La Follette School of Public Affairs
Master of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON
1225 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706
608-262-9163
www.lafollette.wisc.edu

“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

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

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION
Students are selected for the Master of Public Affairs Program on the basis of their academic records, 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

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

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“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, and connections with alumni mentors are all valuable resources for students.”
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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.

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.

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.

• 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.

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.
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS
CAREERS

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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 have held positions with these agencies, organizations, and businesses:
- American Red Cross
- Aspen Institute
- CARE in Afghanistan
- Congressional-Executive Commission on China
- Deloitte
- Governments of Chile, Japan, and Korea
- Peace Corps
- United Nations Development Programme
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Central Intelligence Agency
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Department of State

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Students are selected for the Master of International Public Affairs Program on the basis of their academic records, 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 macroeconomics
- Introduction to statistics or calculus
- Comparative politics or international relations
- Three semesters of foreign language study or a year or more of experience living outside the United States

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

www.lafollette.wisc.edu/admissions

"La Follette School courses have solidified a foundation of skills that I feel would be useful as an analyst, administrator, or Foreign Service officer. La Follette coursework has helped me grasp a new way of looking at policy issues and how to approach projects. I also have been introduced to new potential employment opportunities through La Follette. I would not have applied to the GAO if we hadn’t stopped there during last year’s La Follette in D.C. career development program."

— Kirsten Jacobson, MIPA '17
Associate—Public Sector, Grant Thornton
The Master of International Public Affairs (MIPA) Program prepares students from the United States and around the world to work in government, in businesses engaged with the global economy, for non-governmental organizations, or with consulting firms analyzing international policies.

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 administration, public policy analysis, environmental policy, poverty, and tax policy and government finance.

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

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.
- International Governance provides students with the substantive framework for studying public affairs in the context of globalization.
- *Macroeconomic Policy and International Financial Regulation* surveys international macroeconomics, with special reference to international monetary policy and international financial market architecture.
- *Trade, Competition, and Governance in a Global Economy* provides students with an understanding of international trade theory, rules, politics, and institutions, and the major policy issues facing the global trading system.
- *Introduction to Policy Analysis* focuses on defining policy problems, determining goals, designing policy alternatives, and assessing trade-offs to make recommendations.
- Workshop in International 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 public, private, and nonprofit sectors around the world.

ELECTIVE COURSES

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

- Global Environmental Governance
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Comparative and National Social Policy
- International Program Evaluation
- International Development Policy

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.

REGIONAL FOCUS FIELDS

Students can develop broad expertise in a geographic region by clustering courses, including language courses, across several disciplines, typically emphasizing courses in the social sciences. In building regional focus fields, MIPA students take advantage of UW–Madison’s strong area studies centers, including:

- East African Studies
- Asian Studies
- European Studies
- Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies
- Middle East Studies
- Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies
- South Asian Studies
- Southeast Asian 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
- Certificates from area studies programs

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.

"I chose the La Follette School for the emphasis on policy-making skills (quantitative analysis courses and in-depth policy analysis), the quality of instruction in economics/political science, and the flexibility to tailor a program that best suits me with electives in the MIPA program.”

— Matthew Smalley, MIPA ‘17

Foreign Area Officer, U.S. Army
Our mission is to train leaders and conduct research to inspire evidence-based policymaking and advance the public good.
Another academic year has come and gone, and what a year it was! We welcomed 11 faculty members, celebrated 50 amazing master’s degree graduates, and grew our undergraduate course enrollment to more than 400 students.

The past year certainly demonstrated the resiliency and determination of our faculty, staff, and students. Amid a global pandemic, faculty members embraced online teaching, students collaborated and networked across the globe, and staff conducted virtual meetings with students and online events with hundreds of participants.

Challenges? Yes. Successes? Absolutely!

Looking ahead, we are excited for in-person teaching, learning, and networking. With support from the Kohl Initiative, we know that the La Follette School is more prepared than ever to address the public policy issues that drive so many of the challenges we face in our communities, across our country, and throughout the world.

On, Wisconsin!

Susan Webb Yackee
Director and Professor

Faculty

Susan Webb Yackee
Director and Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Menzie Chinn
Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

J. Michael Collins
Professor of Public Affairs and Human Ecology

Mark Copelovitch
Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Christine Durrance
Associate Professor of Public Affairs

Morgan Edwards
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Jason Fletcher
Professor of Public Affairs and Sociology

Denia Garcia
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Sarah Halpern-Meekin
Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and of Public Affairs

Lindsay Jacobs
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Tana Johnson
Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Philipp Koellinger
Professor of Public Affairs

Reed Lei
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Ross Milton
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Gregory Nemet
Professor of Public Affairs

Jon Pevehouse
Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science

Lauren Schmitz
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Timothy Smeeding
Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

Manuel Teodoro
Associate Professor of Public Affairs

Geoffrey Wallace
Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

Yang Wang
Associate Professor of Public Affairs

David Weimer
Edwin E. Witte Professor of Political Economy
OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, AN AVERAGE OF 96% OF LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL GRADUATES HAVE FOUND EMPLOYMENT IN THEIR FIELD WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF GRADUATION.

6TH
BEST SCHOOL FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Center for World University Rankings

4TH
BEST GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY
U.S. News & World Report

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, AN AVERAGE OF 96% OF LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL GRADUATES HAVE FOUND EMPLOYMENT IN THEIR FIELD WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF GRADUATION.

63%
OF STUDENTS HELD GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS OR RECEIVED A FELLOWSHIP

78
GRADUATES IN 2ND CLASS OF UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

111 DONORS TO 2021 DAY OF THE BADGER

290%
INCREASE IN DONATIONS RAISED DURING DAY OF THE BADGER, 2021 ($24,600) OVER 2019 ($6,300)

240+ LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SHARED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS WITH STUDENTS AS MENTORS, MOCK INTERVIEWERS, AND SPEAKERS

THROUGH ITS LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH, LA FOLLETTE SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS ENGAGED WITH 101 OF WISCONSIN’S 132 LEGISLATIVE OFFICES.

PATRICK J. LUCEY: A LASTING LEGACY
BY PROFESSOR EMERITUS DENNIS DRESANG
Best biography, 2021 Midwest Independent Publishers Association

12,759 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH 14 VIRTUAL EVENTS DURING 2020–21

La Follette School 2020–21 Highlights | 3
La Follette School Student Association Officers, 2021-2022

Dana Nielsen
President

Ian Pearson
Treasurer

Cartecia Lawrence
Secretary

Indu Kilaru
Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

Kelsey Gordon
Community Service and Outreach Coordinator

Lew Blank
Social Coordinator

Katie Pollock
Graduation Coordinator

Anna Sucsy
Fundraising Coordinator

2021 ENTERING COHORT

The La Follette School offers master’s degrees in domestic and international public affairs as well as combined degrees and certificate programs in several fields of study. The Accelerated Program allows select undergraduate students to jump-start their graduate studies.

STUDENTS FROM 9 STATES, WASHINGTON, DC, AND 2 COUNTRIES (POLAND, KOSOVO)

56 TOTAL ENROLLMENT
25.53 AVERAGE AGE

40 MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MPA),
16 MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA),
5 STUDENTS IN DUAL, DOUBLE, OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS,
8 ACCELERATED STUDENTS

Cartecia Lawrence, MPA
“Having spent some time in the workforce before deciding to return to school, I knew that I lacked strong quantitative skills. The La Follette School’s passion for cultivating students’ quantitative and qualitative skills was a big reason why I chose this program.”

Matthew Hansen, MPA, JD
“The La Follette School has been a great academic complement to the law program and has provided me with insights in cost-benefit analysis, policy-making, public budgeting, and economics.”

Henry Hundt, MPA
Energy Analysis & Policy Certificate (EAP)
“With no prior substantive professional or academic engagement with public policy, I have gained an enormous amount of clarity and depth to the subject. Being able to bring together my experience working with renewable energy technologies and the policy lessons from the EAP Program will be incredibly valuable as I move forward in my career.”

Katie Pollock, MPA
“The small class size has allowed me to meet some amazing people who have helped make virtual learning easier.”
KOHL INITIATIVE

The second year of the Kohl Initiative brought tremendous growth opportunities to the La Follette School. Launched in May 2019, the Kohl Initiative was created with a $10 million gift from former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl.

Goals

- Educate more students
- Support undergraduate public policy internships
- Increase partnerships with nonpartisan organizations
- Host conferences on critical policy topics
- Teach more high-demand classes
- Expand faculty research and faculty-student collaboration
- Increase the School’s visibility

Areas of Focus

Train future leaders  Expand outreach  Create impactful research

2020–2021 Impact

38 STATES REPRESENTED IN EVENT REGISTRATIONS

2ND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM APPROVED CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH POLICY

3 NEW STAFF PAGE BAZAN, MARY DAVIS MICHAUD, ANN SHAFFER

4 RECIPIENTS OF KOHL RESEARCH COMPETITION AWARDS MARK COPELOVITCH, MANUEL TEODORO, YANG WANG, BARBARA WOLFE

Certificate experience leads to MPA studies

Will Keenan made history as one of the La Follette School’s first undergraduate students to complete the Certificate in Public Policy program. His interactions with Professor Geoffrey Wallace prompted him to further his studies through the School’s Master of Public Affairs (MPA) program.

“While taking the class Race, Inequality, and Public Policy (PA 520), Professor Wallace encouraged me to apply for the certificate program,” Keenan recalls. “More broadly, his class and the way he taught it was one of the main reasons I decided to attend the La Follette School. During his classes, he always provided engaging material, discussed his research, and involved students in good discussions.”
For the first 35 years of its existence, the La Follette School offered only graduate-level courses. The Kohl Initiative fueled the School’s expansion into undergraduate programming in response to student interest in public service and policymaking.

Nearly 100 undergraduate students have received public policy certificates since the program began in 2018–19. For the 2021–22 academic year, the program will increase enrollment to more than 200 students.

“Students find that the Certificate coursework grows their understanding of the public policy process and how change happens,” says Undergraduate Advisor Mary Davis Michaud. “The undergraduate courses train students to analyze and apply evidence in policymaking, and they apply these approaches in policy-relevant internships. That applied experience often makes them stand out as job or graduate-program candidates.”

Mary Davis Michaud
Undergraduate Advisor and Faculty Associate

“I would like to pursue a Certificate in Public Policy because I want to learn the skills that will help me create more equitable and inclusive policies in my future endeavors. In Public Affairs 200, I learned about many of the social welfare programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF, and I learned to think more critically. The Certificate will help me hone my skills in researching, communicating, and creating policies that are less burdensome.”

Andrea Corro
Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy student

“I learned more in Professor Durrance’s Analytic Tools for Public Policy class than I have in any other class thus far, was continuously interested, and always felt safe participating and asking questions. I can easily say I have enjoyed this class more than I have any other and look forward to hopefully take another class with her in the future.”

Peyton Dabby
Undergraduate Certificate in Public Policy student

“The Certificate in Public Policy program informs, it empowers students to see how government, how policy can improve the things that they care about.”

Professor Eric Wilcots
Dean, UW–Madison College of Letters & Science
Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy

In March 2021, the University Academic Planning Council unanimously approved the La Follette School’s Undergraduate Certificate in Health Policy program. The certificate will help students build a solid understanding of the ways public policy influences individual and population health. Enrollment begins Nov. 1, 2021.

“Students will learn data and analytic skills necessary for navigating and improving health care systems and ‘upstream’ policies that influence health. These are critical competencies for UW–Madison graduates seeking employment in the health sector.”

Susan Webb Yackee
La Follette School Director and Professor

Notable Undergraduate Students

DANIEL LEDIN (BAx ’22)
Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program Scholar

Daniel Ledin, who is majoring in political science and international studies, is the first UW–Madison student chosen for this highly selective program, which began in 2002 and is funded by the U.S. Department of State.

“I pursued the Rangel program because I knew it would grant me unparalleled professional development and career exposure,” says Ledin. “I look forward to interacting with various think tanks, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations to learn about the different opportunities available in the international affairs sector.”

SHEHROSE CHARANIA (BA ’21)
UW–Madison’s 2020 Newman Civic Fellow, a national honor

During her senior year at UW–Madison, Shehrose Charania participated in leadership development, networking events, and a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows, including 290 students from 39 states, Washington, DC, Mexico, and Greece. Chancellor Rebecca Blank nominated Charania for the honor.

Charania, who received her bachelor’s degree in health promotion and health equity, combines her identity as a Pakistani Muslim American and passion for health promotion to combat health inequities. The combination of her identity and passion is informed by her first-hand experience as a teenage immigrant living in Chicago, and by helping her parents navigate the complex health care system.
2021 Notable News
Media Mentions

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Tim Smeeding on potential impact in Wisconsin of proposed federal anti-poverty legislation, 5/5/2021

InBusiness: Denia Garcia on immigrant business owners’ role in state, national economy, 2/23/2021

New York Times, Ezra Klein Show: Greg Nemet on solar power, 2/26/2021

Wisconsin Public Radio: Susan Webb Yackee on how using guidance from government agencies as a policy tool may improve transparency and accessibility, 7/1/2021

EXPANDING OUTREACH

Critical policy topics always take center stage during a presidential election year, and 2020 put the spotlight on health policy, social policy, and other issues exacerbated by a global pandemic. During 2020–21, La Follette School faculty shared their expertise via online events, media interviews, and partnerships with on- and off-campus groups.

Election 2020: A Spotlight on Policy

Fall 2020

Events: 8
Participants: Live—1,458; Total views—4,493
Partners: Wisconsin Alumni Association, WisPolitics, UW–Madison Chancellor’s Office, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, UW–Madison Elections Research Center, UW–Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Faculty member participants: Menzie Chinn, J. Michael Collins, Mark Copelovitch, Dennis Dresang, Christine Durance, Jason Fletcher, Denia Garcia, Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Greg Nemet, Tana Johnson, Jon Pevehouse, Tim Smeeding, Geoffrey Wallace, Susan Webb Yackee


Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy

Former Govs. Scott McCallum and Jim Doyle joined Professor Emeritus Dennis Dresang for a discussion about the late Patrick J. Lucey, Wisconsin’s 38th governor, and his impact on the state. The Wisconsin Historical Society Press published Dresang’s book *Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy* in 2020. Video of the event, featuring introductory remarks by UW System President and former Gov. Tommy G. Thompson, is on the La Follette School’s YouTube channel.
Spring 2021 Offner Lecture
Politics and Policy: Democracy in the Digital Age
Katie Harbath, former global public policy director at Facebook

Spring 2021 Public Affairs Journalist in Residence
Widening the Circle of Accountability: Media & the Climate Debate
Amy Westervelt, founder, Critical Frequency podcast network

39th Family Impact Seminar
Beyond Healthcare Policy: Building the Foundation of Health for Wisconsin Families
Attendees: 193, including 21 legislators, 27 aides, and 42 state agency representatives

2021 Notable News Media Mentions

New York Times: Professor Menzie Chinn on taxing foreign purchases of U.S. assets, 3/1/2021

Voice of America: Sarah Halpern-Meekin on the potential for the American Rescue Plan to cut U.S. poverty in half, 3/10/2021

Yahoo! Money: J. Michael Collins on Wisconsin’s looming retirement crisis, 3/17/2021

Mississippi Today: Manny Teodoro on the role of racism in U.S. broken water system, 3/24/21
Launched in 2016, the Herb Kohl Public Service Research Competition supports nonpartisan faculty-led research that informs critical public policy and governance debates and advances evidence-based decision-making. It also provides learning opportunities for graduate students to work alongside faculty as project assistants and expands the School’s outreach activities.

Jacobs, Smeeding part of human, robot collaboration project

Faculty members Lindsay Jacobs and Tim Smeeding are co-investigators for a research project to bolster human and robot collaborations in the manufacturing sector. The research, led by Professor Robert Radwin of the College of Engineering, is funded through a three-year, $1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The researchers plan to analyze manufacturing jobs and then create a “matchmaking” computational framework to identify specific tasks where collaborative, intelligent robotic assistants could boost productivity and worker health and safety. Industry collaborators include General Motors and Ford Motor Company.

Jacobs specializes in labor economics and modeling the interactions among health, job tasks, and labor supply decisions. Smeeding is an expert on modeling social and economic mobility across generations, inequality of earnings, income, consumption and wealth, and earnings and income-support policies.

Durrance, Fletcher, Wang receive funding for inequality research

Three faculty members received funding to support their research from UW–Madison’s Understanding and Reducing Inequalities Initiative. Their projects were among only 15 selected from 73 proposals.

Understanding and Reducing Inequalities During the COVID-19 Crisis, Associate Professor Christine Durrance

The Foundational Inequality—Race Differences in Equal Opportunity in the United States, Professor Jason Fletcher

Impacts of the Earned Income Tax Credit on Intergenerational Health Mobility, Associate Professor Yang Wang

2021 Kohl Competition Awards

Earned income Tax Credit (EITC) and Intimate Partner Violence
Associate Professor Yang Wang and Professor Barbara Wolfe

Water System Excellence Project
Associate Professor Manuel Teodoro

Democracy, Prosperity, Hegemony: Global Finance and the Future of American Economic and Foreign Policy
Professor Mark Copelovitch

CREATING INFLUENTIAL RESEARCH

YEARS
AWARDS
STUDENTS*
FACULTY

6
27
22
28

*As project assistants, the 22 students received tuition remission, a stipend, and health insurance. These positions—and the student funding provided—allow the La Follette School to attract the best and brightest graduate students.
CLIENT-BASED PROJECTS

La Follette School master’s degree students gain highly transferrable experience working with public, private, and nonprofit clients on projects that might otherwise not be possible amid tight budgets and other challenges. Many alumni say that their work on these client-based projects have been instrumental in securing jobs.

During the 2020–21 academic year, several projects focused on equity and climate policy. One group of students worked with Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers (SSCHC) in Milwaukee to identify nine actions for improving SSCHC’s ability to connect patients with stable, safe, high-quality housing and to advocate for beneficial housing policy.

“This work is going to have a long-term effect on our patients and our clinic and the way we do things here,” says Jose Salazar, a manager at SSCHC.

For the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) course, another group of students saw the impact of their work for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families in Gov. Tony Evers’ 2021–2023 state budget proposal.

Following the students’ recommendation, the proposal included “expanding eligibility for independent living services to youth who have been in a qualifying court-ordered placement for at least six months after age 16 and who are not adopted or entering guardianship ... (and) increasing the maximum age for these services to 23.”

“Ultimately, these items were not included in the final state budget, but this does show that client projects completed by La Follette School students are taken seriously by our clients, and I am hopeful that foster care issues will continue to be recognized and addressed in the future.”

Jacob Pankratz (MPA ’21)

“I was excited to hear that our cost-benefit recommendation about foster care services made the executive budget, especially the driver’s license program for foster youth. We had a really great and supportive client who was excited about our work.”

Madeline McIlhon (MPA ’21)

During client-based courses, “you get a sense of professionalism and thinking about how to frame your work and research succinctly and to address a pain point.”

Kate Austin Stanford (MPA, MPH ’15)

“There are two things faculty are looking for: to do world-class research that matters and the ability to work with great students. The Kohl Initiative allows them to do that.”

Professor John Karl Scholz
Provost, UW–Madison

“Green Bay is facing a severe blue-green algae issue, and it threatens public health, local tourism, and fishing. My CBA team worked with Brown County, and our report provided insights for the county to make decisions about whether to harvest blue-green algae, and if they were interested, how to do it.”

Mingxin Zhang (MPA, EAP certificate ’21)
Where 2020 graduates are working

**STATE GOVERNMENT SECTOR**
- Intersect Illinois
- Joint Legislative Budget Committee
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Office of Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau
- Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
- Wisconsin National Guard
- Vermont Department of Health

**PRIVATE SECTOR**
- Baker Tilly
- Grant Thornton
- Big Sky Resort
- Deloitte Government Consulting
- Glacier Valley Ford
- Proviso Partners

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**
- Army National Guard

**NONPROFIT/EDUCATION**
- Brightpoint
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Urban Institute
- Fulbright
- Girl Scouts USA
- Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
- Institute for Community Alliances
- The American Red Cross
- The iCenter for Israel Education
- UW–Madison

**2021 Graduation Awards**

**Alyssa Dooley (MIPA)** — Director’s Achievement Award for her outstanding academic record and her initiative and professionalism as a La Follette School student.


**Sarah Ebben (MPA)** — Piore Prize for Best Paper in Science and Public Policy. Regulating Forensic Genetic Genealogy: Future Policy Interventions, nominated by Assistant Professor Lauren Schmitz.

“**The La Follette School has shown me the importance of informed policymaking and data-driven policy decisions, both commonly overlooked in our current political space.**”

—**Anna Barry (MPA ’21)**

“**The La Follette School has helped me better understand the policymaking process and some of the pitfalls of our democracies. It also has helped me think a lot about how to improve our society.**”

—**Victor Escalona (MPA ’21)**
ALUMNI IN ACTION

Top media outlets publish 2018 alumna’s writing

Since relocating to the United Kingdom, Stephanie (Rubin) Murray (MPA ’18) has had her work published in The New York Times, Washington Post, Atlantic, and other major publications. The mother of two young girls, Murray often writes about parenting-related topics.

Her first article in The Atlantic, The Danger of Shortchanging Parents, was published in April. In it, Murray wrote: “Parenting is not a hobby—it’s an indispensable part of a properly functioning economy, and our present system works only if people continue to do it.”

She also has tackled difficult topics like parental depression. In My 3-Year-Old Can Tell I’m Depressed, published in The New York Times, Murray wrote about her personal struggles, sharing advice from experts and insight from others.

“In my darkest moments, I find myself doubting whether things will get better no matter what I do,” Murray wrote. “Offering my daughter reassurance when I feel so unmoored feels disingenuous.”

Interdisciplinary focus benefits 2020 alumnus

Jackson Parr (MPA ’20) began his career as a journalist in northeastern Wisconsin. Writing about the difficulties local governments had in navigating state and federal policy prompted him to pursue a master’s degree at the La Follette School.

“I wanted to further understand these relationships to improve outcomes in rural communities,” says Parr, the J. Phillip Keillor Flood Resilience Fellow with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Wisconsin Sea Grant.

The interdisciplinary focus of his La Follette School coursework has been instrumental in this role. “Flood events trigger many different social and institutional dynamics that all must be considered when identifying solutions,” he says.

Parr, who also received a master’s degree in water resource management, is helping develop the Flood Resilience Scorecard, a tool that communities can use to assess their own infrastructural, social, and administrative capacity to manage flooding. The scorecard will then provide recommendations to improve flood resilience based on the results, he says.

A career diplomat, Linda Thomas-Greenfield (MA ’75) was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in February 2021. She previously served as ambassador to Liberia under President George W. Bush and held foreign postings in Switzerland, Pakistan, Kenya, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Jamaica.

Rob Cramer (MA ’92) was named Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning & Management by UW–Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank. He previously served as vice president for administration for the University of Wisconsin System, vice chancellor for administrative services at UW–Platteville, secretary of the State of Wisconsin Building Commission, and administrator of the Division of State Facilities.

“One of the reasons I decided to go back to school after 20 years was to gain the analytical tools necessary to develop policy solutions that address the predicament of what I call “flex-term workers”—small entrepreneurs, independent contractors, and gig workers.”

Christine Welcher (MIPA ’21)
ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

While the pandemic kept people physically distanced, the La Follette School hosted three events this spring to bring alumni together virtually for the very first time in its history.

In March, beloved emeritus and current faculty members participated in a panel discussion about the Importance of Public Policy, Before, During, and After COVID-19. Professors Geoffrey Wallace and Bobbi Wolfe and Emeritus Professors Dennis Dresang, Bob Haveman, and John Witte shared their insights and answered audience questions. Director and Professor Susan Webb Yackee moderated.

In April, alumni from various policy sectors volunteered to share career insights and words of wisdom with students during a Virtual Networking Event.

In May, alumni re-connected with old friends and welcomed the Class of 2021 during an online reunion.

Alumni participants spanned 50 years—from the Class of 1971 (when the La Follette School was the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration) to the Class of 2021.

Atiya Siddiqi (MIPA ’18) was promoted to senior analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Chicago. At the La Follette School, Siddiqi conducted research on solar energy as part of Professor Greg Nemet’s Andrew Carnegie Fellowship award.

Sara Eskrich (MPA, MPH ’15) was quoted in the Politico story New York’s ‘head-swirling’ mistake puts harsh spotlight on ranked-choice voting. Eskrich is executive director of Democracy Found, an organization pushing to incorporate Final Five Voting in Wisconsin elections.

Rachel (Moskowitz) Svoboda (MPA ’07) was the analyst in charge of the report Firearm Injuries: Health Care Service Needs and Costs published by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Moira Lenox (MPA ’17) assisted Svoboda on the report, which was requested by U.S. Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, the head of the House Oversight Committee, and U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Alumni participation by location
ELEVATING EQUITY

This past year, numerous graduate students demonstrated outstanding leadership around diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues. These students included Anna Barry, Molly Gallagher, Kelsey Gordon, Amber Joshway, Indu Kilaru, Cartecia Lawrence, and Toni Sopukeeva.

“These leaders, and so many others, are deeply committed to our School’s mission, vision, and values,” said La Follette School Director and Professor Susan Webb Yackee. “We are extremely grateful for their efforts to make our world a better place for all.”

As DEI coordinators for the La Follette School Student Association (LSSA), Kilaru and Sopukeeva (MIPA ’21) hosted a TED circle to celebrate Black History Month, while Barry (MPA ’21) and Gallagher served on the School’s DEI Task Force, which was launched in summer 2020.

Indu Kilaru, MPA  
Toni Sopukeeva (MIPA ’21)

Kilaru also organized LSSA’s Women’s History Month event featuring Suvai Gunasekaran, vice president of UN Women, Chicago. Joshway and Kilaru co-moderated the event, while Gordon and Lawrence co-presented at virtual Visit Day and regularly contributed to the School’s efforts around DEI.

In addition, the La Follette School launched Elevating Equity in Policymaking and hosted two alumni. Theola Carter (MA ’91) and Frances Huntley-Cooper (MA ’94) shared brief information about their careers in public service and answered questions from students.

Lawrence (an MPA student) moderated the hour-long events, which she also helped organize and promote in her role as a La Follette School project assistant.

“Effective public policy requires thoughtfully engaging with stakeholders from a range of backgrounds and cultural contexts and with varying needs and capacities.”

Geoffrey Wallace  
Professor of Public Affairs and Economics

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Megan Stritchko (MPA ’09)  
Administrator

Emma Wasserstrom  
Administrative Assistant

David Wright-Racette  
Student Status Examiner Senior
LOOKING AHEAD

The La Follette School’s second annual policy forum supported by the Kohl Initiative is bringing together researchers, policymakers, and community leaders Wednesday, October 6. Faculty members Greg Nemet and Morgan Edwards are leading the daylong conference on climate policy. Attendees may participate in person at Union South or online. Details at go.wisc.edu/climatepolicy.

Welcoming Mariel Barnes
Assistant Professor of Public Affairs

Mariel Barnes joins the La Follette School in Fall 2021 and is a core faculty member of UW–Madison’s Sexual Violence Research Initiative, an interdisciplinary group designed to investigate the psychological, societal, and policy aspects of sexual violence. Her research examines everyday forms of violence against women, gender, and the politics of the welfare state with a specific focus on highly industrialized countries. She is also interested in the relationship between gender and institutions, including the representation and incorporation of women.

2022 La Follette Policy Forum
Wednesday, May 4

Thank you!
... for providing financial support for scholarships, research, and professional development
... for participating on policy, career, and other panel discussions
... for assisting students with fellowships and employment applications
... for serving as mentors, mock interviewers, and networking partners

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Of 48 La Follette School 2020 graduates, 40 entered the workforce, six sought additional degrees, and two did not provide a status update. 96% of those entering the workforce (46 out of 48 graduates) reported that they had secured employment in their fields by December 2020. Of those who secured employment, 93% of graduates found jobs focused on domestic policy and management and 7% found jobs focused on international policy and management.
Where 2020 graduates are working:

**Federal Government Sector**
- Army National Guard

**State Government Sector**
- Intersect Illinois
- Joint Legislative Budget Committee
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Office of WI Governor Evers
- WI Dept of Natural Resources
- WI Legislative Audit Bureau
- WI Legislative Reference Bureau
- WI Dept. of Health Services
- WI Dept. of Children and Families
- WI National Guard
- Vermont Department of Health

**Nonprofit/NGO Sector**
- Brightpoint
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Urban Institute
- Fulbright
- Girl Scouts USA
- Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
- Institute for Community Alliances
- The American Red Cross
- The iCenter for Israel Education
- UW Madison

**Private Sector**
- Baker Tilly
- Grant Thornton
- Big Sky Resort
- Deloitte Government Consulting
- Glacier Valley Ford
- Proviso Partners
Of 49 La Follette School 2019 graduates, 44 entered the workforce and 4 sought additional degrees. 95% of those entering the workforce (42 out 44 graduates) reported that they had secured employment in their fields by December 2019. Of those who secured employment, 93% of graduates found jobs focused on domestic policy and management and 7% found jobs focused on international policy and management.

Where 2019 graduates are working:

**Federal Government Sector**
- Government Accountability Office
- Congressional Research Service
- US House of Representatives
- US Dept of Transportation

**State Government Sector**
- Port Authority of NY and NJ
- Montana Legislative Audit Division
- Colorado Springs Dept of Corrections
- Michigan Dept of Labor and Economic Opportunity
- WI Legislative Audit Bureau
- WI Legislative Reference Bureau
- WI Dept. of Transportation
- WI Dept. of Health Services
- WI Dept. of Children and Families

**Local Government**
- Mayor’s Office (city of LA)
- City of Fitchburg WI
- Chicago Public Schools
- Higher Expectations for Racine County

**Nonprofit/Education Sectors**
- Urban Institute
- Citizen Action of Wisconsin
- End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
- Education Analytics
- Cordis
- Uplift Education

**Private Sector**
- Phoenix Pharmacy Wholesale
- Grant Thornton
- Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Graphika Inc
- Agricultural Bank of China
Graduate Student Funding Information

The La Follette School offers fellowships and scholarships to incoming students each year. Unfortunately, due to limited funding, not all well-deserving students will receive funding offers. This handout provides funding information about opportunities outside of the La Follette School.

Students are highly encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) https://fafsa.ed.gov/ by December 1 or as soon as possible. UW–Madison’s school code is 003895. Applicants for most types of financial aid must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen.

Many first-year La Follette Public Affairs students fund their education through unsubsidized loans and personal resources. Other students find teaching assistant and project assistant positions through UW-Madison departments outside the La Follette School by browsing UW Graduate Assistantships on the Student Job Center site. This year about half of second-year students work as project assistants (PAs) or as teaching assistants (TAs) either on campus or through off-campus organizations.

The following schools, institutes, and research centers have recently hired a La Follette student:

- Wisconsin Center for Research on Education (WCER) http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/
- School of Medicine and Public Health http://www.med.wisc.edu/
- Center for Financial Security (CFS) https://cfs.wisc.edu/
- Center for Nonprofits, School of Human Ecology Department https://sohe.wisc.edu/research-development/centers-of-excellence/uw-center-for-nonprofits/
- Center on Wisconsin Strategy: http://www.cows.org/
- Institute for Research on Poverty: https://www.irp.wisc.edu/
- The International Division: https://international.wisc.edu/
- The Waisman Center: https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/

Other Project Assistant Positions:
Some project assistant positions are not advertised on the UW website. If La Follette staff become aware of opportunities, they will reach out to students about project assistantships with local non-university organizations as the information is received. In addition, La Follette Faculty will occasionally advertise for project assistantships tied to grants. These notices are sent to current students and incoming students by email.

Teaching Assistant Positions:
Some academic departments post Teaching Assistant (TA) openings on the UW Graduate Assistantships site. In the past 3 years, these academic departments hired a La Follette student:

- German, Nordic, and Slavic Department
- History Department
- School of Business
- School of Human Ecology
- Social Work
- Spanish and French
- Political Science
- Letters and Science Integrated Studies
- Gender and Women’s Studies
Students may also wish to proactively reach out to departments based on academics.

Students with assistantships above the 33% receive tuition remission regardless of residency status, health insurance, and a stipend for their appointments. The stipend depends on the time commitment of the position. All graduate assistants pay for student segregated fees. Please see this site for on-campus assistantship details: https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/graduate-assistantships/

**Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (FLAS)**

Academic-year FLAS fellowships are awarded for a full academic year to graduate students engaged in a formal overseas or domestic program of full-time language and area studies coursework. Several MIPA students have funded their second year of school through the FLAS. Summer FLAS fellowships are also available and intended to help students gain the equivalent of a year's worth of college level language study. The Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship, FLAS, is offered through these centers: The African Studies Program, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for European Studies, Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program, Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, Center for South Asia, Center for South East Asian Studies, and Global Studies. The application is due in early February each year. Specific requirements may vary depending on the language. Please consult the relevant area studies program or the following website for further details and application forms: http://flas.wisc.edu/

**Other Funding Information and Resources**

- Cost of Attendance Information: http://www.finaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance.htm
- Cost of Living Information for Madison, WI: https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Madison
- Financial Wellness Program: https://financialaid.wisc.edu/free-to-uw-madison-students-salt/
- UW-Madison Graduate School Funding Information: https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/
- UW-Madison Graduate School External Fellowship database: https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/external-fellowship-database/
- Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS) Funding Opportunities: https://iris.wisc.edu/funding/
- Wisconsin Scholarship Hub: https://wiscacademicworks.com/
- UW-Madison International Student Services Funding & Scholarships: https://iss.wisc.edu/students/new-students/funding-scholarships/
- Current UW-Madison students are encouraged to use Research Guides curated by Librarian Ellen Jacks that include topics such as Funding for Graduate Students and Funding for International Students.
- They are encouraged to review the link below to a PPT about funding ideas from a workshop recently hosted by the Graduate School:
  - https://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/grantsgraduates/GrantsForEducation
- On-campus jobs open to public: https://jobs.wisc.edu/
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Financial Aid Office: http://www.finaid.wisc.edu/graduate-and-professional.htm
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness: https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service
- Outside UW Scholarship Opportunities for Minority Students: https://collegestats.org/resources/best-scholarships-minorities/
- Outside UW Scholarship Information: https://www.reviews.com/best-scholarship-search-platforms/
- Private Fellowships and Scholarships Search (FastWeb): http://www.fastweb.com
- Private student loans: https://loans.usnews.com/student-loans