Want to learn more about the worlds of public policy, civic engagement and public affairs?

Check out Humphrey School Undergraduate Course Offerings

Spring 2016

PA 1401 – Public Affairs: Community Organizing Skills for Public Action (3 credits)
Meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:15-9:30 a.m.
Instructor: Dennis Donovan, National Organizer, Public Achievement

This is a hands-on introduction for students wanting to develop skills, confidence, and knowledge to make positive change in public affairs. It acquaints students with hopeful examples of successful citizen organizers and organizations working to tackle tough public problems, from racism to teen pregnancy, failing schools to environmental degradation. Students will gain practical skills such as thinking politically, forming partnerships, understanding diverse self-interests, mapping power, and knowing about the culture, history and social networks needed to make change.

PA 3003 – Nonprofit and Public Financial Management (3 credits)
Meets Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00 a.m.
Instructor: John Gunyou, Former Minnesota State Commissioner of Finance

This course introduces students to the concepts and tools necessary for successful project planning and budgeting, including program analysis, interpreting financial reports, identifying and resolving organizational performance issues. The course uses case studies and real-world exercises.

PA 3990 – Changing the World: Contemporary Public Policy (3 credits)
Meets Wednesdays, 4:40-7:20 p.m.
Instructor: Joel Mixon, Senior Academic Advisor, Humphrey School Student Services and Undergraduate Leadership Minor Instructor

This course provides a foundation for understanding the what, who, where, and how of public policy decision-making. These components are explored from different perspectives while delving into questions such as: What is public policy good for? Who decides policy priorities? What effect does public policy actually have in solving public problems? How can we improve public policy making?
PA 4101 – Nonprofit Management and Governance (3 credits)
Meets Tuesdays, 4:40-7:25 p.m.
Instructor: Stephanie Jacobs, Deputy Director, Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center and former Program Director, Nonprofits Assistance Fund

This course explores the theories, concepts, and some real-world examples of how to manage nonprofit and public organizations. Students will study governance systems, strategic management practices, the effects of different funding environments, and management of multiple constituencies.

PA 4144 – Social Entrepreneurship (3 credits)
Meets Mondays, 4:40–7:25 p.m.
Instructor: Colleen Gross Ebinger, Founder and CEO of Impact Strategies Group

Prepares current/future managers/leaders to create, develop, and lead socially entrepreneurial organizations and initiatives. Students in the course will learn core concepts about how to generate ideas and identify opportunities for new ventures that address important social issues and then develop those ideas and opportunities into a feasible plan. Students work individually or in small teams on the most promising ideas for social ventures generated in the class. Over the semester, through classroom discussion and specific skill development, students expand those ideas into an actionable plan and present the plan to a panel of experts in social entrepreneurship. Prerequisite: Junior or senior.

PA 4290 – Mayor 101 (3 credits)
This is a combined section class.
Meet Mondays, 6:00–8:45 p.m.
Instructor: RT Rybak, Former Minneapolis Mayor

This course is geared toward upper division undergraduates who are curious about a career in urban and regional planning, or simply want to know how planning works and affects our lives. It provides an introductory overview of planning theory and practice, with primary attention to current issues in planning practice in the U.S. The content covers land use, urban design, transportation, community development, housing, and environmental planning problems within the broader context of the historic development of cities, political processes, and regional and national economic forces.