

Public Policy, PhD (Boston)

Website (<https://cssh.northeastern.edu/policyschool/>)

CSSH Graduate Programs General Regulations (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/general-regulations/>)

The PhD in Public Policy is an interdisciplinary program that combines social science and legal theoretical perspectives with quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. The faculty in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs support students' research and dissertations in three broad areas of inquiry—urban and regional policy, sustainability and resilience, and health management and policy. Students work with faculty advisors to formulate a plan of study within their field of concentration by choosing from graduate programs offered in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, and in other colleges and schools at Northeastern University. Students study a common body of knowledge in core courses in policy theory, research methods, and statistics, followed by courses in each student's respective concentration. The school's research centers and faculty research projects provide opportunities for students to develop insight, experience, and synergies to help with their own research goals. The college and school offer a high level of support allowing all students to be devoted full time to their studies and research. The program is full time and in residence only.

Doctoral Degree Candidacy

Complete all required coursework with a minimum 3.500 grade-point average, pass the comprehensive examinations, and defend a dissertation proposal. Students entering without a JD or master's degree must complete 55 semester hours. Students entering with a JD or master's degree must complete 47 semester hours.

Program Requirements

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Milestones

Annual review
Comprehensive examination
Dissertation committee
Dissertation proposal
PhD candidacy
Dissertation defense

Core Requirements

A grade of B+ or higher is required in each course.

Code	Title	Hours
Seminar		
PPUA 7204	Seminar on Policy Theory	4
Complete the following two courses for a minimum of 4 semester hours total:		4
PPUA 7976	Directed Study	
PPUA 9984	Research	
Research and Statistical Methods		
INSH 6300	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	4
INSH 6302	Qualitative Methods	4
INSH 7400	Quantitative Analysis	4
Advanced Methods		
Complete one of the following (an additional concentration elective may be taken in lieu of the advanced methods elective):		4
INSH 7500	Advanced Quantitative Analysis	
or INSH 7600	Multilevel Theorizing and Analysis	

Experiential Research Residency

A PhD research residency or waiver is required.

Code	Title	Hours
PPUA 9980	Experiential PhD Research Residency	0

Concentrations

Complete one of the following concentrations:

- Health Policy and Management (p. 2)
- Sustainability and Resilience (p. 2)
- Urban and Regional Policy (p. 3)

Exam and Dissertation

Code	Title	Hours
Exam Prep		
Only needed for PhD students who have completed all coursework but have not yet passed the comprehensive exam/proposal defense. Repeatable:		
PPUA 8960	Exam Preparation—Doctoral	
Dissertation		
PPUA 9990	Dissertation Term 1	
PPUA 9991	Dissertation Term 2	
Dissertation Continuation		
Following completion of two semesters of dissertation (PPUA 9990 and PPUA 9991), registration in the following class is required in each semester (including summer if the dissertation is submitted in summer) until the dissertation is completed:		
PPUA 9996	Dissertation Continuation	

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

55 total semester hours required

Minimum 3.500 GPA required

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CONCENTRATION

Code	Title	Hours
Seminar		
PPUA 5220	How Healthcare Works: Business and Policy Innovations	4
Health Organization		
HRMG 6220	Health Organization Management	3
Business Elective		
Complete 3 semester hours from the following:		3
FINA 6220	Healthcare Finance	
SCHM 6223	Managing Healthcare Supply Chain Operations	
STRT 6220	Strategic Management for Healthcare Organizations	
Law Requirement		
LW 7335	Health Law	3
Electives		
Complete a minimum of 18 semester hours from the following:		18
ECON 7200	Topics in Applied Economics	
LPSC 7311	Strategizing Public Policy	
PPUA 5240	Health Policy and Politics	
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation	
SOCL 7267	Environment, Health, and Society	
PHTH 6000–9999 (public health elective, by advisement)		

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE CONCENTRATION

Code	Title	Hours
Seminar		
PPUA 6101	Environmental Science and Policy Seminar 1	4
Law Requirement		
LW 7329	Environmental Law	3
Electives		
Complete 24 semester hours from the following:		24
CIVE 7110	Critical Infrastructure Resilience	
LPSC 7311	Strategizing Public Policy	

LPSC 7312	Cities, Sustainability, and Climate Change
POLS 7341	Security and Resilience Policy
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation
PPUA 7237	Advanced Spatial Analysis of Urban Systems
PPUA 7346	Resilient Cities
PPUA 7976	Directed Study
SOCL 7267	Environment, Health, and Society

URBAN AND REGIONAL POLICY CONCENTRATION

Code	Title	Hours
Seminar		
PPUA 7521	Seminar in Urban Theory	4

Law Requirement

Consult an advisor when selecting courses from the following: 3

LW 6000–9999

Electives

Complete 24 semester hours from the following: 24

ARCH 5210	Environmental Systems
ECON 7250	International Economic Development
ECON 7266	Economics of Government
ECON 7740	Applied Econometrics 2
ECON 7763	Labor Market Analysis
LPSC 7311	Strategizing Public Policy
POLS 7325	Contemporary Issues in Third World Development
POLS 7334	Social Networks
PPUA 6201	The 21st-Century City: Urban Opportunities and Challenges in a Global Context
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation
PPUA 7237	Advanced Spatial Analysis of Urban Systems
PPUA 7976	Directed Study
SOCL 7221	Globalization, Development, and Social Justice
SOCL 7227	Race and Ethnic Relations

Advanced Entry Program Requirements

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Milestones

Annual review
Comprehensive examination
Dissertation committee
Dissertation proposal
PhD candidacy
Dissertation defense

Core Requirements

A grade of B+ or higher is required in each course.

Code	Title	Hours
Seminar		
PPUA 7204	Seminar on Policy Theory	4
Complete the following two courses for a minimum of 4 semester hours total:		4
PPUA 7976	Directed Study	
PPUA 9984	Research	
Research and Statistical Methods		
INSH 6300	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	4
INSH 6302	Qualitative Methods	4
INSH 7400	Quantitative Analysis	4
Advanced Methods		

Complete one of the following (an additional concentration elective may be taken in lieu of the advanced methods elective):

4

INSH 7500	Advanced Quantitative Analysis
or INSH 7600	Multilevel Theorizing and Analysis

Experiential Research Residency

A PhD research residency or waiver is required.

Code	Title	Hours
PPUA 9980	Experiential PhD Research Residency	0

Concentrations

Complete one of the following concentrations:

- Health Policy and Management (p. 2)
- Sustainability and Resilience (p. 2)
- Urban and Regional Policy (p. 3)

Exam and Dissertation

Code	Title	Hours
Exam Prep		

Only required for students who have completed PhD coursework but have yet to complete the comprehensive exam/proposal defense. Repeatable:

PPUA 8960	Exam Preparation—Doctoral
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Dissertation

PPUA 9990	Dissertation Term 1
PPUA 9991	Dissertation Term 2

Dissertation Continuation

Following completion of PPUA 9990 and PPUA 9991, registration in the following class is required in each semester (including summer if the dissertation is submitted in summer) until the dissertation is completed:

PPUA 9996	Dissertation Continuation
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Program Credit/GPA Requirements

47 total semester hours required

Minimum 3.500 GPA required

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CONCENTRATION

Code	Title	Hours
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Seminar

PPUA 5220	How Healthcare Works: Business and Policy Innovations	4
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Health Organization

HRMG 6220	Health Organization Management	3
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Business Elective

Complete 3 semester hours from the following:

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FINA 6220	Healthcare Finance
SCHM 6223	Managing Healthcare Supply Chain Operations
STRT 6220	Strategic Management for Healthcare Organizations

Law Requirement

LW 7335	Health Law	3
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Electives

Complete a minimum of 10 semester hours from the following:

10

ECON 7200	Topics in Applied Economics
LPSC 7311	Strategizing Public Policy
PPUA 5240	Health Policy and Politics
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation

SOCL 7267	Environment, Health, and Society	
PHTH 6000 to PHTH 9999 (public health elective, by advisement)		

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE CONCENTRATION

Code	Title	Hours
Seminar		
PPUA 6101	Environmental Science and Policy Seminar 1	4
Law Requirement		
LW 7329	Environmental Law	3
Electives		
Complete 16 semester hours from the following:		16
CIVE 7110	Critical Infrastructure Resilience	
LPSC 7311	Strategizing Public Policy	
LPSC 7312	Cities, Sustainability, and Climate Change	
POLS 7341	Security and Resilience Policy	
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation	
PPUA 7237	Advanced Spatial Analysis of Urban Systems	
PPUA 7346	Resilient Cities	
PPUA 7976	Directed Study	
SOCL 7267	Environment, Health, and Society	

URBAN AND REGIONAL POLICY CONCENTRATION

Code	Title	Hours
Seminar		
PPUA 7521	Seminar in Urban Theory	4
Law Requirement		
Consult an advisor when selecting courses from the following:		3
LW 6000 to LW 9999		
Electives		
Complete 16 semester hours from the following:		16
ARCH 5210	Environmental Systems	
ECON 7250	International Economic Development	
ECON 7266	Economics of Government	
ECON 7740	Applied Econometrics 2	
ECON 7763	Labor Market Analysis	
LPSC 7311	Strategizing Public Policy	
POLS 7325	Contemporary Issues in Third World Development	
POLS 7334	Social Networks	
PPUA 6201	The 21st-Century City: Urban Opportunities and Challenges in a Global Context	
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation	
PPUA 7237	Advanced Spatial Analysis of Urban Systems	
PPUA 7976	Directed Study	
SOCL 7221	Globalization, Development, and Social Justice	
SOCL 7227	Race and Ethnic Relations	