

# Policy Analysis

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Last Updated: Fri, 12/19/2025

**Course prefix:** PUBP

**Course number:** 30303

**Section:** TW

**CRN**

30256

**Instructor first name:** Travis

**Instructor last name:** Whetsell

**Semester:** Spring

**Academic year:** 2026

**Course description:**

A fundamental principle of good governance is making decisions based on sound reasoning and good information. In this course we will develop the skill of analyzing public policies in a structured way using systematic logic and empirical evidence. Good policy analysis applies abstract theories in a practical way that generates insights useful to decision makers.

This course is based on two major themes of public policy and administration. The first is the concepts and process of public *policy analysis*, defined as “Client-oriented advice relevant to public decisions and informed by social values”. The second major theme is analytical methodology, including prospective tools and retrospective models used to make inferences about the likely or actual impacts of policies.

**Academic honesty/integrity statement:**

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

**Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):**

PUBP 3030 develops Core Impacts competencies through the study of public policy. Students strengthen Communication by crafting policy briefs and delivering presentations. The course emphasizes Community and Social Responsibility by examining how policies affect different populations. Ethical reasoning is cultivated as students navigate competing values and the moral responsibilities of analysts. Students engage in Research and Inquiry

by applying quantitative and qualitative methods to real-world policy problems. Together, these experiences prepare students to contribute thoughtfully to public discourse and democratic governance.