This is an interdisciplinary social science program that combines several social science and legal theoretical perspectives with both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. The wide-ranging faculty in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs can support students’ research and dissertations in many fields—urban policy and regional economic development; sustainability and climate change; health policy; crime, social justice, and inequality; and the intersection of law and policy. Students work with faculty members to formulate a plan of study within their field of concentration by choosing courses from graduate programs offered in the policy school, the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, and in other colleges and schools at Northeastern University. Students also study a common body of knowledge developed in core courses on policy, research methods, and law. The school’s research centers and faculty members’ 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.

**Doctoral Degree Candidacy**

Complete all required course work with a minimum 3.500 grade-point average (GPA) in the core courses and pass the comprehensive examinations. Students entering with a JD or master’s degree must complete 36 semester hours.

**Program Requirements**

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

**Milestones**

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

**Major Requirements**

**Research and Statistical Methods**

A grade of B+ or higher is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LPSC 7305</td>
<td>Research and Statistical Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

**Public Policy Elective**

Complete 3 semester hours of PPUA 6000-series (or higher) course or any 6000-series (or higher) course or LPSC 7976 Directed Study with program approval.

**Methodology Elective**

Complete 3 semester hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LPSC 7215</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 7316</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Methods</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTH 6320</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods in Health and Illness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Any 6000-series (or higher) course or LPSC 7976 Directed Study with program approval

**Law Elective**

Complete 2 semester hours of LW course work.

**Economics Elective**

Complete 3 semester hours of ECON 6000-series (or higher) course or any 6000-series (or higher) course or LPSC 7976 Directed Study with program approval.

**Open Electives**

Complete 12 semester hours of 6000-series (or higher) courses in subject area PPUA or any 6000-series (or higher) courses or LPSC 7976 Directed Study with program approval.

**Exam and Dissertation**

**Exam Prep**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LPSC 8960</td>
<td>Exam Preparation—Doctoral</td>
<td></td>
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**Dissertation**

Complete the following (repeatable) course twice:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LPSC 9990</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Program Credit/GPA Requirements**

36 total semester hours required
Minimum 3.500 GPA required