The Ph.D. in Public Policy

The Ph.D. in Public Policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill provides exceptional students with advanced graduate training and prepares them for positions in academia, think tanks, research organizations, and government, in the United States and around the globe. Our doctoral students are trained to conduct policy research in domestic and global contexts, shape public policy, and teach the next generation of public policy educators, researchers, and practitioners. We welcome applications from highly qualified students with a variety of academic backgrounds from the United States and abroad. The interdisciplinary curriculum exposes students to the theoretical foundations of public policy analysis (economics, politics and institutions, and normative theory) as well as research design and methods with a concentration in a substantive policy area.

Our Core Research Areas

Our faculty hold doctoral degrees in economics, history, law, philosophy, political science, public policy, and sociology. Our departmental strengths include the following research areas:

- Education and Labor Markets
- Environment and Human Welfare
- Global Conflict and Cooperation
- Health Policy, Bioethics, and Human Rights
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Science and Technology Policy
- International Development Policy
- Social Policy and Inequality

Funding

UNC Public Policy helps secure funding for all graduate students making good academic progress in their studies. Sources of funding include a combination of fellowships, traineeships, graduate teaching assistantships, and graduate research assistantships. Each PhD student receives full tuition reimbursement, including fees, health insurance, and a stipend of at least $18,000 per year, plus a conference travel fund of $1,000. Highly qualified doctoral students are competitive for other fellowships from The Graduate School. Additional fellowships are available to members of underrepresented groups.

Deadlines

The deadline for Fall 2021 entrance is January 12, 2021. The priority deadline to be considered for graduate school fellowships is December 15, 2020.