

Master of Social Policy

Amplifying the Brown School's ability to make a significant and lasting impact by advancing social and health equity, students have the opportunity to earn a Master of Social Policy (MSP) degree in conjunction with previous or complementary graduate programs in related fields such as social work and public health. In addition, the MSP dual-degree program also attracts students enrolled with select global partners and students who pursue a JD/MSP joint degree (<http://bulletin.wustl.edu/law/juris-doctor/dual-degree/jd-msp/>) with the Brown School and the School of Law.

The Brown School is a leader in translating research to inform policy in St. Louis, the United States, and around the world. The MSP program combines knowledge and skill-building to prepare students for a variety of positions at local, regional, national and international policy levels. An MSP degree provides students with training across statistics, economics, politics, analysis, and management to substantively engage with social issues and to effectively design, manage and evaluate social policy.

Website: <https://brownschool.wustl.edu/Academics/Joint-and-Dual-Degrees/Master-of-Social-Policy>

Degree Requirements Master of Social Policy

Course Requirements

Total credit hours: 31 new MSP credits offered by the Brown School, in addition to 12 credit units (four courses) applied from approved graduate degree programs, for a total of 43 credits. To fulfill the MSP degree requirements, students must complete the following:

- Five required courses (15 credit units)
- Three elective courses (9 credit units)
- Short intensive courses (4 credit units)
- One internship (3 credit units)

Program Requirements

Students take at least one course from each foundation area. The minimum core requirement for each area must have been taken before a student may enroll in another course option. Students may take additional core course options as their electives.

Statistics (3 credits)

Code	Title	Units
Minimum Requirement:		
MPH 5003	Biostatistics	3
Additional Options After Minimum Requirement Completed:		
MPH 5230	Applied Linear Modeling	3
Students who have completed both Biostatistics and Applied Linear Modeling may also take doctoral-level courses, including the following:		
SWDT 5010	Social Network Analysis	3
SWDT 6900	Applied Linear Regression Analysis	3
SWDT 6901	Structural Equation Modeling	3
SWDT 6905	Propensity Score Analysis	3
SWDT 6960	Survival Analysis	3

Economics (3 credits)

Code	Title	Units
Minimum Requirement:		
SWSA 5011	Economics of Social Welfare	3
Additional Options After Minimum Requirement Completed:		
SWSP 5650	Benefit-Cost Analysis	3
MPH 5120	Health Economics	3
SWHS 5018	Economic Realities of the American Dream	3

Politics (3 credits)

Code	Title	Units
Minimum Requirement:		
SWSP 5861	Domestic Social & Economic Development	3
or SWSP 5862	International Social & Economic Development Policy	
or SWSP 5635	Policy & Advocacy in the Three Branches of Government	
or SWSP 5640	Influencing Policy Implementation	
Additional Option After Minimum Requirement Completed:		
MPH 5107	Policy, Politics & Power in Global Health	3

Policy Analysis (3 credits)

Code	Title	Units
Minimum Requirement:		
SWSP 5842	Social Policy Analysis & Evaluation	3
Additional Options After Minimum Requirement Completed:		
SWSP 5620	Advanced Policy Analysis: Policy Impact Assessment	3
SWSP 5830	Policy Design Lab	3

Management (3 credits)

Code	Title	Units
Minimum Requirement:		
SWSP 5610	Public Administration, Finance & Government Budgeting	3
Additional Options After Minimum Requirement Completed:		
SWSA 5019	Leading & Managing Employees, Volunteers & Teams	3
Other courses as approved		

Elective Courses (9 credits)

Students can draw from more than 40 elective course options and 25 skill labs. Electives generally fall into the areas of skills and analysis, current issues and policy topics, program and policy development, and economics and business. Please note that some electives may require instructor approval or have prerequisites, corequisites, or sequencing that must be completed.

Short Intensive Courses (4 credits)

MSP short courses engage students in timely areas of policy practice across a broad range of topics and skills. To complement the foundation and elective course work that students complete, the short courses are led by Brown School faculty and completed in intensive formats, typically over one to two weeks ahead of the fall semester.

Internship (3 credits)

A key component of the MSP program is a culminating internship during which students apply their course work and prior field experience toward identifying and completing significant opportunities for policy analysis, implementation and/or practice. To ensure a substantive experience that provides students with a quality practice experience while meeting the needs of diverse policy partner organizations, students complete 3 credits (360 hours) in a full-time policy role, typically over the summer; this generally involves approximately 36 hours per week for 10 weeks or 30 hours per week for 12 weeks.