# 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 | | 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 6420 | Health Organization Management | 2 |
| **Business Elective** | | |
| Complete 4 semester hours from the following: | | 4 |
| SCHM 6423 | Managing Healthcare Supply Chain Operations | |
| STRT 6440 | 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 7740 | Applied Econometrics 2 | |
| ECON 7763 | Labor Market Analysis | |
| LPSC 7311 | Strategizing Public Policy | |
| POLS 7325 | International Development of the Global South | |
| 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 | | 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 | |
| **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 | |

## Program Credit/GPA Requirements

47 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 6420 | Health Organization Management | 2 |
| **Business Elective** | | |
| Complete 4 semester hours from the following: | | |
| SCHM 6423 | Managing Healthcare Supply Chain Operations | |
| STRT 6440 | Strategic Management for Healthcare Organizations | |
| **Law Requirement** | | |
| LW 7335 | Health Law | 3 |
| **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 7740 | Applied Econometrics 2 | |
| ECON 7763 | Labor Market Analysis | |
| LPSC 7311 | Strategizing Public Policy | |
| POLS 7325 | International Development of the Global South | |
| 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 | |