



INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

COLLEGE OF HEALTH OF HUMAN SERVICES
School of Public and Environmental Affairs

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

B.S. IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs (BSPA) degree program provides students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to prepare them for a variety of career opportunities in the public sector, nonprofit sector and allied fields. Areas of study include management, criminal justice, health services administration, environmental policy, and specialized study in public and environmental affairs.

The program requirements focus on four main areas: general education, public affairs and policy, a specific area of focus, and general electives. The concentration in public and environmental affairs allows students to develop an individualized focus in public affairs. A major in public affairs provides excellent background for graduate study, such as a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) or a law degree. The variety of electives and the choice of an area of concentration further enhance students' educational experiences and better prepares them for a broad spectrum of career opportunities as well as post-secondary education.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the BSPA requires a total of 120 credit hours and a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average, as well as a minimum 2.3 grade point average in the major public affairs and concentration courses.

COURSEWORK

- Introduction to Public Affairs
- Urban Structure and Policy
- Introduction to Environmental Science
- Public Management
- Government Finance and Budgets
- Law and Public Policy

In addition to the listed courses, students are responsible for fulfilling the general education requirements, general electives and courses related to their chosen concentration.

Students should consult with the department for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Students of the Public Affairs Program have many opportunities to learn about the broad spectrum of public affairs through a combination of traditional classroom instruction, internship placement, service learning experiences, guest presentations, and career advisement. The School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) is dedicated to assisting students in establishing networks, while still at the university, that will enhance their abilities to locate appropriate employment placement or continued education admission. The variety of public affairs electives assists students interested in specializing in content-specific areas that can increase their marketability.

The program requirements not only prepare students for employment upon completion of the BSPA but also for successful transitions to graduate education programs in a variety of areas including law, public management and research.

The extensive practitioner experience combined with the academic credentials of the SPEA faculty provide students with a unique opportunity to broaden their understanding of public affairs while at the same time providing them many opportunities for guidance in course planning, career development and exploration of advance education.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A B.S. PUBLIC AFFAIRS?

A degree in public affairs prepares graduates for careers at national, state and local levels of government. Graduates may begin employment immediately or enter graduate school for professional-level education in such areas as:

- Public Management
- Nonprofit Management
- Public Policy Analysis
- Social Services
- Criminal Justice
- Health Services
- Environmental Affairs
- Law

HANDS-ON LEARNING

The diverse public affairs faculty is dedicated to getting students involved in all aspects of the public and nonprofit sectors through the internship program, service learning projects and volunteer opportunities. These programs are designed to increase student academic achievement and social responsibility.

The Public Service Internship Program involves participation by undergraduate students through enrollment in the Internship in Public Affairs. Internship possibilities are developed in collaboration with public and nonprofit agencies willing to involve students in meaningful professional activities.

To underscore its commitment to hands-on learning and the community, in 2012 SPEA will begin an initiative focusing on community engagement and service-learning projects known as the Student Cooperative Outreach and Responsive Education.

SPEA offers public affairs majors an opportunity to join Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society for schools of public affairs and administration.

RELATED DEGREE OPTIONS

- B.S. in Criminal Justice
- B.S. in Health Services Management

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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