

2025 – 2026

Master of Public Policy

The Public Policy program at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies is committed to the development of tomorrow's policy leaders through an innovative core curriculum that emphasizes analytical, evidenced, and expertise-based solutions to contemporary policy issues. The Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree, offered by the graduate program in public policy, gives students the opportunity to identify, analyze, and solve challenging policy issues at local, state, national, and global levels of governance.

Curriculum Overview: Candidates must complete sixty (60) credit hours.

Degree Requirements:

1. Degree Core – three courses (12 credits):

It is highly recommended that students take these required degree courses in their first year in the MPP program to help prepare them for other courses, to keep them on track for completion, and to integrate them in their cohort. PPOL 4200 and PPOL 4400 are typically offered in the Fall; while PPOL 4500 is typically offered in the Winter and/or Spring.

- PPOL 4200 – Microeconomics for Public Policy
- PPOL 4400 – Intro to Policy Analysis
- PPOL 4500 – Cost Benefit Analysis

2. Policy Track (12 credits) – choose one of two tracks:

- Local/National Track
 - I. INTS 4750 – The Policy Making Process
 - II. PPOL 4350 – The Policy Lab: Local/National
 - III. Experiential coursework. Choose one:
 1. PPOL 4225 – Economic Policymaking
 2. PPOL 4655 – Negotiating Environmental Conflict and Policy
 3. INTS 4226 – Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development
 4. INTS 4674 – Water Policy
 5. Or a Substitution as Approved by the Degree Director
- Comparative/Global Track
 - I. INTS 4349 – Comparative Public Policy and Finance
OR INTS 4355 – Finance & Development
 - II. PPOL 4351 – The Policy Lab: Comparative/Global
 - III. Experiential coursework. Choose one:
 1. PPOL 4503 – Elections and Conflict Dynamics
 2. INTS 4630 – Civilian Protection in Armed Conflicts
 3. INTS 4672 – Environmental Peacebuilding
 4. INTS 4678 – The Politics of Global Trade
 5. Or a Substitution as Approved by the Degree Director

3. Skills (12 credits total):

- PPOL 4352– Data, Evidence, and Public Policy (2 credits)
- PPOL 4353 – Policy Writing (2 credits)
- INTS 4057 – Statistics (4 credits)

- A total of 4 more credits (in the form of one 4-credit or two 2-credit skills courses) of INTS or PPOL skills coursework drawn from the Korbel School Skills List. This list is updated annually and can be found on the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site. Students may also utilize graduate level skills courses in other DU departments/schools with pre-approval of their degree director.

4. Specialization – three courses (12 credits):

Specializations are sets of three full credit courses (12 credit hours) that a student takes within their degree that are centered on a common topic, region, or degree relevant methods and must be approved by the degree director. Korbel specializations are open specializations, which is to say that they are totally customizable and can be drawn from any and all eligible University of Denver graduate courses. The key is that they must be approved on submission for graduation by a student's degree director and students are encouraged to engage their degree director early in the process on what are approvable sets of courses. Specializations do not go on transcripts, so it is possible to organize courses into more than one set of three, but for completion of degree requirement purposes, only one specialization is submitted as such on your program statement. Students who participate in a Korbel Certificate will put three of their certificate courses in their specialization and the other three in electives to fit the certificate within the 60 credit hours associated with their degree requirements. For more information on Specializations, see the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site.

5. Capstone (4 credits)

- PPOL 4950 – Public Policy Capstone
(Student-driven analytical project on a topic of your choosing, ideally related to Specialization. Typically completed in the second year.)

6. Internship: Required (registered as INTS 4981, for 0 or 4 credits)

- Please see the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details.

7. Supporting Courses (4-8 credits)

Students will fill out their academic program as needed to reach the minimum requirement of **60 credits** with graduate level courses in fields and areas of study related broadly but directly to international studies (public policy) or research/policy areas and/or skills already established in their required coursework. These courses can be from Korbel and/or other relevant graduate departments/programs associated with the University of Denver or beyond. Courses from beyond Korbel should be pre-approved by the student's academic advisor. The total number of credits allowed for the degree beyond Korbel cannot be more than 12.

Degree Director:

Prof. Lapo Salucci
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<https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/master-of-public-policy>