



## **ACADEMIC ALERT #2006-01**

**DATE:** January, 2006  
**DECISION:** College of Arts and Science (CAS)  
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**New Masters Degree Program  
M.A. in Public Policy**

### **Rationale**

This new degree program complements the mission and activities of the Gidwitz Center, and is housed in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. Grounded in the Social Sciences, the new M.A. in Public Policy's framework is derived from the disciplines of sociology, political science, and economics. The degree provides the theoretical background and methodological skills necessary to analyze the content and effects of current public policy practices, with the goal of improving them or developing new or alternative policies.

Through its applied curriculum structure, the program aims to develop a framework for engaging its students in an understanding of the complexity of public policy decisions. This new degree program is designed to prepare its graduates to integrate and apply available knowledge to policy decisions, while engaging responsibly and effectively in the policymaking process by addressing contemporary social problems and proposing solutions at the community, city, county, state, national, and global levels.

**Senate Academic Planning Fast Track Subcommittee Approval: December 13, 2005**  
**Faculty Senate Approval: December 21, 2005**  
**Provost Approval: January 31, 2006**

**Program Authorizations:** The M.A in Public Policy Program is authorized to be offered in the following Illinois Regions: Chicago; North Suburban; West Suburban; and South Metropolitan.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Effective for students admitted to cohorts beginning Fall Quarter 2006**

**CONTACTS:** Andre Guerra, faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, (312) 261-3957  
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### **SIGNATURE**

**Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.**  
**Vice Provost**

## **Program Description**

The M.A. in Public Policy is aimed at providing the theoretical background and methodological skills necessary to analyze the content and effects of current public policy practices, with the goal of improving them or developing new and/or alternative policies. Through its applied curriculum, the program aims to develop a framework for engaging its students in an understanding of the complexity of public policy decisions. This degree prepares its graduates to integrate and apply available knowledge to policy decisions, while engaging responsibly and effectively in the policymaking process. This curriculum is framed around the following:

- Objectives: What are our values and policy objectives?
- Direction: What have been the past and existing directions within the context and intent of these values?
- Form: What factors have come to construct and shape these directions?
- Prediction: What are the possible future directions, under different circumstances?
- Selection: What policies would most effectively lead to the desired outcomes?

## **Admission**

The following documents are to be submitted by all applicants to the Master in Public Policy Program:

1. A completed application form (available online: [www.nl.edu](http://www.nl.edu)).
2. A nonrefundable application fee (see fee schedule).
3. Official transcripts from all institutions attended or a transcript showing completion of a master's degree. Completion of a bachelor's degree must be verified.
4. A list of three references to include supervisors, employers, professors, or others who have known the applicant in a professional or academic capacity, or are in the position to judge the applicant's ability for graduate study.
5. A written statement of academic and professional goals.
6. A resume or Curriculum Vitae.
7. An official transcript of scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), or another appropriate standardized test taken within the prior five years. This requirement is waived for an applicant who has earned a graduate degree from an accredited institution.
8. Admissions interview with a faculty advisor.
9. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) official scores are required if English is not the applicant's native language and college coursework was earned outside the United States. The Language Institute Assessment test may be taken in lieu of the TOEFL.

**M.A. in Public Policy Degree Program Curriculum**

<b>CORE COURSES (12 SEMESTER HOURS)</b>		
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
LAS 500	Foundations of Public Policy	3
LAS 505	Urban Policy Development	3
LAS510	Social Inequality and Public Policy	3
LAS 515	Leadership and Organizational Change	3
<b>METHODS COURSES (6 SEMESTER HOURS)</b>		
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
LAS 565	Research Design and Methodology	3
LAS 570	Policy Data Analysis and Planning	3
<b>SUBSTANTIVE COURSES (15 SEMESTER HOURS)</b>		
<b>Five of the Following:</b>		
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
LAS 520	Comparative Public Policy	3
LAS 525	Community Development Planning and Policy	3
LAS 530	Immigration Policy	3
MHA 511	Health Care Policies and Trends	3
LAS 535	Education and Public Policy	3
LAS 540	Bureaucracy and Policymaking	3
LAS 545	Technology and Public Policy	3
LAS 550	Public Policy and the Environment	3
LAS 555	The Politics of Policymaking	3
LAS 560	Public Finance	3
LAS 590	Public Policy Internship	3
<b>COMPLETION REQUIREMENT (3 SEMESTER HOURS)</b>		
<b>One of the Following:</b>		
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
LAS 593	Public Policy Seminar	3
LAS 599	Master Thesis	3
<b>TOTAL: 36 Semester Hours</b>		

## **Cohort Course Sequence**

### First Quarter

- LAS 500 Foundations of Public Policy
- LAS 505 Urban Policy Development

### Second Quarter

- LAS 510 Social Inequality and Public Policy
- One Substantive Course (see list of choices above; student consults with advisor)

### Third Quarter

- LAS 515 Leadership and Organizational Change
- LAS 565 Research Design and Methodology

### Fourth Quarter

- LAS 570 Policy Data Analysis and Planning
- One Substantive Course (see list of choices above; student consults with advisor)

### Fifth Quarter

- One Substantive Course (see list of choices above; student consults with advisor)
- One Substantive Course (see list of choices above; student consults with advisor)

### Sixth Quarter

- One Substantive Course (see list of choices above; student consults with advisor)
- LAS 593 Public Policy Seminar **OR** LAS 599 Master Thesis (student consults with advisor)

## **Implementation**

The program and courses must be built into Banner, and curriculum rules written for Banner.

The University Course Outlines (UCOs) have one time pilot approval status per the fast track process. The UCOs must go through the regular approval process before the courses are offered for the second time.

Materials need to be prepared by marketing; the new program needs to be added to NLU's web.

The new program and courses must be added to the 2006-2007 catalog.

The revised catalog copy will be written and submitted to the Vice Provost and University Registrar Catalog Coordinator prior to posting of the academic alert. This ensures that catalog copy is prepared and ready for the 2006-2007 catalog.