

POLICY PROJECTS

Students in Public Policy Methods complete policy analyses on randomly assigned issues. Over the course of the semester, they do memorandum exercises intended to help them apply concepts introduced in [Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice](#) to their issues. Near the end of the semester, each student submits a fifteen page policy analysis (exclusive of an executive summary and an *unlimited* number of pages of appendices) to me and to one other student. The other student writes a collegial critique and I prepare a more comprehensive evaluation following a [template](#) that helps me cover important points systematically.

Projects for 2002 randomly assigned from the following list:

Review the regulation of deer and elk farms in Wisconsin. Specifically, should regulatory authority be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Natural Resources? *Client: Office of the Governor*

On December 9, 2002 the State of Wisconsin issued an interim planning document on implementing pre-event smallpox vaccination activities. If the population of the state becomes exposed to an outbreak of smallpox, the Governor will have to make decisions concerning vaccination of the general public. When and how should public vaccinations be implemented? *Client: Office of the Governor*

The new secretary of the Department of Natural Resources wishes to take a fresh look at policies for dealing with Chronic Wasting Disease in the Wisconsin deer population. *Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources*

It is likely that the University of Wisconsin will face cuts in funding from the state. Consider alternatives for raising additional revenue for the system through tuition increases. *Client: President Katherine Lyall*

Develop alternatives for reducing funding provided by the State of Wisconsin to local school districts for primary and secondary schooling from existing revenue sources. Your alternatives should involve substantial reductions in the projected deficit. *Client: Office of the Governor*

Develop alternatives for increasing the amount of revenue raised by the Wisconsin sales tax. *Client: Secretary, Department of Revenue*

Currently, the gambling compacts between the State of Wisconsin and the eleven federally recognized Tribes have durations of five years. In the future, should compacts have longer durations? *Client: Secretary, Department of Administration*

School districts spend over \$1 billion annually on the 12 percent of students classified as disabled. Some observers have raised concerns that the designation of disability is inappropriately being extended to include low-achieving students. Should the State of Wisconsin adopt policies to limit the growth in the numbers of students qualifying for special education programs? *Client: Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction*

Does Wisconsin have appropriate laws and adequate enforcement capability for combating identify theft? *Client: Attorney General*

Should Wisconsin adopt laws to restrict the use of cell phones while driving motor vehicles? *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Highway Safety*

Pharmaceutical manufacturers often charge lower prices for exports than for similar products sold domestically. There have been several bills introduced in Congress to allow wholesalers or retailers to re-import exported drugs into the United States. Should such re-importation be allowed? *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

Currently, airport gate checks are being conducted for randomly selected passengers boarding all flights. Should these checks be eliminated, based on some sort of profiling, limited to selected flights, or otherwise modified? *Client: Chair, House Select Committee on Homeland Security*

Many cities incur substantial costs in responding to false alarms from burglar alarm systems that place calls to 911. Cities have responded in a variety of ways, such as through education programs or fines. Select one major American city and assess alternatives for dealing with its cost of false alarms. Your detailed analysis should be specific to the selected city, but presented so that it could be a demonstration of useful analysis for other cities. *Client: Director, Office of Research and Evaluation, National Institute of Justice*

Pharmaceutical firms advertise prescription drugs in television commercials. Review the appropriateness of the regulatory framework governing this type of advertising. *Client: Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration*

Federal regulatory agencies are required by the Administrative Procedures Act to keep dockets of comments made in response to proposed regulations. Should all federal agencies be required to post complete dockets on web pages to facilitate greater public access? *Client: Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget*

The Orphan Drug Act was intended to reduce the costs and increase the benefits to pharmaceutical firms that developed drugs for rare diseases. Most significantly, the act gives firms seven years of market exclusivity for their orphan drugs. The current operational definition of rare disease is a disease that affects fewer than 200,000 patients. Should any provisions of the Orphan Drug Act or the operational definition of rare disease be modified? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Energy and Commerce*

Wisconsin has been a leader in encouraging the donation of transplant organs. Should the state adopt any additional laws to encourage either cadaveric or live organ donation? *Client: Office of the Governor*

Review Wisconsin laws and regulations governing home schooling. Do they provide an appropriate framework? *Client: Assembly Committee on Education*

Should Wisconsin license direct-entry (lay) midwives? *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Health*

Should the State of Wisconsin encourage or facilitate local law enforcement officials obtaining security clearances so that they have greater access to classified information relevant to stopping terrorist attacks? *Client: Client: Attorney General*

Several hundred thousand suits have been filed against firms by workers, including many who show no adverse health effects, exposed to asbestos. These suits threaten many of the firms with bankruptcy. Should Congress modify the current tort system to achieve more efficient or more equitable compensation of those harmed by asbestos? *Client: Chair, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate*

In November 2002, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published quality measures for all certified nursing homes in the country. What should be the next steps in this initiative? For example, should more data be collected or reported, risk-adjustment be implemented, or presentation changed? *Client: Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*