



Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy

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 is designed for completion in three years of full-time study. Students may also choose to study part time over a maximum of six years. In either case, the program involves a combination of course work (culminating in a comprehensive exam) and proposing, writing, and defending a dissertation. Students who are engaged in the program on a full-time basis can expect to receive financial support. The PhD program is currently being offered through the University of Saskatchewan campus only.

The school's faculty have significant research backgrounds and interests in three areas: health and social policy; science, technology, and innovation; and trade and transnational regulation. This provides opportunities for students to explore topics in areas such as higher education, health and social policy, Aboriginal Peoples and public policy, the social economy, international trade agreements, innovation and science policy, regulation, and economic and cultural development.

CORE COURSES:

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

PUBP 810 – Qualitative Methods and Research Design

OR

PUBP 811 – Quantitative Methods and Research Design

PUBP 820 – Comparative Public Policy *

PUBP 830 – Decision Making in Organizations

* PUBP 820 can be satisfied by successfully completing one of the following courses – PUBP 812 (Aboriginal Peoples and Public Policy), PUBP 813 (Higher Education Policy), PUBP 814 (Social Policy: An Interdisciplinary Perspective), or PUBP 815 (Innovation Policy) offered at the University of Saskatchewan campus, or GSPP 822 (Comparative Public Policy) offered at the University of Regina campus. Students may also select a different course with comparative policy content offered by either the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina and approved by the student's advisory committee.

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.

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 will involve the preparation of a paper and an oral exam. The paper will be linked to the research program that the student has identified. 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.

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 to support their research. **All complete applications received by February 1, 2010, will be considered for funding.**

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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 percent in that program.

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 statement 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.

Students with a master's degree (with thesis) in public policy will be required to take a minimum of nine credit units (three courses) of course work at the PhD level. Each student will have their own faculty advisory committee. Students accepted into the program without this public policy background will be required to complete additional courses, as deemed necessary by their committee, for their successful completion of the program. All doctoral students must also enrol in PUBP 990 (seminar) and in PUBP 996 (research). In certain cases, students may be admitted on condition of satisfactory completion of all or a specified core of MPA/MPP courses and/or a qualifying examination of their prerequisite background for doctoral studies in public policy.

TRANSFER FROM MASTER'S PROGRAM

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.

TUITION

The tuition for the PhD program is \$1,030 per term, and students are required to maintain continuous registration. With three terms a year, the cost is \$3,090 per year plus applicable student fees. Students should plan on spending three to four years in the PhD program. Tuition and fees are subject to change.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Students can enter the PhD program only in fall (September). The following application deadlines should be noted:

- February 1 (guaranteed funding consideration)
- May 1 (possible funding consideration)



MORE INFORMATION

For more information regarding our programs, campuses, and how to apply, please visit

www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca.

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