



▶▶ Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy (PhD)

▶▶ About the PhD Program

The Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy (PhD) offers learning and research opportunities for highly qualified students to advance knowledge and move the study of public policy forward. Students graduating from this program will be in a position to train the next generation of public service professionals and to conduct public policy and management research for government, business, think tanks and other research organizations.

The PhD program involves a combination of course work (culminating in a comprehensive exam) and proposing, writing and defending a dissertation. It is designed so that students can finish in as little as three years of full-time study. Students who are engaged in the program on a full-time basis can expect to receive financial support. Upon entry into the program, each student is assigned a research advisor and an advisory committee.

The school's scholarly work includes: public process intelligence, budgets and public finance, multi-level governance, agenda setting, good governance, decision making and ethical leadership, all within the context of the faculty's substantive research areas (social policy, health policy, innovation policy, public-sector management, resource and environmental policy, and trade and immigration policy).

Students entering the program are required to participate in the "Get Connected" academic orientation event offered prior to the start of fall term (i.e., in late August).

Program Curriculum

Students are required to complete nine credit units (three courses) from the following core set of courses:

- > **JSGS 865** - Decision Making in Organizations
- > **JSGS 869** - PhD Reading Course
- > **JSGS 803** - Qualitative Methods OR **JSGS 851** - Quantitative Methods

Students must also register in the two following courses:

- > **JSGS 990** (U of S) OR **JSGS 990AB** (U of R) - Seminar Series (continuous registration required)
- > **JSGS 996** - Research (U of S - continuous registration required) OR **JSGS 901** - Research (U of R)

Students at the U of S campus must also complete, in their first term of study, **GSR 960** Introduction to Ethics and Integrity. This is a non-credit, online course required by the College of Graduate Studies and Research and is offered at no cost to the student.

Students who have taken one or more of these courses previously (i.e., in a master's program) will be required to substitute an additional course or courses. Students may take additional courses in a particular subject area if they wish, subject to the approval of their advisory committee.

SARA MCPHEE-KNOWLES, PHD CANDIDATE, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN CAMPUS

"My experience at the school has been very positive so far. The students bring a great variety of experiences, backgrounds and perspectives to the program, and I find learning from my peers to be as engaging as learning from faculty. I hope to work in a research-related field in the future, especially in a position focused on disseminating research results to the public in terms of policy, and I think the array of knowledge provided in the PhD program will be a great asset."

Sara has also attained her BA (Hons), University of Saskatchewan, 2009

“Participating in the PhD in Public Policy at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my academic career. The diversity in the student body adds such depth to the variety already offered in the program. On top of that, my supervisor has been such a great resource and support! I would recommend the program to anyone interested in solving the most pressing issues facing society today.”

Jacquie has also attained her BA (Hons), University of Saskatchewan, 2005; MA in Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan, 2007

JACQUIE THOMARAT, PHD CANDIDATE, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN CAMPUS

Exams

Students entering the PhD program are required to pass a qualifying exam. This exam may be waived for students with a master's degree (with thesis) in public policy from a recognized university and for students with a master's degree (with thesis) in a cognate field (e.g., economics, political science, political sociology, public or educational administration). Normally this examination is administered within the first year, preferably within the first four months, of a student beginning the PhD program.

Students will complete a comprehensive exam following their prescribed course work. The comprehensive exam involves both written and oral components. The exams will cover general public policy topics, as well as material linked to the student's research program. Following successful completion of the comprehensive exam, students will move to the development of a dissertation proposal and, upon its approval, to the dissertation research. Students will be given the option of using either the standard dissertation structure or the three-paper model.

Please note that the PhD program is subject to revision at any time. For the latest information on the program, please check the website.

Application Qualifications

Applicants to the PhD program must have a master's degree in public policy, public administration or in a cognate discipline such as economics, political science, political sociology or educational administration, with a minimum average of 75 per cent in that program.

Please note that because the number of applications received greatly exceeds the number of available places, not all qualified applicants will be offered admission (we typically admit two to three students a year). Indeed, successful candidates will typically have an average well in excess of 80 per cent (or lower first class).

To apply to the program, applicants are required to submit a research program statement that outlines the research that they would like to pursue in the area of public policy. This should include a well-defined problem statement, a review of the appropriate literature, an initial methodology and a statement indicating the significance/relevance of such a research program. While students will not be held to the research program that they outline, the document will serve to guide the student and their committee with the courses and the material they explore through their course work.

Exceptional students may be considered for a transfer from the school's MPP or MPA program to the PhD program, following completion of at least 15 credit units of the core courses required for the MPP (MPA

students who wish to be considered must take MPP core courses through their electives). Students seeking a transfer will be required to pass a qualifying exam. Three letters of recommendation (typically from faculty in the school) in support of the transfer must be provided.

Application Deadlines

All students accepted into the PhD program begin in September. There are two application deadlines: February 1 and May 1.

Funding

Highly qualified doctoral students who are engaged in the program on a full-time basis can expect to receive funding at a competitive rate. All complete applications received by February 1 will be considered for funding. Complete applications received by May 1 will be considered for any remaining funding.



For more information regarding this program, including courses, pre-requisites and tuition, please visit www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca