Interested in a career in Public Administration?

The Truman School of Government and Public Affairs is proud to offer a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration and Policy. This is a four-year program designed to educate the next generation of public service men and women. The program will equip students with the skills necessary to make a positive impact on the public and nonprofit sectors after they graduate.

Join us!
Earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration and Policy

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Public Administration and Policy will give students the opportunity to think critically about problems facing public and nonprofit institutions, to develop ways to solve these problems, and to implement these solutions. The program combines the study of public administration, public policy, and communication. This is done through a variety of core courses. These courses cover the foundations of public administration, public policy, and program assessment and improvement.

A unique aspect of this program is the focus on communication skills, with required Communication courses. Courses such as argument and advocacy, political communication, and organizational communication will provide students with foundational knowledge in this area. Additional courses in public affairs will provide students with important training in key aspects of public and nonprofit administration, such as nonprofit management, public service ethics and leadership, and local government.

Employers have expressed a need for professionals with strong skills in management and communication. A recent study sought to understand the important skills needed by government leaders, and how educational programs can prepare graduates for effective leadership. The survey asked government leaders to rate the importance of skills within three public sector competency areas: managing your team and yourself; responding to the public; and navigating the broader environment. Leaders rated communication and project management skills among the most important skills for their public service roles. Collectively the course offerings in the major will provide these skills.
Harry S Truman School of Government and Public Affairs

“BY THE NUMBERS”

$3.8 million in funded research

38 faculty

97% career placement

Ranked in the TOP 50 for 25 YEARS by U.S. News and World Report

NASPAA ACCREDITED
The Commission on Peer Review & Accreditation
Required Courses

Required Coursework from Public Affairs, students take each of the following courses:
- PUB AF 1000  Principles of Public Policy Administration
- POL SCI 4320  Public Policy
- PUB AF 4420  Program Assessment and Improvement

Required Coursework from Communication, students select two courses from:
- COMM 3572  Argument and Advocacy
- COMM 3460  Organizational Advocacy
- COMM 4478  Communication Competencies for a Diverse Workplace
- COMM 4473  Political Communication
- COMM 4476  Organizational Communication

Elective Coursework (at least three courses must be from Public Affairs):
Students select elective coursework that fulfils their career goals. The list below is not exhaustive but reflects courses that departments have agreed to include. As the program rolls out, additional courses can be added to the list. Electives are grouped into various topic areas:

**Social Justice and Policy**
- PUB AF 4175  Early Childhood Policy
- PUB AF 4340  Regional and Economic Development Policy
- PUB AF 4210  Leaderships and Ethics
- HIST 4412  Race and Policy
- WGST 3240  Nonprofit Work and the Pursuit of Social Justice
- BL STU 4303  Race, Class, Gender and U.S. Social Policy
- SOCIOL 3230  Education and Social Inequalities
- SOCIOL 3300/PEA ST 3300 Environmental Justice
- POL SC 4140  Congress and Legislative Policy
- ECON 4345  Economics of Education
- ECON 4357  Health Economics
- SRV LRN 3028  Civic Leadership Internship

**Nonprofit Management**
- PUB AF 4001  Fundraising and Philanthropy
- PUB AF 4700  Social Entrepreneurship
- PUB AF 4210  Leadership and Ethics
- PUB AF 4710  The Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector
- WGST 3240  Nonprofit Work and the Pursuit of Social Justice
- SRV LRN 3028  Civic Leadership Internship

**Public Management**
- PUB AF 4700  Social Entrepreneurship
- PUB AF 4001  Leadership and Ethics
- PUB AF 4540  Local Government Management
- POL SCI 4370  Law, Policy, and Regulation
- ECON 4315  Public Economics
- ECON 4367  Law and Economics
- SRV LRN 3028  Civic Leadership Internship
Course Descriptions

Examples of a few courses included in the program.

**PUB AF 1000: Principles of Public Policy Administration**
This course introduces students to the basics of public administration and policy implementation. It focuses on what happens after public policy is passed. Students will learn how actors within and outside of government influence the administrative aspects of public policy, what motivates and influences the decision making of the individuals within the administrative state, and how non-government organizations are often tasked with administering public services. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand what makes for successful or unsuccessful implementation of public policy by public (and non-government) organizations.

**PUB AF 4175: Early Childhood Policy**
This course explores early childhood development issues and their impacts on policy formation. We will study a range of family situations in the United States and other countries (e.g., maternal employment and job policies, divorce, child abuse and neglect) that may be of concern for child policy analysts and policy makers.

**PUB AF 4340: Regional and Economic Development Policy**
Presents an overview of historical perspectives and current practice in regional development policy. Topics include the major theories of economic development in the U.S., major trends affecting local economic development, local strategies for economic development, analyzing data from secondary sources, and federal strategies for economic development and regional collaboration.

**PUB AF 4420/7420: Program Assessment and Improvement**
This course provides students with training in the theory and methods used to generate evidence-based answers to questions regarding the efficacy of social programs and policies. This class will teach you how to read the existing evaluation literature in an area, design a research study, analyze both qualitative and quantitative data, and make decisions about the future of programs.

**POL SC 4320: Public Policy**
Introduction to the study of public policy in the United States. Analyzes public policy choices at the national, state and local level and the variety of forces which serve to shape policy decisions.
The University of Missouri has offered public service education for over 50 years. Established in 2001, the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs had 14 TSPA, 26 affiliated and 8 adjunct faculty members. The Truman school merged with the Department of Political Science in 2021. This grew the department to where it is today. The Truman School now offers seven different degree programs. These programs include Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Doctorate in Political Science, Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and Policy, Master of Arts in Public Affairs, Doctorate in Public Affairs, and Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies.

**Bachelor of Arts in Political Science:** Political Science can help you learn to be a better communicator, analyze complicated issues, solve problems, and become a better citizen. The Department of Political Science offers a wide range of courses and various means of attaining specialization in the field. Political Science courses are divided into four areas of concentration: American Politics/Public Policy, Comparative Government, International Affairs, Political Theory/Methodology. Our graduates pursue careers in law, business and finance, government and politics, public relations, advertising, and journalism, lobbying, international relations.

**Master of Arts in Public Affairs:** The mission of the Truman School's Master of Public Affairs (MPA) Program is to prepare a diverse student body for ethical leadership in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors.

**Doctorate in Public Affairs:** The PhD program in Public Affairs is an academic and research oriented program designed for students interested in careers in colleges and universities or in other research and applied settings.

**Doctorate in Political Science:** The MU Political Science Department conducts theoretically significant research that advances the frontiers of knowledge in political behavior, institutions, conflict, political economy, public policy and administration, methodology, and political thought.

**Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies:** The Master of Arts (MA) in Defense and Strategic Studies program focuses on an important area of study centered on understanding political and military strategy, concerned with topics such as military power and effectiveness, intelligence, diplomacy, and deterrence.
Harry S Truman, our Namesake

The Truman School of Public Affairs is named after the 33rd President of the United States. Truman was born in Missouri, calling Lamar, Missouri home. President Truman was the definition of a public servant. Early in his life he served in the National Guard, Army, and then Reserves. He worked his way up the ranks from Corporal to Captain to Colonel. Truman fought in a number of battles during World War I. Later in life, he would go on to serve as a judge in Jackson County and U.S. Senator for the state of Missouri before becoming Vice President and President. President Truman was elected in 1945 and served until 1953. During his time as President, he saw the end of World War 2, strikes, and economic unrest. However, he dealt with each challenge with class and dignity. President Truman was one of the most decorated and dedicated public servants in Missouri history. It is for this reason The Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs is named after the former President.

The Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs was established in 2001. It was previously known as the Department of Public Administration. For nearly 20 years the Truman School of Public Affairs has served as the home for both the Master of Arts and Doctorate in Public Affairs programs. Prior to that the University of Missouri has offered public service education for over 50 years.
Brian Kisida  **Education Policy and Evaluation**

In 2019, Dr. Kisida released the results of an evaluation of Houston’s Arts Access Initiative, in partnership with Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research and the Houston Educational Research Consortium. The research, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Spencer Foundation, found that a substantial increase in arts educational experiences had positive and meaningful impacts on students’ academic, social, and emotional outcomes. The Brookings Institution published an accompanying research brief. Dr. Kisida will contribute his scholarship and expertise in this area as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences’ Commission on the Arts to examine the role of the arts in a diverse democracy.

Oded Gurantz  **Public Policy Analysis**

Collaborating closely with government agencies, Dr. Gurantz recently published two studies examining the effectiveness of financial aid in improving long-term educational and employment outcomes for both traditional high school students and “non-traditional” working adults. In addition, he has conducted research on Oregon’s state-level free community college tuition program. With this expertise, he has increasingly been called to support practitioner efforts to reform financial aid, speaking at national conferences such as the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. He has also been asked to help craft policy for organizations such as the University of North Carolina system. In follow-up research, the Laura and John Arnold Foundation are supporting his efforts to evaluate whether providing counseling and mentoring services to recent college dropouts gets them “back on track”.

The Truman School’s  **faculty members**
Irma Arteaga Public Policy Analysis
Truman School Associate Professor Dr. Irma Arteaga was one of eight faculty researchers awarded a 2019 grant from the Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) Program. With support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the RIDGE Program at Tufts University and the University of Connecticut focuses on economic research aimed at enhancing food security and dietary quality for low-income Americans through the nation’s nutrition assistance programs. Dr. Arteaga and her collaborators will examine the relationship among participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, maternal depression, and child health. Dr. Arteaga has published her research in academic journals such as *Science*, *Economics of Education Review*, and *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*.

David Switzer
Environmental Policy & Management
In April 2019, the Truman School sponsored a Subnational Environmental Administration Conference. Assistant professor Dr. David Switzer organized the full-day event, which examined the administrative aspects of environmental policy. The conference featured scholars from across the country. Dr. Switzer has published his research on environmental policy in numerous journals including *Public Administration Review*, *Urban Affairs Review* and *Policy Studies Journal*.
Career Services

Interested in a career in nonprofit? Government? Education?

Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and Policy
Students who graduate with a Bachelor of Art in Public Administration and Policy have gone on to fulfill important roles in nonprofit, profit, and government organizations. Roles such as:

• Managers
• Human Resource Specialists
• Medical and Health Services Managers
• General and Operations Managers
• Management Analysts
• Accountants
• Public Relations and Fundraising Managers

This is demonstrated through our alumni such as:

• Jim Pyle, Director of the Kansas City Police Retirement System
• Chuck Gross, Former State Senator, current Executive Director of the Duckett Creek Sanitary District (St. Charles, MO)
• Bill Watkins, Former Columbia, Missouri City Manager

Master of Arts in Public Affairs
Why stop at just a Bachelor’s Degree? Graduates of our Master of Arts in Public Affairs program have gone on to serve as city managers, as executive-level state and federal government officials, as leaders of national and regional nonprofit organizations, and as consultants and policy analysts in the public and private sector. Some have served in elected office, and many have even started their own businesses. An easy example is our very own Leanne Tippet Mosby, Director of Career and Alumni Services for the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs.
University of Missouri

The University of Missouri was the first public university established west of the Mississippi River. Our tightly interlocked missions of teaching, research, service, and economic development work together on behalf of all citizens. Students work side by side with some of the world’s best faculty to advance the arts and humanities, the sciences, and the professions. Scholarship and teaching are daily driven by a commitment to public service -- the obligation to produce and disseminate knowledge that will improve the quality of life in the state, the nation, and the world.

The university is located in the city of Columbia, in the heart of the state. The city boasts a vibrant nightlife and art scene and is home to the annual Roots N Blues and BBQ Festival and the internationally renowned True/False Film Fest. If outdoor adventure is your passion, opportunities abound. Columbia is a stone’s throw from the mighty Missouri River, with its magnificent limestone bluffs and bountiful wildlife, and home to the MKT Nature and Fitness trail, which is a spur to the nation’s longest rail-trail, the Katy Trail.

A two-hour road trip east will find you in St. Louis, home of the Gateway Arch. Travelling about the same distance west, you will be in the jazz and barbeque hub of Kansas City. The picturesque state capital, Jefferson City, is only a thirty-minute drive.
Located on Interstate 70 midway between St. Louis and Kansas City, Columbia is Missouri’s leading center for education, medicine, and insurance. Its commitment to education dates from 1839 when many of the town’s citizens contributed money and land to win a competition to determine the location of the state university. Stephens College and Columbia College are also located in Columbia, giving it a claim to the appellation, “College Town USA.” Its public schools are among the best in the state, and indeed, seven have earned the designation of “Blue Ribbon Schools” awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. Columbia is the home to seven major medical facilities, making it a leading health care provider in Missouri, and the national or regional offices of three national insurance companies are located here. These industries, along with a variety of smaller manufacturing and service businesses, help keep Columbia’s unemployment rate very low, generally around 2-3%. The cost of living in Columbia typically has run 7-10 percent below the average for metropolitan areas, based on U.S. Chamber of Commerce surveys. These and other considerations account for the fact that Money Magazine consistently ranked Columbia among the “best places to live” in the United States.

Columbia offers a variety of recreational, cultural, and entertainment activities to graduate students and their families. Over 40 public-use parks are located in the city limits, affording the opportunity to hike, bike, swim, golf, or enjoy a quiet picnic. The MKT fitness trail and nearby KAT Trail offer hikers and cyclists 126 miles of scenic trails, and several state parks and wildlife refuges located within a fifteen mile radius of the city offer additional outdoor activities. A series of concerts and theater events sponsored by the University of Missouri and Stephens College, as well as private organizations, produce a busy cultural calendar. Several art galleries and museums located on the MU campus and throughout the city. The many moderately priced and ethnically diverse restaurants found in Columbia provide a wide selection of fine dining to cap off an evening out.
From its establishment in 1839, the University of Missouri considered liberal arts and sciences the foundation of higher education.

The College of Arts and Science (A&S), which encompasses departments, programs and schools in 60 buildings across campus, is the oldest, largest and most academically diverse college at MU.

The college provides undergraduate and graduate programs in humanities; fine and performing arts; and social, behavioral and natural sciences. In addition, A&S offers creative and useful combinations of disciplines. Graduates of the college include a Golden Globe Award-winning actor, an Academy Award-winning actor, a former deputy director of the CIA, a former NASA astronaut, Missouri’s first two poet laureates and a legendary cartoonist.

Faculty include members of the National Academy of Sciences, internationally recognized mathematicians, top experts in psychology and a recipient of the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ Academy Award in Literature.

A&S plays a role in every undergraduate degree at MU and a major part in the advancement of arts and science for the betterment of society.