

THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**EDUCATES, ENGAGES, AND EQUIPS
LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISCOVER
SOLUTIONS THAT ADVANCE THE COMMON
GOOD IN OUR DIVERSE WORLD**

HUMPHREY SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A renowned public policy school with dynamic leadership and faculty, The University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs is based in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area, a vibrant hub of nonprofits, foundations, and Fortune 500 companies and the seat of state government. In this region, important conversations about the world's most pressing issues are taking place.

Since 1977, the Humphrey School has been training public policy leaders. Our professors, scholars, practitioners, alumni, and students form an influential network of experts throughout the region and the nation. Inclusive and just public policy requires leaders from all perspectives, including yours.

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hhh.umn.edu/application-process



DEAN NISHA BOTCHWEY is a distinguished urban planner and education leader. Her research and teaching have been at the nexus of environmental and health policy and the built environment, with a special focus on youth engagement and health equity. She is co-editor of the book "Making Healthy Places," now in its second edition, and author of numerous other publications. She leads with the vision of making systems equitable to advance our diverse society.



THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL LEGACY

The Humphrey School is named for Minnesota political icon, US Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, a statesman recognized internationally for his contributions to improving the well-being of humanity.

ABOUT THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

You have a vision for how things could be better. But how do you make your vision into reality? Effective leaders know how to peel back the layers of a problem to see what lies beneath—and have the skills to create solutions that work for everyone.

At the Humphrey School, we want you to bring your passion and your unique self. Share and learn from fellow students and renowned faculty. Have challenging conversations that expand your understanding. Find out how to transform your passion into effective policy and energize your career.

We offer six distinctive master's degrees, a doctoral degree, and five certificate programs that match students' passion with the knowledge, skills, and experience they need to solve real-world challenges. We have expert faculty who want you to succeed.

Your Vision + New Skills = Real World Solutions

WHY CHOOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

There are many reasons that the Humphrey School is ranked in the top 5 percent of public policy schools nationally. Our leadership is dynamic, starting with Dean Nisha Botchwey, a national authority on planning for healthy public spaces. Our award-winning faculty members are experts in their fields—and are committed to helping students change their communities and the world. Our alumni are remarkably engaged, forming a long-lasting professional network for current students and graduates. One-third of students are paired with mentors to guide their development.



Humphrey School
students come from

41
countries



65 %
In-State Students

35 %
Out-of-State
Students

Information based on 5-year average



WHAT IS PUBLIC POLICY?

Effective public policy makes society better for everyone in it. But good policy doesn't just happen. It relies on top-level decision makers who can conduct and understand qualitative and quantitative research, engage with stakeholders, recognize power structures, and understand technological factors. They know how to have tough conversations and collaborate on solutions.

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

BUILD YOUR VISION.

We prepare future leaders to advance the common good in a diverse world. Humphrey School Master of Public Policy graduates have the critical thinking skills to turn their vision for the future into effective governance. In this interdisciplinary program, you will dive deep into your interest areas and gain the analytical, organizational, and political skills needed to make societal change.

Our graduates make public policy and manage organizations at the local, regional, state, and national levels. They are working in Minnesota, Washington, DC, and around the world.



YOU WILL LEARN

- Critical thinking and research skills
- To dive deeply into complex social problems and how they came to be
- To understand institutions and power relationships
- To evaluate and address inequities, whether social, economic, or political
- To reflect on your own place in society, and what citizenship means to you



WHY I CHOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

IZAACK MENDOZA, MPP ALUM

Izaak Mendoza (MPP/MBA '20) and his wife, Becky Mendoza, didn't know anyone when they moved to Minnesota from Wyoming to begin graduate school at the University of Minnesota. Mendoza's solution to finding friends? He joined the University's marching band.

"A terrible idea," he said with a chuckle, referring to the time crunch that marching band added to an already busy schedule—along with classes and studying he had a job at the Minnesota State Capitol. "But it was also a great idea because it gave me a sense of community and belonging."

A percussionist, Mendoza helped launch the social media campaign that got the band a spot in the 2018 Super Bowl in Minneapolis, where they performed during Justin Timberlake's halftime show. Mendoza's passion for promotion has paid off. He's now the associate director of advertising and digital marketing at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in Washington, DC. CFR is a nonpartisan think tank that promotes understanding of international relations and foreign policy.

Mendoza says his interest in international affairs started when he was an undergraduate at the University of Wyoming. A first-generation student of dual heritage—he is Hispanic and American Indian—he studied international relations, Spanish, religious studies, and anthropology.

"I wanted to see how the world worked—or didn't," he said.

Mendoza chose the U of M because he wanted a graduate school program that offered experiential learning. After doing his research, "I only applied to the University of Minnesota."

In three years, he completed both a master's in public policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and an MBA from the Carlson School of Management.

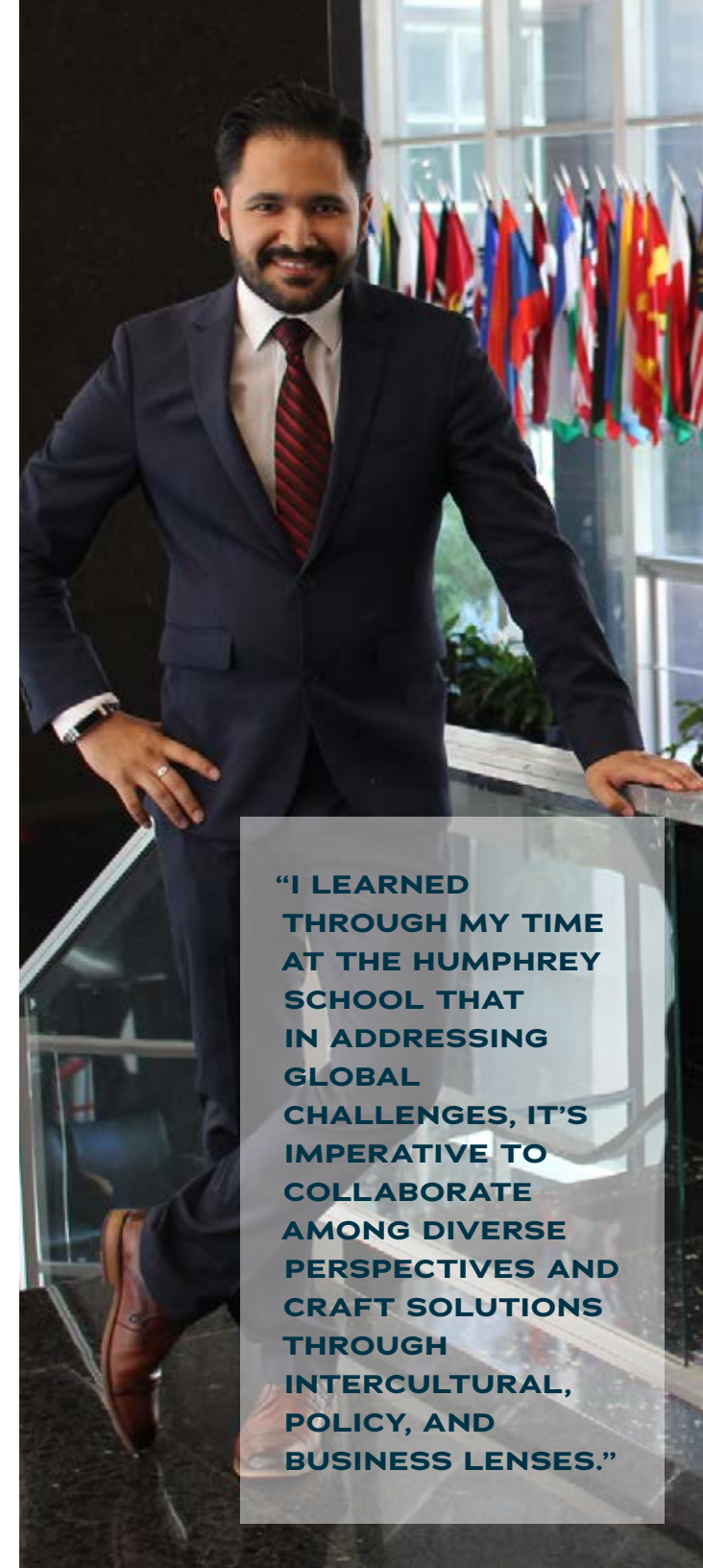
"I knew I wanted to live at this intersection of policy and business," he said. "They are both so intricately woven in our society today."

After his first semester at the Humphrey School, he got his dream internship in the public diplomacy bureau of the US State Department. He credits his mentor Mary Curtin, diplomat-in-residence, for connecting him to this and many other opportunities. She tapped him for leadership roles, and also introduced him to people at the State Department and US Department of Commerce, and even US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield. "Those were really special moments for me," he said.

Today, Mendoza's job at CFR involves promoting the organization's work via digital ads, including in Politico and Axios, and on streaming platforms. He's particularly interested in helping educators tap into CFR's resources, which include books and its magazine, *Foreign Affairs*.

"My job is to bring the skills I've learned in the corporate side into a nonprofit think tank, and to help Americans understand what's going on in a deeper way," he said.

"We provide resources that help people understand what's going on so they can make educated, informed decisions—not only the everyday reader, but the policymakers who come to us to understand [for example] what the war in Ukraine means for agriculture prices in a different country."



"I LEARNED THROUGH MY TIME AT THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL THAT IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES, IT'S IMPERATIVE TO COLLABORATE AMONG DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND CRAFT SOLUTIONS THROUGH INTERCULTURAL, POLICY, AND BUSINESS LENSES."



MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

MPP SPECIALIZATIONS

You may choose to focus on:

- Advanced policy analysis
- Gender and public policy
- Global public policy
- Politics and governance
- Public and nonprofit leadership and management
- Science, technology, and environmental policy
- Social policy
- Self-designed



WHY I CHOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

EMMA PEDERSON, MPP ALUM

For Emma Pederson, it's the 'policy' in the Humphrey School's Master of Public Policy program that inspires her. Pederson, who completed her degree in the spring of 2023, began her graduate studies in social work, but then switched to the Humphrey School.

"The MPP has been invaluable in shaping what I saw my career as and where I wanted to go," she said. "I really love the policy aspect, but I've also sunk my teeth into quantitative analysis skills. The econometrics and statistics really drew me to this program. They're really tangible skills."

Where Pederson 'wants to go' after she graduates is law school, to focus on police misconduct. Her data analysis skills will help her to examine crime and policing data, to uncover patterns that may not be obvious.

'FELL IN LOVE' WITH STATISTICS

Pederson has learned to design and perform quantitative research using statistical software programs such as STATA and R.

"Professor Gabe Chan made me fall in love with statistics," she said. "He did a really good job of teaching us these really concrete ideas and making them apply to policy analysis. It's very inspiring and motivating."

Another thing she appreciates is the nearby IPUMS data center, which collects and distributes databases such as the American Community Survey and the US Census. This University asset makes it possible for scholars like her to examine public datasets using the methods they learn in class. "We're so lucky to have IPUMS here," she said.

Pederson has also learned how to present data in a compelling way. "Data visualization is such a small thing, but when you're working in public policy, it really matters how you communicate issues to a general audience," she said. "Public policy research should be accessible to all people, because politics is for the betterment of everyone."

Pederson says one of the best things about the MPP program is that it is challenging and welcoming at the same time.

"It is competitive and rigorous, but the peer community has been extremely supportive and has really gotten me through. Having that cohort of people who've gone through it with me has surprised me, and has been one of the great parts of the whole program."



"IT IS COMPETITIVE AND RIGOROUS, BUT THE PEER COMMUNITY HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE AND HAS REALLY GOTTEN ME THROUGH."

COMMITMENT TO A CAUSE

Pederson is currently working for a Minneapolis nonprofit, Communities United Against Police Brutality; her godparents are also involved with the group. Her commitment stems from bad personal experiences with police as a teenager, and from working with many people who've had similar experiences.

Pederson has also been a teaching assistant at the Humphrey School, and interned as a sexual assault counselor at a crisis hotline. She has performed one-on-one counseling and cohosted a drop-in support group. She also helped create curriculum for the 40-hour sexual assault counselor training program.

Pederson has no illusions about her future plans. She knows she will have a career in which the challenges are big and the salaries relatively small. But she says the effort is worth it.

"For our disadvantaged sections of the population, people who are poor or marginalized, they have a very different experience of the police than other segments of society do."

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

GRAND CHALLENGES. BIG IMPACT.

Sustainable energy transitions. Environmental justice. Climate change. Clean water. Food security. Land use. Disruptive technology. Solutions to complex issues like these require leaders and innovators.

The Humphrey School's MS-STEP program, one of the leading programs in the nation, will prepare you to integrate science with policy to solve grand challenges. You will learn interdisciplinary approaches and skills in policy analysis, advocacy, and leadership.

If you're passionate about energy and environmental issues, this program offers you the skills to increase your impact. No matter what your undergraduate degree and skills are, you'll build on them to translate science to effective policy.



YOU WILL LEARN

- To use systems thinking to tackle complex challenges
- To analyze how people fit into systems and power structures
- To work across disciplines
- To effectively communicate energy and environmental issues
- To conduct policy analysis and engaged research for equity and justice
- To evaluate alternatives and propose solutions



WHY I CHOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

ALEXA CARRERA, MS-STEP

Alexa Carrera is determined to move the needle on energy justice. So far, renewable energy technologies have benefited high-income folks the most, in the form of pricey electric vehicles and rooftop solar panels for homeowners. Low-income households still pay the biggest share of their income for energy. Carrera wants to help write energy policies that ensure everyone benefits.

“There’s a huge lack of diversity when it comes to who is in positions of power, and what goes into laws. I and other people of color have different perspectives. I hope to be an advocate for energy justice,” she said.

As a child, Carrera moved between the United States and Guatemala several times. She discovered twin passions for biology and advocacy while attending Augsburg University in Minneapolis, and pushed the school to switch to solar panels for its electricity.

She took college courses during high school and earned her bachelor’s degree in biology in three years. She opted not to go straight into the working world.


“I decided that I’m not done learning,” Carrera said.

In her undergrad years, she said, “I got really interested in science and policy. I learned that you can’t make much difference with technology unless you affect policy.”

Carrera looked for a graduate program that would foster her twin passions and found it close by at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She applied for early admission to the Master of Science in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (MS-STEP) program. Not only was she admitted, she also received a DOVE scholarship, which covers her tuition costs and gives her a stipend while in school.

In her first year, Carrera gained the skills she will need to influence energy policy. Although she describes herself as a “shy person,” professors and fellow students made her feel welcome and valued.

In class, she’s gaining communications and critical thinking skills. Discussion-based classes foster confidence for public speaking. She’s learning to debate—arguing both sides of an issue. She is writing policy memos—persuasive documents that brief decision-makers on issues, such as whether to allow a power company to raise its rates.



“YOU CAN’T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WITH TECHNOLOGY UNLESS YOU AFFECT POLICY.”

Carrera has a second-year “buddy” who helps her with nuts-and-bolts questions about classes and campus. Her alumni mentor Aaron Hanson (MS-STEP ‘17), at the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment, contacts her regularly with opportunities for learning and networking on and off campus.

Carrera is excited about taking classes such as Tribal Energy Transitions, which will include field visits to Tribal nations in Minnesota to study how they use energy. She’s especially looking forward to doing research in energy policy, possibly with her advisor, Associate Professor Gabriel Chan.

“Gabe is one of the few people in the country who does research on rural energy co-ops. I really admire and would like to work with him,” she said.

In her first semester, Carrera got an internship at Grid Catalyst, a local technology incubator. There, she helped to organize funding competitions for energy start-ups. She’s also networking with people in the energy policy world.

“I really want to make a difference in this world, and this program is helping me discover how to do that,” she said. “This is what I’m supposed to be doing right now.”

MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

COLLABORATION AND IMPACT ACROSS CULTURES.

Global challenges such as poverty, social justice, and the climate crisis can't be solved by one person alone. They require the talents and perspectives of many. The Humphrey School's MDP graduates understand the power of collaboration and diversity.

Our MDP students work internationally and interculturally right from the start. Together with classmates from around the world, you'll tackle global problems that have no roadmap and no easy solution. You'll assemble a team, form a plan, implement it, and evaluate its impact. You will work outside your comfort zone and understand power relationships that affect social justice.

YOU WILL LEARN

- The theory and practice to address sustainable development challenges
- To think critically, and quickly dig in to problems for which there are no easy solutions
- To gather the resources that a mission-driven organization needs to achieve its goals
- To collaborate as a member of a diverse team



WHY I CHOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

DALILA HUSSEIN, MDP ALUM



After graduating from the University of Cairo, Dalila Hussein was recruited to do market analytics for a corporation. Two years into that career path, she was a successful data analyst, but she realized the corporate world was not for her. “I felt a disconnect. Making more millions for a company didn’t align with my values.”

Hussein decided to apply her considerable skills to monitoring and evaluating nonprofit programs for the greater good. She set a goal to transition her career to the development field. But that transition wasn’t guaranteed.

In Egypt, the nonprofit sector job market is very competitive. She needed to differentiate herself from other applicants. A naturally curious person, she also yearned to learn more about the world and its issues.

Hussein applied to several programs, received several offers, and chose the Humphrey School of Public Affairs’ Master of Development Practice (MDP) program.

“THE MDP GIVES YOU AN OVERVIEW OF ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, AND CLIMATE. THIS RANGE OF EXPOSURE TO DIFFERENT FIELDS IS WHAT DREW ME IN.”

“The key was the interdisciplinarity of the structure,” she said. “The MDP gives you an overview of economics, management and leadership, education, agriculture, and climate. This range of exposures to different fields is what drew me in. I wanted to explore and find a focus.”

The Yousriya Loza-Sawiris Scholarship made her study at the Humphrey School possible. This family foundation sponsors three Egyptian students to study at the Humphrey School each year.

As it turned out, her coursework was just the beginning of her learning experience at the Humphrey School. The MDP gives students the chance to do consulting work with companies and nonprofits that apply. Hussein has had several consulting assignments, and they have been perfectly aligned with her coursework.

In her first semester, she took a program evaluation class. In her first consulting assignment, she evaluated the effectiveness of a multilingual journalism teaching program in small-town Willmar, Minnesota.

“I got to use everything I learned in class, and it was one of the highlights of the program so far,” she said.

In her second consulting assignment with the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment, she reviewed market analytics for a new agricultural technology forecasting tool.

Her third consulting project took her farther afield—to Mongolia. She and three of her classmates spent the summer there. They evaluated a tourism development project in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia. They scouted project feasibility, talked with stakeholders, held community engagement workshops, and met with tour operators in Ulaanbaatar.

They analyzed the business plan and did a cost-benefit analysis, including revenue modeling and pricing. They piloted the project by staying with a home host, who cooked them a meal and taught them a local game that uses sheep ankle bones as game pieces.

The MDP has broadened her mind, Hussein said. She had known that she cared about the issues of poverty, education gaps, and health. Through coursework and work experiences, she discovered how much the climate crisis intertwines with those other issues.

In her second year, she traveled to her home country to take part in the COP27 climate conference as part of the University’s delegation. “Getting to attend sessions, discussions, and negotiations that drive global policy and activism on climate change is both empowering and humbling,” she said.

“Opportunities like this are very rewarding and really complement the classroom experience. The great things happening outside the classroom are as important as the ones happening inside the classroom.”

MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

SEE THE BIG PICTURE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Planners help to shape neighborhoods and cities. They can make cities more livable, healthier, and easier to navigate.

A Humphrey School MURP offers a holistic, rigorous education in how to develop physical spaces to serve everyone who lives in them. We look for students who have a vision for how they want the world to be, and who like working on large, long-term community projects together with the public.

Communication skills are a big part of this program. You will learn to engage with the public to understand stakeholder needs and achieve social justice. You will use these and other skills acquired in the program to plan and build a shared vision.



SPECIALIZATIONS

- Environmental planning
- Housing and community development
- Land use and urban design
- Transportation planning
- Self-designed



WHY I CHOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

GUSTAVE STEWART, MURP ALUM

Gustave Stewart wants to help make transportation more sustainable, efficient, and multimodal. It's part of his larger goal of making cities and communities healthier and more equitable.

Stewart decided to pursue his Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs because he knows it will give him the skills to tackle these goals.

"Most urban planning and transportation planning programs are design focused. I liked the fact that the Humphrey School MURP was policy focused," he said. Affordability was also a factor in his choice—the Humphrey School gave him scholarships to support his studies.

Stewart also got a research assistantship that made it more affordable and gave him valuable team work experience.

"I worked with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on bicycle-pedestrian trail data," he said. "We looked at patterns and trends on DNR trails. Usage trends can help the DNR decide when to perform maintenance and other work."

Before coming to the Humphrey School, Stewart completed his bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Iowa and worked for two years in the state budget office in Illinois.

He has an open mind about where his career will take him next. He appreciates the Humphrey School's strong regional alumni network and its mentorship program.

"My mentor helped me get informational interviews, so I was able to get to know what different specialist roles looked like in the private sector, city government, county government. I got a sense of the different transportation planning roles. Being able to make those connections will support my future career choices," he said.

Stewart advises anyone who wants to dive deeper into planning to consider the Humphrey School's MURP program.

"It's a way to explore issues in depth. You can't do this on your own. It allowed me to think critically through these issues," he said. "Classes are discussion based. For example, in the environmental justice and urban planning course that I took, we talked about the nuances of issues, like disasters, disability justice, and Native American issues in class."

"There are not many other places where people will nerd out about transportation, environmental, and housing policies," he said.



"IT'S VERY IN DEPTH. THEY ASK QUESTIONS THAT MAKE YOU THINK CRITICALLY. CLASSES ARE DISCUSSION BASED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND URBAN PLANNING COURSE THAT I TOOK, WE TALKED ABOUT THE NUANCES OF ISSUES, LIKE DISASTERS, DISABILITY JUSTICE, AND NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES IN CLASS."

MASTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HANDS ON AND ALL IN.

Human rights is a lens for seeing the world and the people in it. Our Master of Human Rights will clarify your vision, raise your technical skills, and test you in a professional internship.

MHR students are self-starters who want to work on real issues in the real world. This program attracts students from around the world who can articulate their interest in human rights topics such as disability, gender and racial justice, international development, voting rights, and other issues.

The MHR is jointly offered by the Humphrey School and the U of M's College of Liberal Arts. You can major in human rights and focus on the issues that you care about.

YOU WILL LEARN

- Human rights thought, philosophy, and mechanisms
- Advocacy and campaigning skills
- History and applications of human rights theory
- Today's grand challenges
- Technical skills, such as statistics and writing



WHY I CHOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

HORTENSE MINISHI, MHR ALUM

Hortense Minishi has always dreamed of making the world a better place. Early in life, she set a goal of working at the United Nations to promote peace. Orphaned at age 10 and raised by an aunt, she became a human rights lawyer in her native Kenya.

As a lawyer, she worked to support and resettle asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in sub-Saharan Africa. Many of them were children affected by armed conflict.

After seven years of that work, she decided she wanted to do more than support refugees; she wanted to solve the root causes of international conflict.

Minishi is a bubbly person who likes to “leave a little sparkle wherever I go.” In 2021, she received a Fulbright and Hubert Humphrey scholarship to study human rights at the University of Minnesota.

It was a gift, but also a sacrifice financially and personally, since she would have to be away from three young sons. She knew next to nothing about Minnesota and wondered, “I’m coming from Africa and I’m Black. How will I be treated there?”

But her trepidations disappeared as soon as she arrived on campus. The faculty, staff, and fellow students were welcoming and supportive. “They were very open minded and we all embraced each other, even though we are all from different cultures,” she said.

Minishi recently received her Master of Human Rights (MHR) with a concentration in conflict, security, and diplomacy, and a minor in law. The degree program is jointly offered by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and the College of Liberal Arts.

She joined a cohort of 15 MHR students with varied backgrounds and policy interests. This diversity is an asset to the program, Minishi explained.

“IT’S NOT JUST COURSES; IT’S AS WIDE AS YOU MAKE IT. BE AMBITIOUS. THINK BIG. THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL WILL SUPPORT YOU.”

“Human rights is always interdisciplinary,” she said. “I’m building my international network right in my cohort.”

Within the diversity there is commonality. “Human rights are universal. Kenya is a developing country, the United States is a developed country, but the challenges people face end up being very similar: the right to life, food, shelter, education; things that people champion for every single day no matter the context. They are mostly the same.”

During her first internship, Minishi worked for a Minneapolis nonprofit, Advocates for Human Rights, on its campaign against the death penalty.

For her internship last summer, she went to Geneva, Switzerland, to work on social and economic issues for underrepresented countries at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Minishi said she never could have had this internship without the financial and program support of the Humphrey School and the University of Minnesota Law School. “This is practical experience that will be useful for my future career,” she said.

At the end of 2022, Minishi accompanied Law School Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, who is also a UN special rapporteur, to Kenya for a conference about the impact of counterterrorism on civil society organizations.



In recognition of all her work, in 2022 Minishi received the Exceptional Woman of Peace Award from a UN consultative organization called Pathways for Peace. She was one of only eight people in the world to receive it.

Minishi says the University of Minnesota’s MHR program has taken her career focus from regional to international, and brought her closer to her dream job of being a UN diplomat. She has gained new knowledge in coursework, practical experience in internships, and a professional network that starts with her fellow students.

“We might argue and have different ways of doing things, but the fact that we cheer each other on makes it a unique program. It’s more than education—it is a life-changing experience.”

MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MID-CAREER) **BRING OUT THE LEADER IN YOU.**

Public affairs is more than management. It's the ability to tease apart big, messy problems, and find a way to make big changes, even when they're disruptive.

The mid-career Master of Public Affairs at the Humphrey School is designed to build on all the skills and experiences you've had so far, and find the confident leader that is already inside of you.

YOU WILL LEARN

- The skills and confidence to lead
- To use research-based evidence to propose policy change
- To better understand yourself and your place in society
- To work across diverse perspectives

In this program, you'll complete 12 of the required credits with your cohort of about 30 students with very different backgrounds. You'll work in small groups for some projects. In these groups, you'll learn to have tough conversations—a necessary skill for public engagement. Classes meet one weekend per month from August to May.



WHY I CHOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL

HANNAH LICHTSINN, MPA

People often ask Dr. Hannah Lichtsinn why, after years of practicing medicine, she would choose to go back to school for a master's degree.

"I want to be in a position where I can lead change in a way that really helps all Minnesotans in the next decades. The Humphrey School Master of Public Affairs (MPA) program will help me do that."

Lichtsinn is a physician at Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis, specializing in pediatrics and internal medicine. She has a leadership role as medical director of the system's downtown clinic, and is increasingly involved in setting policy in local health care organizations. She is assembling an adult sickle cell disease treatment program.

Lichtsinn is also an active volunteer, co-leading an advocacy project to eliminate the use of solitary confinement for vulnerable incarcerated people in Minnesota, including youth, people with mental illness, and those who have experienced torture. She also has a young family.


"At work, I've become the policy person in the room, and in policy settings, I'm often the doctor in the room. I found myself wanting a deeper and broader knowledge," she said. "I already knew more than anyone else in the room but that wasn't enough for me."

Lichtsinn decided that leading change on big societal issues such as these required more than she could get from self study. Her decision to pursue an MPA at the Humphrey School was "logical," she said, for several reasons.

A lifelong Minnesotan, she knew the Humphrey School's reputation for offering a top-notch policy education. In her first year of the program, she experienced it herself. "The breadth and depth of our professors is bar none," she said. "I feel lucky."

She also learned that the flexible program design of the MPA program, for mid-career students, worked with her busy schedule. The cohort model is ideal for professionals who are working full time. Lichtsinn and her classmates work together closely, and learn from each other.

Because all MPA students are mid-career professionals, one thing they have in common is busy lives—which infuses a sense of purpose and focus.

A portrait of Hannah Lichtsinn, a woman with long, dark, curly hair, wearing a blue top and a grey blazer. She is smiling and looking slightly to the right of the camera.

“FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN POLICY AND LEADERSHIP AND WANT TO CREATE CHANGE, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY DONE OR IN WHAT FIELD, THE TOOLS AND SKILLS WE ARE LEARNING ARE RELEVANT.”

"People in my cohort also have jobs and kids just like me. We can quickly relate to each other," Lichtsinn said.

The class includes professionals from widely varied backgrounds, and learning from them is a benefit of the program she hadn't expected.

"I could pick up a book and read about policy analysis, but the difference with this cohort is I'm learning how other people think, and to me that's incredibly valuable," she said.

MPA students learn to have focused, sometimes difficult, conversations about issues. During these discussions, students learn to hear and understand the perspectives of other people, but also their own. "We learn about identity and how our experiences shape leadership, and how we need to understand ourselves to lead effectively."

"In my cohort there are social workers, teachers, environmental advocates, people in health care, insurance, pharmacy, and government. There's very little overlap in how we will apply this knowledge," Lichtsinn said. "The knowledge and skills that I'll take away from it are so broadly applicable. For people who are interested in policy and leadership and want to create change, it doesn't matter what you've already done or in what field, the tools and skills we are learning are relevant."

PHD IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAKE YOUR MARK. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

What if you could spend your career discovering how society could work better for everyone? The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Affairs at the Humphrey School will prepare you for a career at the cutting edge of public affairs research.

Our graduates have established successful careers at prestigious universities and innovative public, nonprofit, and private-sector institutions. They discover, analyze, and address pressing issues to make the world better. They amplify their reach by teaching other emerging leaders.



YOU WILL LEARN

- To identify and address research questions about pressing global issues
- How to conduct rigorous quantitative and qualitative research
- The communication skills to advance your research project

SPECIALIZATIONS

- Public policy
- Urban planning
- Management and governance
- Science, technology, and environmental policy

WHY I CHOSE THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL WENCHEN WANG, PHD ALUM

“THE HUMPHREY PHD WILL OPEN MORE DOORS FOR ME, GIVE ME A WIDER VARIETY OF CHOICES, TO BE IN ACADEMICS OR INDUSTRY. IT WILL ALSO HELP ME TO MAKE MORE IMPACTFUL DECISIONS.”



What are the licensing requirements for lawyers? For physicians? How do occupational requirements vary from state to state? How do they affect physician shortages, or physician pay? How do they affect patients or clients? Should regulators relax or tighten licensing requirements?

Wencheng Wang, who earned her PhD from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, is posing—and answering—new questions with broad implications.

Originally from China, Wang came to Minnesota for her master’s degree in advanced policy analysis. After completing it, she was already working as a high-level data analyst focusing on statewide analytics to facilitate state decision making.

She wanted to do more than crunch numbers. She wanted to delve into even bigger questions, design research programs, and advise policymakers.

“I knew that a PhD would help me consistently have a research focus in my job,” she said. “It would make the glass ceiling disappear, give me more choices—in industry as a senior researcher, or as a professor in the academic world.”

Although she could have considered universities in any country, she chose the Humphrey School’s PhD program for several reasons. “It’s a really well-ranked public policy program, plus it offers a really good scholarship compared with other universities,” Wang said. “There is a lot of opportunity for research assistantships.”

In 2022, Wang was selected for a prestigious fellowship with the US Department of Labor. In that role, she created a framework for compiling information about collective bargaining agreements. Once this database has been completed, it will be a public resource. She has been working on the occupational licensing project throughout her PhD studies, and it’s the subject of her dissertation.

In all of her labor economics research, Wang worked closely with her advisor, Professor Morris Kleiner. “He is a very influential person in this topic, and he has been super helpful to me from day one. He is constantly helping me to develop my research direction and my dissertation.”

This strong student-advisor relationship is typical for the Humphrey School’s PhD program. Cohorts are small, with only a few new students admitted per year. Before

being accepted, applicants must clearly state a research interest that aligns with one of the faculty members.

The Humphrey School PhD program provides students with training in research theory, design, statistics, and other quantitative and qualitative methods to support good policies that will benefit everyone. They examine complex data sets from multiple sources using sophisticated research methods to find hidden answers. Cutting-edge research like this is the essence of doctoral-level study.

Humphrey School students work mainly with their advisors, but the cohort forms an important support, too.

“The fellow students are very supportive of each other. They will form the basis of my network,” Wang said. In the future, she expects that whether her classmates are working in industry, research centers or academia, they will be her colleagues.

Wang knows that with her Humphrey School PhD, she is qualified to work at a high level anywhere in the world. Wherever she goes, she said, “I hope to be able to have my own research focus and use my own research process to affect the decision-making process.”

ENGAGE

At the Humphrey School, you will join a welcoming student community of hard workers, team players, and creative thinkers. Our collaborative and collegial culture fosters personal growth in problem solving, leadership, and persuasion—skills that you'll find essential in graduate school and beyond.

Beyond the classroom walls, you'll form friendships that will last a lifetime. From creating informal study groups to connecting with alumni mentors, you will learn as a team and encourage each other to succeed. With an active student life community that hosts events, guest speakers, and lively debates, and supports many student organizations, you'll have plenty of ways to pursue your passions.

You'll also have many opportunities to connect with engaged alumni in the Twin Cities and around the globe who are eager to mentor, teach, and hire our students. At the Humphrey School, your student experience will be an exceptional one.



ALUMNI OR COMMUNITY
PARTNERS SERVING AS
MENTORS TO HUMPHREY
SCHOOL STUDENTS



CERTIFICATES | WAYS TO ENGAGE

HUMPHREY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Post-baccalaureate certificates can further your career and be completed in one year or less. Schedules are flexible and credits can be applied to degree programs. All certificate programs are taught by University faculty members and approved by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Certificate in Early Childhood Policy

Learn to apply research-based knowledge to public policies affecting young children and the adults who care for them. Includes 12 credits of coursework and a capstone workshop or independent study.

Certificate in Election Administration

Online, 12-credit program for new or experienced managers of state and local elections.

Certificate in Nonprofit Management

Gain knowledge and business skills for human resource development, evaluation, finance, conflict resolution, and decision making. Designed for nonprofit professionals who seek formal training.

Certificate in Policy Issues on Work and Pay

For people working in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors who want to better understand and evaluate federal, state, and local policies that affect the employment relationship.

Certificate in Public Affairs Leadership

This nine-month program offers mid-career professionals knowledge and skills in leadership, management, public policy, and analysis.

RESEARCH CENTERS

The Humphrey School has six policy research and outreach centers working to solve many of the world's critical challenges.

Center for Integrative Leadership

Center for Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

Center for the Study of Politics and Governance

Center on Women, Gender, and Public Policy

Institute for Urban and Regional Infrastructure Finance

Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice

FELLOWSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International Fellows

For mid-career public service professionals from around the world.

International Scholars

A rich, one-year collaboration matching visiting scholars with Humphrey School faculty members.

Minnesota Senior Leadership Institute

Executive development program for senior officials from throughout Minnesota state government.

Policy Fellows

Nine-month public affairs leadership experience for emerging and mid-career professionals.



THE TWIN CITIES, A DYNAMIC HUB

At the Humphrey School, intersectional discourse is part of everyday life. The Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul is an urban area rich with vigorous public policy debate. It has a diverse population, many nonprofit organizations, Fortune 500 companies and foundations, and is the seat of government in a state with a wide range of political views.

The University of Minnesota is one of the top research institutions in the nation, receiving more than \$1 billion in research funding in 2021. The Twin Cities campus is the flagship of the statewide University of Minnesota system. After graduating from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, thousands of our alumni have gone on to lead public policy and practice in Minnesota and across the US.

Our faculty and advisors have extensive networks of influencers nationwide, in government, higher education, nonprofits and business. These networks, together with the Humphrey School's recognized academic excellence, connect students with meaningful off-campus learning and work experiences locally and nationally.

All Humphrey School students participate in a capstone project, fellowship training, or research project. These hands-on experiences build on their coursework and their own life experiences and vision for the world.

Photo Credit: LanePelovsky, Courtesy of Meet Minneapolis

HOW TO APPLY

Visit hhh.umn.edu/application-process for more details about our programs, or to connect with our admission team.

STEP 1: Select the program that's right for you

We strongly recommend that you meet with an admissions officer and/or professor in the master's program you have chosen to ensure that it's the right fit for you. For the PhD, this is a requirement.

STEP 2: Prepare your application

For most programs, you will need to write a personal statement and provide letters of recommendation, undergraduate transcripts, a resume, and possibly an English language proficiency exam score. We do not require the GRE.

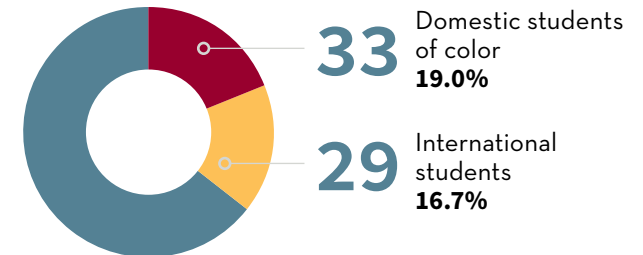
STEP 3: Understand the costs

Learn about tuition and financial support that may be available for your program. Students who apply for master's programs by the Dec. 15 or Jan. 15 priority deadlines are automatically considered for a range of merit scholarships and fellowships. Some students work as paid research assistants in their focus area. You may also be eligible for need-based financial aid or student loans. The PhD program is fully funded for accepted students.

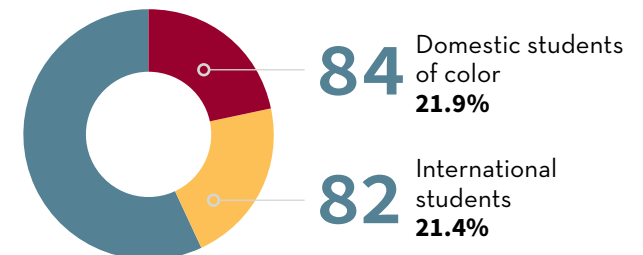
STEP 4: Apply by the deadline

- Master's programs (except MPA): Apply by Dec. 15 to be considered for both University fellowships and Humphrey School merit-based aid. Apply by Jan. 15 to be considered for Humphrey School merit-based aid. Final application deadline: June 1
- MPA program deadline: Feb. 15
- PhD program deadline: Dec. 1
- Certificate programs: Deadlines vary

Incoming Master's Students 2022

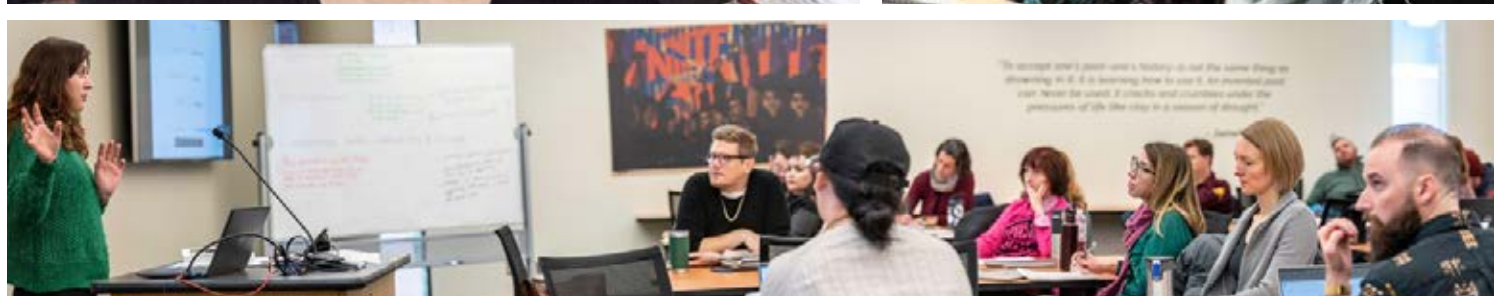


Current Master's and PhD Students



Facts and Figures





“The road to freedom
—here and everywhere—
begins in the classroom.”

Hubert H. Humphrey



HUMPHREY SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, familial status, disability, public assistance status, membership or activity in a local commission created for the purpose of dealing with discrimination, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request; please contact the Humphrey School Admissions office at hhadmit@umn.edu or 612-624-3800.