

Full Name of Current Program: Political Science, Economics, and Sustainability

Stockton Program Acronym: POLS, ECON, and SUST

Degree/level of Current Program: B.A.

Certificate in Public Policy CIP code 44.0501

NCES CIP code details:

Title: Public Policy Analysis.

Definition: A program that focuses on the systematic analysis of public policy issues and decision processes. Includes instruction in the role of economic and political factors in public decision-making and policy formulation, microeconomic analysis of policy issues, resource allocation and decision modeling, cost/benefit analysis, statistical methods, and applications to specific public policy topics.

<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/cipdetail.aspx?y=55&cipid=88562>

Name(s) and signatures of Faculty Proposing New Option:

Ramya Vijaya, PhD
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Chair, Economics

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Faculty Director, Public Policy Center

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Date of Program Faculty Vote to Approve the Proposed New Option: May 1, 2024 (POLS)

Text Description of Proposed New Option:

The Public Policy Certificate is for students who wish to study public policy, an interdisciplinary field that combines skills and a base of knowledge from Economics and Political Science with issue areas such as Sustainability, Environmental Studies, Business Law, Health, Aging, and more, to analyze and evaluate public policy at the local, state, national, and global levels.

Date of Deans’ Council Review/Approval (with edits): 7/23/24

Date of Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Programs and Planning Approval: TBD

Date of the Provosts’ (Academic Affairs) Council Approval: 7/23/24

Date of the Faculty Senate Approval: TBD

Description of the New Academic Offering

The joint Public Policy Certificate offered by ECON, POLS, and SUST is for students who wish to study public policy, an inherently interdisciplinary field of study that connects Economics and Political Science to real-world policy issues in Sustainability, Environmental Studies, Education, Health, and more. Public policy includes initiatives, regulations, rules, and laws that address political, economic, and social issues affecting society and are administered by government at the local, state, and federal, and global levels. Public policy studies can be found in a variety of degree programs, ranging from standalone B.A., M.A., or Ph.D. degree programs to disciplinary concentrations or interdisciplinary minors at the B.A. level. This Certificate is designed to combine analytical skills and base knowledge of policy analysis from Economics (ECON) and Political Science (POLS) to other fields, where students can apply what they've learned to address substantive policy issue areas in their own major. Policy studies is about solving problems, and this Certificate would provide students with the necessary training to tackle the issues they care most about.

There is already evidence of the popularity of this discipline across the university, however, the current options are limited to only select majors. A search for "policy" on the university's [website for undergraduate degree programs](#) yields no results because it is not currently offered as a major, minor, or certificate. A general search for the word "policy" on the Stockton website yields many results, with Political Science, Sustainability, and Economics appearing in the top 6 links. The Economics (ECON) program currently offers a Concentration in Economic Policy for ECON majors only. Figure 1 shows small but consistent enrollment in this ECON concentration (appearing in royal blue) with an increasingly higher proportion over time to 16% of their majors in Spring 2024. The Sustainability (SUST) program currently offers a Concentration in Policy for SUST B.A. majors only. Figure 2 shows enrollment for SUST concentrations of Policy and Policy and Economy (appearing in purple and gold) have increased slightly proportional to overall enrollment, and in Spring 2024 accounted for almost 40% of their students. The Political Science program offers courses in public policy; however does not offer an existing concentration, track, or minor in this specific area; therefore, enrollment figures for POLS students pursuing policy-related degrees and career paths are not available at this time.

Figure 1. Economics Enrollment by Concentration

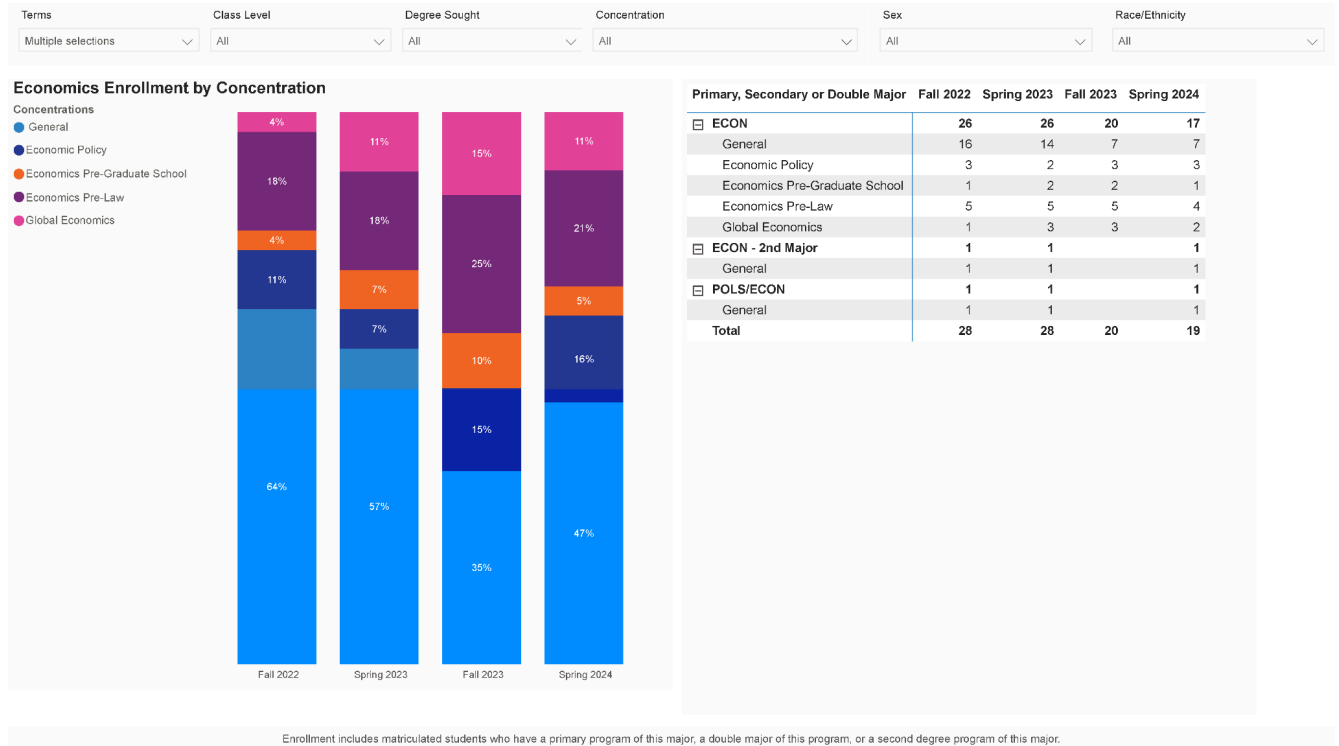
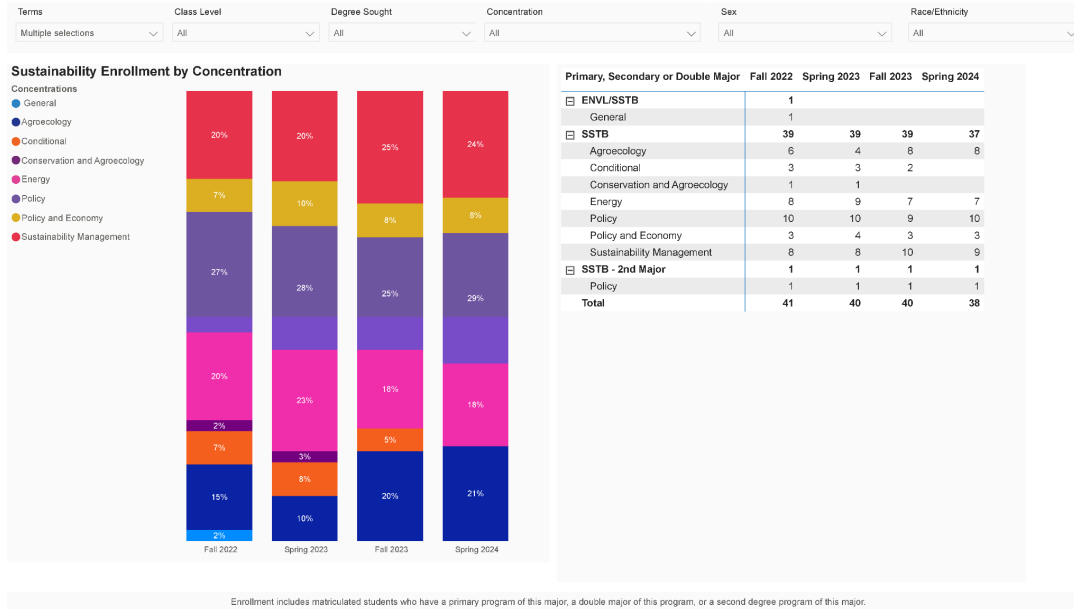


Figure 2. Sustainability Enrollment by Concentration



Further, the current Certificate in Political Science is designed to be broad-based across all of its subfields, with public policy as one of *many* options for students to choose from. Offering a joint Certificate in Public Policy allows students across the university to demonstrate focused study of this important field on their transcript and that they gained the necessary skills to work in the field. It also allows ECON students to expand their focus on public policy outside of economics, POLS students to expand their public policy experience to include economics and other fields of study, ENVL, SUST, HLTH, BUSN, and other students to add to their credentials in public policy, and other students seeking LIBA and other degrees to add an additional focused field of study.

This certificate also meets the academic requirements for a certificate for four-year institutions in New Jersey. Nationwide, some institutions outline the number of credits required for a minor (often known as a "mini-major" 18-30 credits) and a certificate 12-21 credits, and these are typically interdisciplinary. In New Jersey, community colleges offer certificates with a minimum of 30-36 credits. However, four-year institutions award certificates with as few as 12 credits, for example, Rowan University's [Certificates of Undergraduate Study \(CUGS\)](#). On Rowan's website, they state the following:

Minors provide a focused area of study constituting 18 to 29 credit hours of lower- and upper-level undergraduate courses that can be from multiple programs in different departments or colleges.

Certificates of undergraduate study are a credential for students completing an area of study totaling 12 to 17 credit hours. Specifically, Rowan's certificate of undergraduate study in Public Policy is 12 credits

Source: <https://chss.rowan.edu/departments/polisci-econ/acad/>

Rationale for Adding this Offering to the Stockton Curriculum

Core components of a “joint” Public Policy Certificate (faculty and curriculum) are currently in place. This proposal is asking to combine a similar course sequence already present in the Economic Policy Concentration with courses in public policy that are already offered as part of the Political Science B.A. degree program. Additional courses on specific public policy issues or content areas are also presently offered as part of existing degree programs in ENVL and SUST and as General Studies courses or electives for some majors. This area of study would now be available to students across the university as a transcribed Certificate in Public Policy. The ability of current faculty in ECON, POLS, and partner programs to consistently offer relevant courses now makes this possible. The ECON and POLS Programs will work with our appointed subject librarian to ensure library resources are kept up to date for students of Public Policy. They will also work with the [William J. Hughes Center on Public Policy](#) to further expand opportunities for affiliated faculty and enrolled students. Further, while the university has a public policy center that runs a [Polling Institute](#) and supports [faculty research](#) and [student research](#) on public policy issues, we do not currently have a standalone academic program dedicated to public policy. A joint Certificate in Public Policy is an excellent option to bring this to fruition and provide a new option for our students. Further, a joint Certificate fills an important gap in Stockton’s academic offerings in policy studies. The new Certificate would help Stockton compete with other higher education institutions in New Jersey and Philadelphia without saturating the market. Finally, this proposal asks for a rotation of administering the Certificate between the POLS, ECON, and SUST programs. Chairs will cooperate to decide which program administers the Certificate on a two or three-year rotation, including managing student requests, including the new Certificate in annual reports, and more. The POLS program will serve as the **de facto host, providing opportunities for ECON and SUST to host in the future.** Given the shared administration under existing programs of ECON, POLS, and SUST, the Certificate should have its own website that designates the current host program and chair, which will be linked out by all three academic programs.

Demand for the New Offering

The joint Public Policy Certificate allows students to gain skills and knowledge about public policy, which is a core component of governance in all issue areas. Evidence of the popularity of policy studies abound, ranging from standalone public policy Master’s degrees (e.g., Masters of Public Policy (MPP) and Master's in International Policy (MIP)), academic associations like the Policy Studies Organization (PSO), academic journals like the *Journal of Public Policy* and *Economic Analysis and Policy*, and the availability and demand for jobs in this field (e.g., on February 28, 2024 there were 2630 jobs listed on USAjobs that include “public policy” in the title and/or job description). The following is a sample of local institutions with current academic programs for students interested in this field, which are all undergraduate unless otherwise noted: Montclair’s B.A. Major in Policy Studies that started in 2022, Rowan’s Master of Public Policy Program (MPP) that started around 2022, Temple’s Public Policy Minor that

started in 2020, Kean's Public Administration Minor, Ramapo's Public Policy Minor, TCNJ's Public Policy and Management Minor, and Rutgers's Public Policy Minor. Additionally, in a national search in the U.S. News and World Report rankings, 106 total institutions and 60 National Universities offer this Minor. Overall, this Certificate prepares students for careers in public policy analysis and/or research in the public and private sectors and other related jobs, providing skills that are transferable to other careers too (e.g., data analysis).

Brief Overview of the Curriculum

The curriculum plan for the joint Public Policy Certificate is similar to the Economic Policy Concentration within the Economics Major, with the added flexibility for non-ECON majors. The joint Public Policy Certificate requires a minimum of 20 credits drawn from core courses in Economics and Political Science, with electives from across the university. **Please note: this minimum of 20 credits surpasses the minimum required by 4-year colleges and universities.** The Chairs of ECON, POLS, and/or SUST and Preceptors will work with students to approve acceptable course substitutions, if necessary. Students may also have the opportunity to complete policy research through the fellows program at the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, the State Department's Diplomacy Lab program, and more. **Recruitment of students for the certificate and opportunities for research and more will include outreach to underrepresented groups.**

Our conceptual framework for the Certificate in Public Policy comes from existing programs at similarly situated schools. For example, Temple University has a [Minor in Public Policy in Political Science](#) that consists of 6 courses, including two Political Science courses (U.S. Public Policy Making and Public Policy Analysis) and four policy-related electives from Economics, Criminal Justice, Environmental Studies, Geography & Urban Studies, Political Science Sociology, Human Resource Management, and Education. The City College of New York has an interdisciplinary [Minor in Public Policy and Public Affairs](#) that requires five courses, including an introductory course on public policy, a course on United States government and politics, a course on microeconomics or macroeconomics, one topical course related to public policy, and a course on research methodology. **Finally, Rowan University has a [Certificate of Undergraduate Study \(CUGS\) in Public Policy](#) that consists of 12 credits, with 1 core public policy course and 3 elective courses from across the university.**

Required Core Courses (12 credits):

- ECON 1200 Macroeconomics (4 cr) **(no prerequisite) - offered each semester**
- POLS/ECON 3636 Political Economics **(prerequisite of ECON 1200 or ECON 1400) OR ECON 3610 Econometrics (4 cr) (prerequisites of ECON 1200 and ECON 1400) - offered annually, schedule TBD**
- POLS 2190 Introduction to Public Policy (4 cr) **(no prerequisite) - offered annually, schedule TBD**

Plus two of any of the following 4-credit courses (8 credits):

- CRIM 2216 HOMELAND SECURITY
- ECON 2104 HEALTH CARE ECONOMICS
- ECON 2200 ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS
- ECON 2276 URBAN ECONOMICS
- ECON 2625 PERSPECTIVES ON LAW AND ECONOMICS
- ECON 3620 MONEY AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
- ECON 3690 ECONOMICS OF WORK AND PAY
- ENVL 3310 ENVL PLANNING AND POLICY
- ENVL 3313 NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY & LAW
- ENVL 3316 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & POLICY LAB
- GIS 3686 DISABILITY RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD
- GIS 4668 POLITICS AND ADVOCACY IN HIGHER EDUCATION
- GSS 2356 DISABILITY RIGHTS AND HISTORY
- GSS 2404 AGING AND THE LAW
- GSS 3109 NATURAL RESOURCES AND POLICY
- GSS 3151 PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES/ANALYSIS
- GSS 3156 MENTAL HEALTH POLICY AND PRACTICE
- GSS 3168 BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY
- GSS 3297 HEALTH POLITICS AND POLICY
- GSS 3360 SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE: EDUCATION IN 21ST CENTURY
- PLAW 3110 THE LEGAL, SOCIAL, AND ETHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS
- PLAW 3630 HEALTH LAW AND POLICY
- POLS 2180 INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- POLS 2245 RACE AND POLITICS
- POLS 2274 U.S. FOREIGN POLICY
- POLS 3345 POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION
- PUBH 2404 HEALTH POLICIES AND ISSUES
- SOWK 3101 HISTORY OF SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY
- SOCI 3260 FOOD ACCESS AND SOCIAL POLICY
- SUST 3313 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY/ LAW
- SUST 3315 NATURAL RESOURCES ENGINEERING AND POLICY
- SUST 3351 POLICY PRACTICUM

* Other courses may be added or substituted with permission of preceptor.

Additional Information

The core courses provide two path for students working towards this certificate: an econometrics path where they will develop skills in quantitative analysis of policy, and the

other a more advanced policy option for students not interested in developing quantitative skills. The Washington Internship Program (WIP) may count towards this certificate if the internship is policy-related; 4 credits may be approved as one of the two elective courses. Students who are interested in developing more advanced skills in analysis using other tools may also consider adding a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate (17-18 credits) through the Environmental Science/Studies Program at Stockton. This would help prepare students for specialization in GIS, a tool used in governmental and nongovernmental organizations to analyze trends and present policy data to the public. From ESRI: “Government leaders take a geographic approach to shape priorities, policies, and engagement. Leveraging enterprise-grade geographic information system (GIS) technology, they use maps, apps, analytics, and dashboards to manage issues such as equity, economic development, transit, land management, health, and safety.”

Learning Outcomes

The Learning Outcomes in this Certificate consist of the following:

1. **Policy Analysis Skills:** Develop the ability to critically analyze public policies, assess their effectiveness, and propose evidence-based recommendations for improvement.
2. **Understanding of Policy Frameworks:** Gain a thorough understanding of the theoretical frameworks and methodologies used in the formation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies.
3. **Research Proficiency:** Acquire advanced research skills to gather, analyze, and interpret data essential for informed policy decision-making.
4. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Learn to effectively communicate and engage with diverse stakeholders, including government officials, non-governmental organizations, and the public to facilitate collaborative policy development.
5. **Ethical and Equitable Policy Making:** Foster a deep commitment to ethical considerations in policy-making, emphasizing equity, inclusivity, and social justice.
6. **Interdisciplinary Integration:** Integrate knowledge from various disciplines such as economics, sociology, and political science to address complex policy challenges comprehensively.