@wisc.edu	401 and 900
Law	Jane Ford Bennett	jmford@wisc.edu	940
Political Science	Deb McFarlane	djmcfarlane@wisc.edu	401
Public Health	Barbara Duerst	bduerst@wisc.edu	650
Population Health	Deana Moore	dtmoore@wisc.edu	904
Social Work	Ann Thoele	sjthoele@wisc.edu	579
Sociology	Ted Babcock	tbabcock@ssc.wisc.edu	875
URPL	Emily Reynolds	emreynolds2@wisc.edu	590
Human Development		hdfs@mail.sohe.wisc.edu	501