

Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy



Robert M. La Follette
School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Investigate complex policy issues and hone analytic skills relevant for the health sector

Interested in pursuing a career in the health sector? The Health Policy certificate offered by the La Follette School of Public Affairs allows you to gain knowledge and experience in health policy before you enter the job market or graduate school.

You'll look for answers to important questions like: How does a person's Zip code affect their health outcomes? What factors about a population might predict better or worse health outcomes, and why? How do new types of data—behavioral, geographic, genetic—influence policy decisions about population health? What are some analytic approaches used specifically in health policy?

Access to affordable, quality health care also plays a critical role in the health of the U.S. population. Decades of cost growth, along an intensely complex policy landscape, leave employers, public sector leaders, and the general public grasping for clarity—and better policy. You'll explore the different forms of health insurance coverage in the US, learning why access is tied to employment status. You'll explore what drives costs and how to evaluate proposals for reform. You'll learn more about health economics.

As a student in the Certificate in Health Policy program, you will also begin to understand how other areas of policy—social, economic, criminal justice, and environmental policy—shape health outcomes, including health disparities.

To get to the root causes of complicated health policy issues, you'll learn to use methods from economics, sociology, and political science. With help from partners in many fields, including psychology, urban planning, and medicine, you and interdisciplinary classmates will search for better policies and interventions that can serve the public good.

In your fieldwork experience, you'll apply these lessons and skills in a real-world setting, guided by experienced faculty. You'll be prepared to bring your new skills, and a deeper understanding of health policy, to work in government, nonprofit, legal, and private sector jobs.

Questions? Please get in touch!

Mary Michaud, MPP, Undergraduate Advisor
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Required Courses

- Intro to Health Policy in the United States: Public Affairs 201 (3 credits)
- What Works in Health Policy? Public Affairs 281 (3 credits)
- Specialization course (3 credits)
- Internship/fieldwork (3 credits)

Courses can be completed in any order.

When to apply

You have already taken, or have registered to take, Public Affairs 201, 281, or a specialization course

You are at least a sophomore (in credits) with good academic standing with your college

How to apply

Submit your application through the [online application portal](#), open November 1 – November 30, 2021

As part of the application, you'll need to prepare a short statement of interest outlining why you would like to complete the Certificate and how it complements your major and other studies

Learn more online!

[La Follette School of Public Affairs](#)

lafollette.wisc.edu/admissions/undergraduate-certificate