

Public Policy and Management (Honours)

This area of study is only available to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Public Policy and Management (Honours) or the Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM).

The program is specifically designed to provide professional training for future generations of leaders in public policy and management. A variety of career pathways are available that draw on analytical, research and practical knowledge gained in this degree. Students interested in expanding their interests and knowledge in this area of expertise can go on to further postgraduate degree study at the University of Melbourne.

Time commitment to study

As well as scheduled contact hours for lectures, tutorial and seminars a considerable additional time commitment is needed to complete the academic requirements of each subject.

A subject-specific time commitment to study will be provided by your lecturer or tutor at the beginning of semester to help you schedule your workload and successfully manage your time during the semester. In addition, general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts can be found on page 1.

BPPM (Honours) course objectives

The Bachelor of Public Policy and Management (Honours) aims to equip graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful managerial careers in the public service or the community sector. In particular, graduates should be able to:

- design, evaluate and provide professional advice on government policy;
- use appropriate analytical and practical skills in the management of personnel and resources, public sector change and the use of policy research methods and tools;
- understand how government works and how policy is made and implemented.

Entry requirements

You may apply to enrol in the Bachelor of Public Policy and Management (Honours) after the completion of at least one year of the Bachelor of Public Policy (Pass) degree. Selection will be based on academic merit, however, professional work experience and work-based education and training may also be taken into account.

Please note that BPPM (Honours) subjects (except 166-022 Public Policy Making (p.4)) are not available to students in the Bachelor of Arts, BCA, BSW, combined BA degree courses or the Bachelor of Letters.

BPPM course structure

Students complete eight subjects (totalling 100 points). These points are made up of a series of core subjects and elective subjects. See the course structure below.

Other BPPM course requirements

Please see the entries in the BA (Honours) sections *Taking more than 50 points in a semester (over-loading) (p.5)* to *Resumption of course (p.11)* for information about other requirements of the degree (for example leave of absence, workload, study progress etc.). Unless stated otherwise above, all course requirements are the same for the BA (Honours) and the BPPM (Honours).

BPPM Honours

The Bachelor of Public Policy and Management (Honours) degree requires a higher standard of performance in the BPPM (Pass) program, and the completion of a thesis of 12,000 words.

Honours entry

The prerequisites for entry to fourth-year honours in public policy and management are:

- completion of all subjects for BPPM third year; and
- an average grade of H2A or higher in the BPPM third year.

For information on how to apply see *Applying for Honours (p.13)*.

Honours requirements

Students undertaking BPPM Honours must complete 100 points of study including:

- Public Policy and Management Thesis;
- two core subjects; and
- three elective subjects.

Honours subjects

Students must complete:

166-514	Public Policy & Management Thesis (p.2) (37.5 points)	1 rep 2
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and the following two core subjects:

166-410	Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry (p.8)	1
166-423	Organisations and Management (p.2)	2

and 37.5 points of elective subjects chosen from the following;

166-411	Australian Politics:Democracy & Justice (p.9)	1
166-416	Justice, Democracy and Difference (p.9)	1
166-419	Policy Design (p.2)	1
166-427	Governance and Complexity (p.9)	N/A
166-442	Law, Ethics and Public Policy (p.10)	N/A
166-455	Managing Communications & the Media (p.2)	1
166-470	Contemporary Issues in Governance (p.2)	1
166-531	Comparative Social Policy (p.5)	2
166-547	Politics and Business in post-Mao China (p.12)	2
166-552	Public Policy A (p.3)	N/A
166-553	Public Policy B (p.3)	N/A
100-418	Media Policy and Regulation (p.8)	1
102-497	A Century of Australian Social Policy (p.4)	2
106-402	Cultural Policy and Power (p.13)	1
110-553	Human Rights in Southeast Asia (p.3)	1
191-415	Youth, Crime and Society (p.4)	2
191-417	Corporate and White Collar Crime (p.4)	1
191-422	Women, Gender and Crime (p.5)	1

Honours grade requirement

A student's final examination grade will be calculated over the weighted average mark of the thesis and the final-year subjects. As in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours), students will be required to obtain an honours grade in *each* component of assessment, *and* an overall grade of at least H3, to be eligible for an honours degree.

Workload

The honours degree is usually taken full time. In some circumstances (such as work commitments), and with the approval of the BPPM coordinator and the Faculty of Arts, you may be permitted to take honours part time over two years.

If you commence fourth year as a full-time student, you will usually be required to continue full time. You need permission from the Faculty to withdraw from fourth-year subjects after the first two weeks of each semester.

In all cases, your thesis must be completed over two consecutive semesters within a 12-month period of enrolment. Withdrawal from the thesis will only be permitted in very exceptional circumstances.

Leave of absence

It is possible for students accepted into honours to take leave of absence for 12 months before starting their fourth year.

Once you have commenced honours, leave of absence will only be approved with the support of the BPPM coordinator in exceptional circumstances. The maximum leave that will be granted is two semesters (12 months).

Extensions of time

Extensions of time for outstanding work during fourth-year studies (ie. as a result of illness) may be granted up to 31 December (or 30 June for work due at the end of semester one) by the BPPM honours coordinator. For all other extensions, you will require the prior written approval of the Associate Dean (Academic Programs) as well as the written support of the BPPM coordinator.

Further study

Masters and PhD options exist for BPPM graduates; both require an H2B average or higher in fourth-year honours.

Career opportunities

The School has extensive contacts in the Commonwealth, State and local governments and the community sector. It offers career guidance and planning for its students and graduates.

Further information

School of Political Science, Criminology and Sociology
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Web: <http://www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au>

Fourth-year subjects

166-514 Public Policy & Management Thesis

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 37.5

Coordinator: BPPM coordinator

Prerequisites: Completion of the first year of the Bachelor of Public Policy and Management with overall grade average of at least H2A, and admission to the Bachelor of Public Policy Honours.

Corequisites: 166-410 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry (*p.8*).

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor over two consecutive semesters of enrolment (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: A supervised thesis embodying the results of a student's own research.

Assessment: A thesis of 12 000 words 100% (due in October for students who commence in semester one and June for students who commence in semester two).

166-410 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry

See full subject details on page 8.

166-411 Australian Politics: Democracy & Justice

See full subject details on page 9.

166-416 Justice, Democracy and Difference

See full subject details on page 9.

166-419 Policy Design

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: to be advised

Prerequisites: Entry into the Postgraduate Certificate in Arts (Public Policy and Management), Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Public Policy and Management), or Master of Public Policy and Management two-year program.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines policy making from a number of different theoretical perspectives, introduces a range of methods and approaches to examining public policy, and develops policy design skills. It introduces students to how policy is made, through examining key theoretical models of the policy process. Methodologies, approaches and strategies for addressing contemporary policy issues are explored. The subject uses these policy models and theories, in conjunction with an introduction to methods for undertaking research and gathering evidence, to teach the political and technical skills of policy design. On completion of the subject, students should be able to demonstrate competence in critical and creative thinking, and the use of critical analysis and research methods to integrate arguments and evidence into the design of public policy.

Assessment: A class test of 2000 words 40% (due mid-semester), and a 3000 word policy design brief 60% (end of semester).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available from the Bookroom at the beginning of semester

166-423 Organisations and Management

Note: Formerly available as 166-896. Students who have completed 166-896 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. This subject is a core (compulsory) subject in the fourth year of the Bachelor of Public Policy and Management, in the first year of the Master of Public Policy and Management and in the first year of the Master of Social Policy.

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: To be advised

Prerequisites: Admission to the Bachelor of Public Policy and Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy and Management or postgraduate coursework programs in public policy and management or social policy.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject examines the modern public sector management function through a range of practical and theoretical perspectives. Focusing on placing public sector management into surrounding historical and quasi-ideological debates, the subject explores the nature of public sector management, its capabilities and boundaries, technologies of management and their associated functional applications, and the limitations of existing paradigms, policy tractability, and political will to deliver 'public value' (if there can be such a thing). Focused on critical case analysis, the subject requires a good understanding of political and public policy processes and contexts at the local, state, federal levels of Australia, and a willingness to participate in group discussion, activities and study. Participants will leave the subject with a broad introduction to public sector management as well as skills and techniques for investigating management issues.

Assessment: An essay of 3000 words 60% (due mid-semester) and a 2-hour exam 40% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

166-427 Governance and Complexity

See full subject details on page 9.

166-442 Law, Ethics and Public Policy

See full subject details on page 10.

166-470 Contemporary Issues in Governance

Note: This subject is a core (compulsory) subject in the MPPM two year program.

Availability: 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Jo Barraket

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPPM or MSP two year program or the Bachelor of Public Policy and Management fourth-year Pass or Honours program.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines contemporary issues in public policy in Australia and overseas. Students will investigate traditional and emerging governance models, with an emphasis on the changing nature of governance in the network society. The subject will examine the increasing role of civil society and other non-government actors in policy discourses which invoke 'partnerships', 'networking' and 'third way politics'. The subject will combine theoretical work on the nature of contemporary governance with studies of current policy and program debates. On completion of this subject students should have a well developed critical understanding of a range of governance models operating in contemporary society; understand the implications of emergent governance models for civil society and other non-government actors; understand the relationship(s) between global influences and emerging governance frameworks; have developed the analytical skills necessary to apply the above knowledge to critical evaluation of policy development and implementation in Australian and international contexts.

Assessment: A 1000 word essay 25% (due early April) and a 4000 word essay 75% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

166-455 Managing Communications & the Media

Note: Formerly available as 166-072. Students who have completed 166-072 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Dennis Miller

Prerequisites: Admission to the Bachelor of Public Policy and Management fourth-year pass or honours program, or the MPPM two year program.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: The subject studies the major theories of mass communication and the function of the press, including print and electronic media. The function of the press varies according to the political and social system in which it operates. In light of this, the function of the press in Australia is explored in relation to the so-called rights of the press, and in terms of the various intersections where the rights and functions of the press meet other interests, such as public sector institutions. Topics include legal, ethical and political issues, freedom of information, defamation, contempt, trespass, breach of confidence, privacy and whistle-blowing. Students will be exposed to operational processes within the public sector and the media. They will also receive practical instruction in communications, including writing, editing, presentation and media handling; in ways to identify the need for communications strategies; in how to conceive and design such strategies, and in their implementation and evaluation.

Assessment: Content analysis of 2000 words 40% (due mid-semester) and a communications strategy of 3000 words 60% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

166-552 Public Policy A

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma, fourth-year honours or postgraduate coursework program in public policy and management.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject involves a study of an approved topic in public policy. It is intended that the subject assist students in broadening their understanding of public policy issues by taking advantage of an area of study offered from time to time by visiting academics. Details of the programs being offered will be available in the School, and students must contact the School of Political Science, Criminology and Sociology before enrolling in this subject, since the ability to offer special topics will vary from year to year. Students who complete this subject should demonstrate a specialist understanding of the subject being studied; where appropriate, have contributed effectively to the work of the seminar being attended; show a capacity for an advanced level of analysis in relation to the issues being studied; and show an awareness of the latest research directions in the particular subject.

166-553 Public Policy B

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: MPPM Coordinator

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in public policy and management or postgraduate coursework program in public policy and management.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Not Offered*).

Description: This subject involves a study of an approved topic in public policy. It is intended that the subject assist students in broadening their understanding of public policy issues by taking advantage of an area of study offered from time to time by visiting academics. Details of the programs being offered will be available in the School, and students must contact the School of Political Science, Criminology and Sociology before enrolling in this subject, since the ability to offer special topics will vary from year to year. Students who complete this subject should demonstrate a specialist understanding of the subject being studied; where appropriate, have contributed effectively to the work of the seminar being attended; show a capacity for an advanced level of analysis in relation to the issues being studied; and show an awareness of the latest research directions in the particular subject.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words 100%.

100-418 Media Policy and Regulation

See full subject details on page 8.

106-402 Cultural Policy and Power

See full subject details on page 13.

110-553 Human Rights in Southeast Asia

See full subject details on page 3.

191-415 Youth, Crime and Society

See full subject details on page 4.

191-417 Corporate and White Collar Crime

See full subject details on page 4.

191-422 Women, Gender and Crime

See full subject details on page 5.
