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## Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Affairs

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# The Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Affairs (MPPA) is the flagship program of the Division of International Politics, Economics, and Public Policy (IPEPP).



**Christin Cave** earned her BA in English Literature and Political Science from the University of

Michigan in 2005. She was attracted to the MPPA's comprehensive, theoretical and practical curriculum to prepare her for work in sustainable development in emerging nations. Following her coursework, Christin was a trainee at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the Directorate for Education and has since been retained as a consultant. Upon completing the program in 2010 Christin intends to take the Foreign Civil Service Officer exam in the hope of working with the U.S. government to contribute to education in developing countries.

With increasing global interdependence, foreign and domestic policies intersect. Whether in the public or private sector, policy-makers need to have an international and transnational framework in order to develop, analyze and implement viable programs for their co-citizens. The MPPA provides rigorous training in international relations theory and practice, and equips students with the analytical and quantitative tools for policy-making that are essential to promoting ethical and efficient policy reform in our interconnected world.

The nature of political problems today requires flexibility and imagination. The MPPA degree offers a multidisciplinary perspective on international politics and policy-making, drawing from the fields of economics, political science, international relations, political sociology, international law, and philosophy to ensure strong intellectual preparation for challenging international careers.

As an integral part of the IPEPP Division's commitment to both theory and practice, the program provides precise theoretical analysis through coursework and public lectures, along with 'hands-on' professional training, necessary for leaders in the international public policy or civil society sectors.

Graduates can expect to pursue careers in government, business, and international organizations, utilizing a wide range of skills to solve complex international, political, and social problems.

## Learning Goals

- Provides students with a rigorous theoretical, analytical, and intellectual preparation, as well as hands-on professional training, both necessary to become leaders in the international public policy or civil society sectors.
- Educates students to become effective problem-solvers in public policy and conflict resolution, and proactive in their understanding of the complexities of sustainable responses.
- Trains students to acquire intellectual autonomy, to make informed decisions, and to demonstrate imagination and openness to new experiences, as well as to have the flexibility to think across disciplines and transfer skills between areas of expertise.



**Zachary Cleary** is a social entrepreneur who is passionate about building

technology-based solutions to address systemic issues in Micro Finance. After graduating from Hampshire College with an interdisciplinary BA in technology and development, Zachary co-founded Zanadu Technologies, a financial network that will deliver community-based 'social finance.' The financial platform extends alternative methods of funding to developing markets. Zachary recently enrolled in the MPPA to help take his business to the next level.



**Jonathan Roth** earned his BA in Communications from St. Edward's University in 2005.

Pulled between a successful career in Communications and Graphic Design, and work in international oil and gas, Jonathan decided to make a career change. His engagement in international trade policies heightened his interest in international affairs and inspired him to pursue the MPPA. After completing the program in 2010, Jonathan hopes to work on international policy issues related to global energy.

## Highlighted courses

**Solutions for Collective Problems: Introduction to Public Policy Analysis** introduces students to the study of public policy using a comparative framework. After examining theoretical approaches to the subject, a variety of institutional arrangements that shape public policy are examined: the role and impact of political intermediaries and electoral mechanisms; the significance of different economic systems; and the stages of the policy-making process. Drawing on case studies from major political groups and governments around the world, a selection of public policy areas are explored such as health policy, economic policy, tax policy, education policy, and environmental policy.

**Microeconomics/Macroeconomics for Policymaking** provides a general understanding of the market system's functioning and failures to offer a critical and empirical overview of the effectiveness of microeconomic-macroeconomic policies in a global context. Microeconomic and Macroeconomic failures in capitalist economies justify government interventions. National public policies are essentially what governments do and do not do, determining the scope, limits, and forms of social action.

**Politics and Policy I: Positive Comparative Politics** is an introduction to basic concepts, methodologies, and empirical studies in comparative politics. Themes in comparative politics, such as development, democratization, regime change, etc., along with basic questions of comparative methodology, are addressed. The origins, development, and functions of the modern state are also addressed. The course also reviews contemporary challenges to political systems around the world, including the "constitutionalization" of politics, globalization, regionalization, and transnationalization.

1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Summer	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester	4 <sup>th</sup> Semester
2 Public Policy core courses	2 Public Policy core courses		1 Public Policy core course	1 Public Policy core course
1 International Affairs core course	1 International Affairs core course	Internship or field research off campus	2 International Affairs elective courses	Seminar in Problem Solving
2 modules	2 modules		Research Methods Seminar	20,000 word thesis or research project
16 credits	16 credits		14 credits	14 credits

\* Enrollment is possible in fall and spring semesters.