Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Policy Informatics (Certificate)
The policy informatics certificate program provides knowledge and skills to students seeking careers in which they can use informatics tools, models and simulations to help individuals and groups deliberate and evaluate policy decisions as well as explore new governance infrastructures. Emphasis is placed on theories and research concerning decision-making, complexity theory and visualization of quantitative and qualitative information, collective intelligence, behavioral economics and persuasive technologies.

Policy informatics helps to advance evidence-driven policy design, wherein scientific models and analyses drive decision-making for resolution of complex policy challenges, dilemmas and problems. This is both an emerging field of research and a community of practice focusing on advancing decision-making in the public sector through information-centric analysis of evidence that leverages computational and technological advances. Professionals who use policy informatics are involved in designing, managing and evaluating information systems and infrastructures for policy construction, analysis and implementation.

Policy informatics advances the transdisciplinary nature of the public administration discipline by infusing it with the advances of information technology, management of information systems, and computational and informational science perspectives.

At a Glance

- College/School: Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- Location: Downtown Phoenix campus

Degree Requirements

15 credit hours
Five courses are required for the certificate. Students should review the certificate requirements and required courses on the School of Public Affairs' website. Students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") and to have no more than one grade below a "B-" in courses taken to complete the certificate program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. a statement of career and educational goals
4. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

International students who need an F1 or J1 visa to first need to apply to and be accepted into a graduate degree program prior to being considered for the certificate program. International students residing in the USA on other types of visas must adhere to all Graduate College policies and procedures regarding admission to be considered for admission to this certificate program.

All materials are submitted online through the graduate admission application.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.

Career Opportunities

Graduates are prepared to pursue a career in a field related to public administration or public policy, particularly in the areas of participatory governance and public engagement. This may include opportunities as either a manager or policy analyst in local, state or federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; and private organizations that interface with the public sector.
Contact Information

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