

# BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

## Program Learning Outcomes for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Social Policy Analysis

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Social Policy Analysis, students will be able to:

1. Understand social policy as an interdisciplinary field and demonstrate the ability to synthesize key knowledge, theories, and research across different disciplines in the social sciences.
2. Develop critical analysis, problem solving and research skills in order to design and evaluate evidence-based interventions for social problems.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate policy research and findings clearly and persuasively in written and oral formats.
4. Analyze public problems, evaluate policy alternatives against criteria such as equity, efficiency, and effectiveness, and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of social policy analysis tools and methods.
5. Demonstrate mastery of the above outcomes in the senior capstone project.

## Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Social Policy Analysis

For general university requirements, see [Graduation Requirements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Social Policy Analysis must complete:

- A minimum of 13 courses (39-40 credit hours, depending on course selection) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours required to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 5 courses (15 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 4) tab.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major's Official Certifier (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>.) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

### Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Social Policy Analysis		39-40
Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Social Policy Analysis		120

### Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
------	-------	--------------

#### Core Requirements

Foundations Coursework		
ECON 100	PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS	3
POLI 210	INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS	3
POLI 338 / SOSC 301	POLICY ANALYSIS	3
SOPA 200	APPROACHES TO SOCIAL POLICY	3
<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>		3-4
SOSC 302	QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES	
or STAT 310	PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS	
ECON 307		
or STAT 315	PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS FOR DATA SCIENCE	
DSCI 301		
SOPA 309	APPLIED ECONOMETRICS FOR POLICY EVALUATION	3

Advanced Coursework		
SOPA 400	SOPA CAPSTONE RESEARCH SEMINAR I	3
SOPA 401	SOPA CAPSTONE RESEARCH SEMINAR II	3

#### Elective Requirements 15

*Students must complete a total of 5 courses from the Areas of Specialization listed below. At least 1 course must be taken from each of the 3 Areas of Specialization (see below for course lists for each Area of Specialization):*

Groups and Identities
Institutions
Policies, Processes, and Outcomes

<b>Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Social Policy Analysis</b>	<b>39-40</b>
Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements *	49-50
<a href="https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/">University Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/)</a> *	31

<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>120</b>
---------------------------	------------

### Footnotes and Additional Information

\* **Note:** [University Graduation Requirements](#) include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying FWIS or distribution requirements may additionally meet other requirements, such as the Analyzing Diversity (AD) requirement, or some of the student's declared major, minor, or certificate requirements. [Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements](#) include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

## Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

### Elective Requirements

Students must complete a total of 5 courses (15 credit hours) from the Areas of Specialization listed below as electives. At least 1 course (3 credit hours) must be taken from each of the 3 Areas of Specialization. The remaining 2 courses (6 credit hours) may be taken from any of the Areas of Specialization. Below is an illustrative list of courses. Student may consult with the major advisor to apply courses not on this list.

#### Area of Specialization: Groups and Identities

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Select at least 1 course from the following:</i>		
ANTH 354 / SWGS 353	ILLNESS, DISABILITY, AND THE GENDERED BODY	
ANTH 443	ANTHROPOLOGY OF RACE, ETHNICITY AND HEALTH	
EDUC 304	RACE, CLASS, GENDER IN EDUCATION	
LING 205 / SWGS 205	LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY	
LING 303	LANGUAGE, GENDER & SEXUALITY	
LING 321	LANGUAGE AND LAW	
LING 322	LANGUAGE AND ETHNICITY	
POLI 325	AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS	
POLI 328	LATINO POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES	
POLI 330	RACE, ETHNICITY, AND POLITICS IN AMERICA	
POLI 334	AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES	
POLI 341	RACE AND THE LAW IN THE UNITED STATES	
POLI 419	POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS IN AMERICAN POLITICS	
PSYC 331 / SWGS 331	PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER	
PSYC 333	MULTICULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 438	GROUP DYNAMICS	
PSYC 475	STEREOTYPING AND PREJUDICE	
SOCI 231	SOCIAL PROBLEMS	
SOCI 301	SOCIAL INEQUALITY	
SOCI 306 / SWGS 324	SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER	
SOCI 309	RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS	
SOCI 311	SOCIOLOGY OF ASIANS AND ASIAN AMERICANS	
SOCI 313	DEMOGRAPHY	

SOCI 329	MULTIRACIAL AMERICA
SOCI 343	RACE, SOCIETY AND POPULATION CHANGE
SOCI 344	SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH
SOCI 364	MUSLIMS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY
SOCI 374	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE
SOCI 415 / ENST 415	THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT
SOCI 470	INEQUALITY AND URBAN LIFE
SPAN 333	CURRENT HEALTHCARE ISSUES IN LATINE COMMUNITIES
SWGS 385	SEXUAL DEBATES IN THE U.S.: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS OF SUPREME COURTS DECISIONS

#### Area of Specialization: Institutions

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Select at least 1 course from the following:</i>		
ANTH 326	LAW, POWER AND CULTURE	
ANTH 340	NEOLIBERALISM AND GLOBALIZATION	
ANTH 341 / HURC 341	MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE: EXHIBITING ART, EXHIBITING CULTURE	
ANTH 345	THE POLITICS OF THE PAST: ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOCIAL CONTEXT	
ECON 210	BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS	
ECON 239	LAW AND ECONOMICS	
ECON 260	MICROECONOMICS AND PUBLIC POLICY	
ECON 270	MACROECONOMICS AND PUBLIC POLICY	
ECON 275	INTERNATIONAL MACROECONOMICS AND PUBLIC POLICY	
ECON 343	CORPORATE FINANCE	
ECON 355	FINANCIAL MARKETS	
ECON 365 / HIST 365	WORLD ECONOMIC HISTORY	
ECON 435	INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION	
ECON 439	ADVANCED TOPICS IN LAW AND ECONOMICS	
ECON 452	RELIGION, ETHICS, AND ECONOMICS	
ECON 455	MONEY AND BANKING	
POLI 301	STATE POLITICS	
POLI 315	U.S. ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOR	
POLI 317	THE CONGRESS	
POLI 318	THE PRESIDENCY	
POLI 321	AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: STRUCTURES AND POWERS	
POLI 332	URBAN POLITICS	
POLI 335	POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS	
POLI 342	POLITICS OF THE JUDICIARY	
POLI 343	MEDIA AND POLITICS	
POLI 418	MODERN AMERICAN PRESIDENCY	
POLI 432	URBAN POLITICS	
POLI 445	SEMINAR IN JUDICIAL PROCESS AND BEHAVIOR	

PSYC 231	INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 420 / POLI 420 / COMP 435	ELECTION SYSTEMS, TECHNOLOGIES, AND ADMINISTRATION
PSYC 436	ADVANCED ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
SOCI 308	HOUSTON: THE SOCIOLOGY OF A CITY
SOCI 310	URBAN SOCIOLOGY
SOCI 314	SCIENCE AT RISK? OUT OF THE LAB AND INTO PUBLIC SPHERE
SOCI 319	SOCIOLOGY OF WORK AND OCCUPATIONS
SOCI 325	SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
SOCI 334 / SWGS 325	SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY
SOCI 358	CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND SOCIETY
SOCI 389	RACE, GENDER, CLASS IN FILM
SOCI 437	SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION
SOSC 238	SPECIAL TOPICS

**Area of Specialization: Policies, Processes, and Outcomes**

Code	Title	Credit Hours
------	-------	--------------

Select at least 1 course from the following:

ANTH 332 / ENST 332	THE SOCIAL LIFE OF CLEAN ENERGY
ARCH 455	HOUSING AND URBAN PROGRAMS: ISSUES IN POLICY
ECON 415	LABOR ECONOMICS
ECON 418	ECONOMIC FORECASTING
ECON 421	QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR POLICY EVALUATION + PRACTICAL LAB
ECON 432	POLITICAL ECONOMY
ECON 437 / ENST 437	ENERGY ECONOMICS
ECON 450	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ECON 462	ECONOMICS OF HUMAN CAPITAL
ECON 470	MARKET DESIGN
ECON 479	MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR COMPUTATIONAL ECONOMICS
ECON 480 / ENST 480	ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS
ECON 481	HEALTH ECONOMICS
ECON 483	PUBLIC ECONOMICS: TAXATION
ECON 484	PUBLIC ECONOMICS: EXPENDITURES
ENST 445	SEMINAR IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVABILITY RESEARCH METHODS AND APPLICATIONS
ENST 446	LAB IN ENGAGED URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVABILITY RESEARCH
HEAL 222	PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
HEAL 380	DISPARITIES IN HEALTH IN AMERICA
HEAL 460	PLANNING AND EVALUATION OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION
NSCI 530	THE SHAPING OF HEALTH POLICY

POLI 260 / LEAD 260	ADVOCATING FOR IDEAS TO CHANGE THE WORLD
POLI 315	U.S. ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOR
POLI 322	POLITICS OF INFLUENCE IN THE UNITED STATES
POLI 329	HEALTH POLICY
POLI 337	PUBLIC POLICY
POLI 348	URBAN POLITICS LAB
POLI 356	POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN CONTEMPORARY DEMOCRACIES
POLI 362	COMPARATIVE URBAN POLITICS AND POLICY
POLI 432	URBAN POLITICS
POLI 435	SEMINAR ON MONEY AND POLITICS
POLI 437	EDUCATION POLICY
POLI 438	RACE AND PUBLIC POLICY
POLI 440	RESEARCH SEMINAR ON PUBLIC POLICY
POLI 441 / ENST 441	GOVERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS
POLI 445	SEMINAR IN JUDICIAL PROCESS AND BEHAVIOR
POLI 466	POLITICAL PARTIES AND VOTING BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES
PSYC 345	HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 346	STRESS AND HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN
PSYC 435	POLLUTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT
PSYC 445	ADVANCED SEMINAR IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
SMGT 361	SPORT FINANCE
SOCI 321	CRIMINOLOGY
SOCI 327	SUPERVISED RESEARCH I
SOCI 328	SUPERVISED RESEARCH II
SOCI 340	SOCIOLOGY OF IMMIGRATION
SOCI 344	SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH
SOCI 345	MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY
SOCI 350	URBAN TRANSPORTATION
SOCI 366	HOUSING AND SCHOOLS: THE SOCIAL LOCATIONS OF INEQUALITY
SOCI 367 / ENST 367	ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY
SOCI 368	SOCIOLOGY OF DISASTER
SOCI 406	BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES
SOCI 422	SOCIAL AUTOPSIES: HOW SOCIETY KILLS US
SOCI 425	POPULATION HEALTH SEMINAR
SOCI 451	IMMIGRATION IN A GLOBAL WORLD
SOCI 465 / SWGS 465	GENDER AND HEALTH
SOSC 464 / BUSI 464 / GLHT 464	SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Social Policy Analysis

### Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of [transfer credit advisors \(https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/\)](https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

### Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in Social Policy Analysis should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing may apply towards the major.
- Request for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Social Policy Analysis website: <https://sopa.rice.edu/>

## Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Social Policy Analysis

### Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Social Policy Analysis website: <https://sopa.rice.edu/>