

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAREERS

Career development is an integral part of the La Follette School experience, and data show extremely high percentages of employment three to six months post-graduation. The Career Services Office offers:

- Visits with local employers as well as regular trips to Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Milwaukee
- Networking opportunities
- Career development seminars with public affairs professionals
- Connections with alumni mentors

The career services coordinator works with students one-on-one to develop essential skills, such as interviewing, writing strong cover letters and resumes, and researching internships and permanent employment. During the first semester course Professional Development Workshop, students also create an individual plan and portfolio that help them proactively move toward their academic and career goals.

La Follette School alumni work in all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. Popular positions include policy analyst, consultant, executive director, research analyst, project manager, and government liaison. MPA alumni have held positions with these agencies, organizations, and businesses:

- Congressional Research Service
- Deloitte
- Duke Margolis Health Policy Center
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Grant Thornton
- National Council on Crime and Delinquency
- Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office
- UW–Madison Center for Education Research
- U.S. Government Accountability Office
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau



Associate Professor Greg Nemet, left, and student Rohan Rao, Nemet's project assistant

## APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Students are selected for the Master of Public Affairs Program on the basis of their academic records, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, work experience, and evidence of commitment to a public affairs career. Applicants whose native language is not English must present the equivalent of 92 or greater on the computer-based TOEFL test to be considered for admission.

### PREREQUISITES

- Introduction to microeconomics
- Introduction to statistics or calculus
- American government

Candidates who have taken these courses before enrolling will be better prepared for the graduate program.

[www.lafollette.wisc.edu/admissions](http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu/admissions)



"I chose the La Follette School because it was highly ranked (particularly in social policy), affordable (particularly with the fellowship), practitioner-focused, and evidence-based. Moreover, I liked the small, community feel of the program set within the larger context of the university and all of its resources. And, though I didn't know it when I applied, Madison is a lovely city that would have been enough of a draw on its own."

— Max Pardo, MPA '17

Research Associate, American Institutes for Research



Robert M. La Follette  
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**La Follette School  
of Public Affairs**

**Master of Public Affairs**

## LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

The Master of Public Affairs (MPA) Program provides education in public management and policy analysis that prepares students for careers in public policy and administration within the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

## LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL FACULTY

The award-winning La Follette School faculty includes economists, political scientists, sociologists, and public affairs scholars who teach the skills and tools needed for a career in public affairs. They are experts in social policy, health policy and management, public management administration, public policy analysis, environmental policy and management, poverty, and tax policy and government finance.

The school admits about 50 students per year to the MPA Program and the Master of International Public Affairs Program. The small class size enables the faculty to know, advise, and mentor students.



“Coming into the program, I had very little idea about where I was going. The courses led me to realize what I wanted most from a career. The career development seminars, travel opportunities, and networking events opened up rewarding career possibilities. It is also comforting to know that I have supportive advisors to help me articulate and ultimately achieve my career goals.”

— Karina Virrueta, MPA '17

Grants Specialist—Advanced, Wisconsin Department of Justice

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Students must complete 42 credits, including six core courses, a one-credit professional development seminar, plus eight elective courses. An internship can count for up to three elective credits. The program generally takes two years.

### CORE COURSES

- **Introduction to Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis** develops competence with analytical tools for studying public affairs.
- **Microeconomic Policy Analysis** explores how to evaluate the implications of policies for efficiency and equity, and to employ statistical methods for interpreting and presenting quantitative data.
- **Introduction to Policy Analysis** focuses on defining policy problems, determining goals, designing policy alternatives, and assessing trade-offs to make recommendations.
- **Policymaking Process** examines the political processes that shape U.S. public policy.
- **Introduction to Public Management** introduces key theories of how public organizations work, the relationship between democracy and management, and critical public management issues such as accountability and policy implementation.
- **Workshop in Public Affairs**, the capstone course taken in the final semester, gives students experience working in teams with a faculty supervisor on a real-world policy project. They apply conceptual and analytical tools to issues their clients face in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors.

## ELECTIVE COURSES

Students build proficiency beyond the core requirements through elective courses, including:

- Public Program Evaluation
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Politics of Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy
- State and Local Government Finance
- Performance Management

Students also may take courses from other highly regarded UW–Madison graduate programs, such as economics, political science, public health, urban and regional planning, social work, law, business, educational leadership and policy analysis, sociology, and environmental studies.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMBINED DEGREES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Some students earn additional credentials while they work toward their public affairs degrees. The following combined degree and certificate programs are available:

- Law (Juris Doctorate)
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning
- Doctorate in Neuroscience
- Energy Analysis and Policy Certificate
- Business certificates



Award-winning Professors Susan Yackee, Don Moynihan, Dave Weimer

## MADISON, WISCONSIN

Beyond campus, the city of Madison, as the state capital, provides a wealth of opportunities for La Follette School students to participate in outreach and acquire practical experience as professional project assistants or interns with public and private entities. Students benefit from the strong relationships that La Follette School faculty have with these organizations, in keeping with the Wisconsin Idea of public service. This includes the Family Impact Seminar and Committee Connect – opportunities that use evidence-based research to inform policymakers and improve public policy.

