

# PUBLIC POLICY

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW FOR EMPLOYERS

The Bachelor of Science degree in public policy and the Master of Science degree in science, technology, and public policy develop students who can effectively formulate public policies and analyze their impacts, particularly as related to science and technology issues. Students will demonstrate a breadth of knowledge and skill set that allows them to integrate policy analysis techniques with technological, political, social, economic, and ethical considerations. Students also will demonstrate exceptional writing and oral communication skills.

### Degree(s) Awarded

Bachelor of Science  
Master of Science

### Accreditation

Middle Atlantic Association of Colleges.

### Enrollment

Approximately 50 students are enrolled as of 2009.

### Student Skills & Capabilities

At the end of their third year all students are capable of conducting scientific and applied research, are polished writers and speakers, and have at their disposal a number of policy analysis tools, including cost/benefit analysis, decision analysis, and computer modeling techniques. Students will be prepared to assist in the policy analysis endeavors of a company, non-profit, or government agency. Students will have practice using analytical techniques to evaluate alternative policies based on an organization's goals, analyze the potential for implementation of a set of policies in the political arena, or understand the impact of a policy on the mission of the organization. In particular, students will be able to apply these tools to contemporary science and technology related problems. Finally, given the technological aspects of our program, students will be able to evaluate technologies and assess the economic, social, and regulatory aspects of their use.

### Cooperative Education Component

Undergraduate students are required to complete at least one co-op work assignment. Typically, this assignment lasts one academic quarter, or about 2-3 months. We generally encourage students to conduct co-op activities during the summer after their junior year in the program.

### Salary Information (Avg/Range)

Co-op: \$14.13                      \$13.50-\$16.00  
BS/MS: Insufficient Data

# Public Policy

## Training/Qualifications

Students take six courses in a particular science and technology policy area. We call these policy “tracks.” Many policy tracks are available. For example, the *environmental policy track* focuses on the challenges that business and government policy makers face in dealing with environmental issues. The *information and communications policy track* focuses on the challenges presented by emerging and quickly evolving information and communications technologies. The *energy policy track* looks at policies affecting new energy technologies. The *biotechnology track* explores regulatory responses to new biotechnologies. Other tracks are always being developed and students have an option to create a “tailored track” to meet particular student interests. Highlighting your track will be a senior project, in which you will work closely with an RIT faculty member on research related to your interests.

Public policy students specialize in areas such as environmental policy, information and communications policy, energy policy, and biotechnology policy, among others. Students take a set of “core” policy courses that build a student’s knowledge of public policy, economics, political science, and policy analysis. Students also take courses throughout the Institute that help build the “domain expertise” for the student’s chosen specialization. Some of the courses required by our program include the following:

### Public Policy Core Courses:

Foundations of Public Policy  
Science & Technology Policy  
Values in Public Policy  
Introduction to Qualitative Policy Analysis  
Policy Analysis I  
Policy Analysis II  
Policy Analysis III  
Technological Innovation and Public Policy  
Senior Project

### Foundation Courses:

Principles of Microeconomics  
Principles of Macroeconomics  
Data Analysis I  
Applied Econometrics or  
Data Analysis II  
American Political Thought  
Benefit Cost Analysis  
Environment & Society

### Track Courses:

Six courses in science/technology area of student’s choosing

## Course Sequence MS Science, Technology, and Public Policy

The MS program is similar in philosophy to the BS program, but allows an even greater depth of study around science, technology, and public policy issues. All students take a set of MS policy core courses that emphasize graduate level research skills, problem solving, and interdisciplinary approaches to policy analysis.

The graduate curriculum has a required five-course sequence:

- Readings in Public Policy
- Advanced Theory and Methods in Policy Analysis
- Evaluation Research
- Public Administration and Management
- Science and Technology Policy

In addition, students choose five courses within their area of specialization from a wide selection of courses such as environmental policy, telecommunications policy or energy policy. A master’s thesis is also required.

## Employers of Public Policy Co-op and Graduating Students

Our students are attractive to a range of employers, including: (1) government agencies (policy analysts, program managers, program evaluators, operations analysts); (2) private companies (policy analysts, regulatory affairs specialists, legislative and government affairs officers, lobbyists, policy advocates); and, (3) non-profits (policy analysts, policy advocates, program evaluators).

## Contact Us

We appreciate your interest in hiring RIT co-op students, graduating students or alumni. We will make every effort to make your recruiting endeavor a success. Call our office and ask to speak with Sharitta Gross, the program coordinator who works with the Public Policy program. For your convenience, you can access information and services through our web site at [www.rit.edu/recruit](http://www.rit.edu/recruit) or learn more about the program at <http://pubpol.rit.edu>.

## Sharitta Gross, Program Coordinator

Office of Cooperative Education and Career Services  
RIT . Bausch & Lomb Center . 57 Lomb Memorial Drive . Rochester NY 14623-5603  
585.475.7823 [sfgoce@rit.edu](mailto:sfgoce@rit.edu)