

USC SCHOOL	Sol Price School of Public Policy
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Policy and Management
GRADUATE PROGRAM	Master of Public Policy
POST CODE	1106
TERM EFFECTIVE DATE	Fall 2025

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A brief description of the graduate program.

In our dynamic global society, talented professionals who contextualize, analyze and shape policy with an eye for the public good are vitally important. The USC Price Master of Public Policy (MPP) program will prepare you to become one of these essential leaders.

Our nationally-recognized program emphasizes three areas: policy processes and analysis, economics, and quantitative analysis. With an emphasis on social justice and innovation, your comprehensive studies will be immersive, spanning a variety of disciplines, subjects and scholarship, and culminating in a unique year-long practicum.

COMMON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM PATHWAYS

A list of common bachelor's degrees that undergraduate students pursue in advance of pursuing a progressive degree option with this graduate program. Some programs are restricted to certain majors while others are open to all students.

This program is open to all majors; the most common are PPD, POSC, ECON, and IR.

PREPARATORY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

A list of courses at the undergraduate level that prepare students for the graduate program. Required coursework is listed first, followed by recommended courses. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Required or Recommended	Units
PPD 303	Statistics for Policy, Planning, and Development	Recommended	4

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE LEVEL UNITS

A list of undergraduate level courses that may be used to reduce the number of graduate level units required for the graduate program. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
PPD 300	Social Justice Issues in Public Policy and Urban Planning	4
PPD 314	Public Policy and Law	4
PPD 357	Government and Business	4
PPD 361	Sustainable Communities, Policy and Planning	4

PPD 371	The Nonprofit Sector and the Public Interest	4
PPD 404	Empirical Methods for Public Policy	4
PPD 439	Housing and Community Development	4
PPD 478	Social Innovation	4
BUAD 497	Strategic Management	4
DSO 428	Essentials and Digital Frontiers of Big Data	4
FBE 462	International Trade, Finance, and Commercial Policy	4
IR 326	U.S. Foreign Economic Policy	4
ITP 449	Application of Machine Learning	4
LAW 310	Global Justice for Mass Atrocities and Genocide	4
POSC 315	Regulation of Elections and Political Finance	4
POSC 345	International Law	4
ECON 450	International Trade	4
GERO 430	Policy, Values, and Power in an Aging Society	4
SOCI 353	Public Policy and the Criminal Justice System	4

***LISTED COURSES ARE ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY – MANY OTHER COURSES COULD POTENTIALLY BE USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE UNITS WITH DEPARTMENT APPROVAL.**

CORE GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (# units required)

A list of all required graduate courses for the graduate program. None of these courses may be used toward satisfying undergraduate degree requirements.

If special exceptions for any of these courses are made by the academic department, the course # is marked with an asterisk () and the exception is explained in the “Department Notes” section at the end of this course plan template.*

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
PPD 503*	Economics for Public Policy	4
PPD 554	Foundations for Policy Analysis	4
PPD 555	Public Policy Formulation and Implementation	4
PPD 558*	Multivariate Statistical Analysis	4
PPD 560*	Methods for Policy Analysis	4
PPD 561a	Policy Analysis Practicum	1
PPD 561b	Policy Analysis Practicum	3
Analytic Electives	https://catalogue.usc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=21&poid=30227&returnto=8636	8

PRE-APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Elective coursework is approved at the discretion of the academic department. Note the following details about the total number and units required of elective coursework.

6	TOTAL ELECTIVE COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE
24	TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE

TOTAL UNIT COUNTS AND REQUIRED GRADUATE UNITS

48	TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE
16	TOTAL GRADUATE UNITS THAT MAY BE WAIVED (IF ANY)
48	MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADUATE UNITS THAT MUST BE AT THE 500 LEVEL OR ABOVE

NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT

This section highlights any unique considerations, exceptions, or requirements for the graduate program. If a program has specific restrictions (courses, majors, etc.), they are detailed below.

A college-level inferential statistics or econometrics course (grade of B or better) such as PPD 303 is an MPP program prerequisite; alternatively, students may complete PPD 504 with a grade of C or better (does not count toward required MPP degree units).

PPD 503 and PPD 558 may be waived based on suitable undergraduate coursework (e.g., completion of PPD 404 with a grade of B or better enables a waiver of PPD 558).

PPD 560 may be applied in the Public Policy undergraduate degree as a replacement for PPD 373. If PPD 560 is used in the undergraduate degree, the associated units will be waived from the MPP requirements.

LaVonna B. Lewis	December 8, 2025
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Name of Authorizing Master's Program Dean

Date Approved

Vice Dean of Student Success

Authorizing Dean's Title