

Carleton

Public Policy Program

507-222-4116

Dear Future Carl,

Congratulations on your acceptance to Carleton! It is my pleasure to introduce you to our college's [Public Policy Program](#). The [Public Policy minor](#) evolved from a long-standing and popular interdisciplinary program in Political Economy that was a bridge between our two largest social science departments. The current PPOL minor is even more interdisciplinary. It includes core and upper-level classes from the humanities and STEM departments as well as a wide range of social science offerings. It's already one of the most popular minors on campus and is fulfilling our goal of attracting a diverse group of students who represent an array of disciplines from physics and math to languages, literature and arts.

The program is designed to encourage students to cultivate an interest in public issues and policy making while helping them to develop the tools to participate and, perhaps, find service roles in civic and community affairs. Our classes emphasize the importance of ethics, accountability, integrity, professional competence, efficiency, objectivity, respect, equity, and fairness in the development and evaluation of policy.

Although not required, we encourage students pursuing the minor to focus their advanced work in concentration areas such as Public Health, National Security, the Environment or Education (to name a few). Regardless of specialty, these courses highlight the importance of positioning public policy within the context of global, social, economic, technological and demographic changes. For example, our mandatory gateway class, POSC 265, is called *Public Policy and Global Capitalism*.

After a hiatus during the epidemic when we canceled the Public Policy [off-campus study](#) opportunity in Washington DC in 2022, the program has returned to the capital for the winter 2024 term! While in DC we will engage with policymakers, interest groups, analysts and activists on a range of policy issues. The OCS term also incorporates an internship, intended to enhance experiential learning and professional resume-building, and coursework designed to build collaborative research and analytical skills. We hope to offer it every 4 years.

I would be happy to talk with you about Public Policy at Carleton. Please feel free to email me at gmarfleet@carleton.edu.

Sincerely,



Director of Public Policy
Dorothy H. and Edward C. Congdon Professor of Political Science

