From the No. 9 ranked public affairs school in the country, this public policy certificate provides a deeper understanding of policy development and evaluation. The five courses are completed in downtown Phoenix, the heart of local, state and national government in Arizona.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Public Policy (Certificate)

This certificate program in public policy prepares students for professional careers as policy analysts and leaders in public service who are involved in the formulation, approval, implementation and evaluation of public policy at all levels of government and in the private and nonprofit sectors. The program is designed to give students analytical techniques and conceptual frameworks for understanding policy issues as well as for identifying potential solutions and applying these skills to real-world issues.

At a Glance

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

Degree Requirements

15 credit hours

Required Core (9 credit hours)
PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis (3)
PAF 540 Advanced Policy Analysis (3)
PAF 541 Program Evaluation (3)

Electives (6 credit hours)
Additional Curriculum Information
The electives are chosen from a list of preapproved courses and will be selected with the faculty advisor. The faculty advisor will direct the selection of the electives to ensure that they focus on a common theme, and to see that the students' experiences in the courses align with the learning goals outlined for the certificate. For the electives, students select any two three-credit PAF courses that are 500-level. Students should note that PAF 504 is a prerequisite for PAF 505.

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 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 of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their 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. 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.

Students from related fields (e.g., public administration, political science, planning, urban and metropolitan studies, sociology, and other social science fields) might be interested in this program. However, all eligible students will be considered.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms.
Contact Information

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