Policy Informatics (Graduate Certificate)

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Policy Informatics (Certificate)

The policy informatics certificate program provides knowledge and skills for students seeking careers that will 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: College of Public Service and Community Solutions
• Location: Downtown Phoenix campus

Degree Requirements

15 credit hours
Fifteen credit hours are required for the certificate: four required courses and one elective chosen from a list of preapproved courses. The elective taken toward the certificate will be selected with the faculty advisor. The faculty advisor will direct the selection of the elective to ensure a focus on a common theme and to see that the student's experiences in the courses align with the learning goals outlined for the certificate. Students are required to maintain at least a 3.00 GPA (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 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 of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (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 (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

All materials are submitted online through the graduate admission application.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.

Contact Information

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