

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS: B.A., B.S., B.P.S.

Students of Public Affairs will be well-equipped to serve society through public service, civic engagement, political and government careers, public communications or nonprofit service. The interdisciplinary Public Affairs area of study will prepare students with leadership and decision-making skills to operate in the public interest, addressing social issues and societal concerns.

As students work toward their degree, they will examine the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of their chosen concentration, meanwhile gaining an understanding of American governmental and public institutions, within their social context, and becoming familiar with the broad and complex economic, financial and legal environments within which public institutions function. Students in Public Affairs have the opportunity to engage intellectually with ethical questions related to their area of concentration, and the values that drive the development of public policy. Public Affairs students will sharpen their skills in writing, research and critical reading and thinking, as, together with a faculty mentor, create a program to meet your specific needs and goals.

Degree programs in Public Affairs offer students the opportunity to develop individualized degree plans based on their intellectual, professional, and personal interests. General program guidelines can be found on the "Program Details" tab, and students will work with an academic mentor to choose courses that meet the guidelines and address each student's individual interests. Students can also work with their academic mentors to identify applicable transfer credit, prior college-level learning, and possible course equivalencies. Working with a mentor and using Empire State University's educational planning process, students can develop a specialized concentration in Public Affairs by following the general program guidelines as well as any applicable concentration guidelines. Students may also develop their own concentrations.

For some concentrations, specific technical or scientific knowledge might be necessary.

For more information about general undergraduate degree requirements, please visit Earning an Undergraduate Degree (<http://catalog.sunyempire.edu/undergraduate/earning-undergraduate-degree/>).

For sample degree programs and other degree planning resources, please visit the Department of Social Science and Public Affairs Degree Planning Resources web page. (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/social-science-public-affairs/degree-planning-resources/>)

## Program Details

Public Affairs is an interdisciplinary field devoted to the study of organizations and individuals that operate in what is considered the public interest, including social issues and problems. The area of study is designed for those who are interested in serving and bettering society through public service, civic engagement, political and government careers, public communications or non-profit service. The Public Affairs Area of Study is commonly pursued with the aim of advancing careers in Public Administration, Public Policy, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management to name a few.

Students with a degree in Public Affairs should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the nine foundations listed below. Knowledge of

each outcome can be demonstrated through transfer credit, individual prior learning assessment (iPLA), professional learning evaluation (PLE), credit by examination, or specific courses at Empire State University.

### Foundation #1: Theoretical and Philosophical Concepts

Courses that meet this guideline include but are not limited to:

Code	Title	Credits
EMGT 2005	Introduction to Emergency Management	4
LEST 1005	Introduction to Law & the Legal System	4
PAFF 1005	Introduction to Security Studies	4
PAFF 2005	Introduction to Homeland Security	4
PAFF 2122	Introduction to Public Administration	4
PAFF 2132	Introduction to Public Policy	4
PAFF 3127	Public Policy	4
POLI 3005	America's Founding Ideas	4
SOCI 1005	Exploring Society: An Introduction to Sociology	4

### Foundation #2: Comparative Perspectives

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 3122	Sex & Gender in Global Perspective	4
CRJS 4010	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems	4
HLAD 3015	Comparative Health Systems	4
PAFF 3003	Security Implications of Global Climate Change	4
PAFF 4005	Counterterrorism in a Changing World	4
POLI 3020	Comparative Politics	4
POLI 3065	International Politics & Relations	4
SOCI 3065	Perspectives on Terrorism	4

### Foundation #3: Historical Perspectives

Courses that meet this outcome include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
HIST 2025 & HIST 2030	US History to 1865: What Does it Mean to be a Free Nation? and US History From 1865 to the Present	6-8
HLAD 2010	The United States Health Systems	4
POLI 2005	New York State & Local Government	4
POLI 3005	America's Founding Ideas	4
POLI 3105	The American Presidency	4
POLI 3110	The United States Congress	4
POLI 3115	The United States Constitution	4

### Foundation #4: Social Contexts of Power and Privilege

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 3122	Sex & Gender in Global Perspective	4
CRJS 3065	Race Crime & Justice	4
CRJS 4030	Women Crime & Criminology	4
CUST/GSST 3152	Queering American Culture	4
GSST 2005	Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies	4
POLI 4015	Race Law & Politics	4
SOCI 1005	Exploring Society: An Introduction to Sociology	4
SOCI 2010	Introduction to Race Class & Gender	4

SOCI 3010	Aging & Society	4	INFT 4010	Data Analytics & Data Mining	4
SOCI 3025	Contemporary Global Social Issues	4	MATH 1065	Statistics	3-4
SOCI 3040	Deviance & Social Control	4	MATH 2065	Statistics II	3
SOCI 3045	Disaster & Society	4	PAFF 4127	Public Administration Capstone	4
SOCI 3055	Family & Society	4	SOSC 2010	Statistics for the Social Sciences	4
SOCI 3090	Social Movements	4	SOSC 3020	Qualitative Social Science Research: Design & Methods	4
SOCI 3095	Sociology of Education	4	SOSC 3025	Social Science Research Methods	4
SOCI 4030	Power & Privilege	4			

**Foundation #5: Legal Environment**

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
CRJS 3009	Criminal Law & Procedure	4
EMGT 3045	Mass Disasters: Implications for Public Policy	4
LEST 3015	Mental Health & The Law	4
LEST 4005	Constitutional Law I: Institutional Powers & Constraints	4
LEST 4010	Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties	4
PAFF 3127	Public Policy	4
PAFF 4132	Legal & Ethical Foundations of Public Service	4
POLI 3115	The United States Constitution	4

**Foundation #6: Economic, Financial or Budgetary Issues**

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
ECON 2005	Principles of Economics	4
ECON 2015	Macroeconomics	4
ECON 2020	Microeconomics	4
ECON 3035	Economics of Crime	4
ECON 3085	International Economics	4
ECON 3100	Public Finance	4
ECON 3105	Public Finance & Economics	4
INFT 4005	Business Continuity Planning & Disaster Recovery	4
PAFF 4122	Public Budgeting and Finance	4

**Foundation #7: Ethics and Values**

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
PAFF 3122	Ethics and the Public Sector	4
PAFF 4132	Legal & Ethical Foundations of Public Service	4
SOCI 4035	Privacy Security & Freedom: Social Concerns for the 21st Century	4

**Foundation #8: Research Skills and Information Analysis**

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
BUSN 3127	Business Analytics	4
COMM 3027	Data Visualization	4
CRJS 3020	Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysis	4
GSCI 3200	Geographic Information Systems	4
INFT 2015	Introduction to Business Analytics with Microsoft Excel	4
INFT 3005	Data Analytics	4

**Foundation #9: Technical Knowledge**

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
ACCT 1005	Accounting for Decision Makers	6
BUSN 2015	Computer Applications in Business Management & Economics	4
BUSN 3122	Management Information Systems	4
CRJS 3045	Forensic Science	4
EDST 1122	Introduction to Digital Literacy	4
EMGT 3015	Emergency Communications	4
EMGT 3020	Hazardous Materials & Public Awareness	4
EMGT 3025	Incident Management & Leadership	4
EMGT 3050	Risk Analysis & Hazard Mitigation	4
EMGT 3035	Managing Biological Terrorism as a Public Health Emergency	4
EMGT 4122	Disaster Intervention	4
ENSC 3304	Environmental Health	4
GSCI 2200	GPS & The New Geography	4
GSCI 3200	Geographic Information Systems	4
HLAD 3005	Community Health	4
HLHS 1023	Introduction to Community & Public Health	4
HSCI 3200	Health Informatics	4
HSCI 4200	Epidemiology	4
HUSV 3147	Human Services in Disaster	4
HUSV 3142	Disaster Mental Health Theory & Practice	4
HUSV 4045	Secondary Trauma in Human Service Workers	4
HUSV 4157	Health and Wellness for Human Service Professionals	4
INFT 2015	Introduction to Business Analytics with Microsoft Excel	4
INFT 2020	Introduction to Digital Crime & Digital Terrorism	4
INFT 3020	Cyber Crime & Computer Forensics	4
PAFF 3003	Security Implications of Global Climate Change	4
PAFF 4127	Public Administration Capstone	4
PAFF 4000	International Dimensions of Security	4

**Learning Outcomes**

- Foundation 1: Theoretical and Philosophical Concepts, Students will be able to define fundamental concepts and theories related to government, public administration, and/or public policy.
- Foundation 2: Comparative Perspectives, Students will be able to compare ideologies and practices that define public sector organizations.
- Foundation 2: Comparative Perspectives, Students will discuss how public institutions vary across time, place and culture.

- Foundation 3: Historical Perspectives, Students will be able to examine the historical origins of U.S. public institutions.
- Foundation 4: Social Contexts of Power and Privilege, Students will be able to explain perspectives on power and privilege using concepts and theories from the Social Sciences.
- Foundation 4: Social Contexts of Power and Privilege, Students will be able to analyze social institutions and their influence on systems of power and privilege.
- Foundation 5: Legal Environment, Students will be able to discuss practical issues of law, rulemaking, and judicial decisions that influence public affairs theory and practice in the U.S.
- Foundation 5: Legal Environment, Students will be able to assess how constitutional dynamics affect policy-making processes across the public sector.
- Foundation 6: Economic, Financial, or Budgetary Issues, Students will be able to analyze the economic and financial environments in which public institutions operate.
- Foundation 6: Economic, Financial, or Budgetary Issues, Students will be able to explain how budgeting and financial practices affect public policy processes and procedures, and shape fiscal outcomes.
- Foundation 7: Ethics and Values, Students will be able to analyze ethical issues related to the values – good, bad, or indifferent – that society place on the development of public policy.
- Foundation 8: Research Skills and Information Analysis, Students will be able to summarize tools and methods used in social scientific research.
- Foundation 8: Research Skills and Information Analysis, Students will be able to apply quantitative, qualitative, or other relevant research skills.
- Foundation 9: Technical Knowledge, Students will be able to apply specific technical or scientific knowledge and skills relevant to their concentration or professional goals.