

Proposal for a Combined Degree:

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Policy Degree

Institution Submitting Proposal: The University of Utah

College, School or Division affected: The College of Social and Behavioral Science

Department(s) or Areas(s) affected: Department of Economics
Department of Political Science
Master of Public Policy Program

Change Description: Proposal of a combined BA/BS in Economics or Political Science
and a Master of Public Policy (MPP) Degree

Proposed Beginning Date: Fall Semester 2008

Institutional Signatures

Cathleen Zick, MPP Program Director

Korkut Erturk, Chair, Department of Economics

Ron Hrebenar, Chair, Department of Political Science

J. Steve Ott, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Science

Chief Academic Officer

President

Date

10.4. Template for Submission to the Information Calendar of the Academic, Career and Technical Education, and Student Success Committee and Board Action - Items to include transfer, restructuring or consolidation of existing programs or administrative units, stand-alone minors, interdisciplinary minors, emphases, and name changes. (Approved by the Board of Trustees and sent to the Board of Regents as an information item.)

Request to establish a combined BA/BS in Economics or Political Science and a MPP Degree Program from existing degrees.

SECTION I: The Request *(Briefly describe the change. Include a listing of courses and credits as appropriate.)*

The University of Utah's College of Social and Behavioral Science requests permission to establish a combined BA/BS/MPP program that enables students to finish a Bachelor of Arts or Science and simultaneously work on a Master of Public Policy (MPP). Only students pursuing undergraduate degrees in Political Science or Economics will be considered for the combined program, recognizing that public policy curriculum builds upon that of Political Science and Economics. The MPP curriculum provides students with analytic and quantitative skills to frame policy issues, deal within their institutional and political contexts, and formulate, implement and evaluate policy. Students acquire a skills set that will launch their careers as policy analysts and leaders in private, non-profit or public organizations.

The combined program is structured such that students can complete both their undergraduate degree and the professional graduate degree in a total of five years. If approved, the combined program would be available beginning Fall Semester 2008.

This is NOT a request to establish a new degree program. Rather, the combined Bachelor's/Master's Degree Program is designed to enable academically strong students to receive the BA or BS in Economics or Political Science after four years and the MPP one year later.

In order to be considered for the combined program students will apply for admission during the semester in which 90 undergraduate credit hours are completed. Students will follow the regular University of Utah Graduate School application process, fulfilling all requirements for admissions except the posting of an undergraduate degree. Students must also meet current MPP admission standards at the time of application, including GRE scores and a minimum 3.5 GPA. Admitted students transition from undergraduate to graduate work during their senior year. Upon completion of all undergraduate requirements, students will be awarded their respective BA or BS in Economics or Political Science. Students will continue on to fulfill a total of 31 graduate semester hours consisting of MPP courses earning a Master of Public Policy. An example of the sequencing of coursework for this program is provided as an attachment to this request.

SECTION II: Need *(Indicate why the change is justified. Reference need or demand data if appropriate.)*

There are complementary academic and professional elements in the fields of Political Science, Economics, and Public Policy. Thus, students can benefit greatly from enrolling in a coordinated joint degree program. By enrolling in such a program, students will be able to earn both degrees in less time and with a lower overall credit requirement than if they were to enroll in each program sequentially.

The purpose of a BA/BS/MPP is to augment students' knowledge of political science and/or economics with valuable training in public policy. The Master of Public Policy curriculum offers students a solid foundation in policy theory, analysis, and evaluation as it prepares them for careers as policy analysts and leaders in private, non-profit or public organizations. Public policy is becoming increasingly challenging and complex. The need is greater than ever to educate and train leaders who can understand, analyze, and evaluate policy issues. Many local and national government and nonprofit organizations have expressed a need for individuals who can not only manage, but also perform analytical work to address policy questions and effectively communicate the analysis to others.

An email survey of current Political Science and Economics undergraduates at The University of Utah conducted in January 2007 revealed that 65 current students expressed interest in learning more about a possible BA/BS/MPP combined program. This high level of interest by students coupled with an expressed need by public sector organizations suggests that the combined program will be successful.

It is expected that admissions to a combined BA/BS/MPP program will be competitive. We have learned through review of five similar programs around the country that an ideal number of combined program students is typically 2-3 per year (see Table 1). Keeping admissions at this level will ensure competence by students and uphold the integrity of the MPP program.

Table 1. Combined BS/BA/MPP Programs at Other Universities

Institution	Admission Requirements	Undergraduate Majors	Number Admitted Annually	Standard Time to Completion
University of Denver	3.5 GPA GRE	Public Policy	2-3	5 years
Rockefeller College at SUNY Albany	3.2 GPA	Variety of undergraduate majors including but not limited to: Sociology, Economics, Political Science, History, Public Policy	8-10	College has not collected this data, but ideally 5 ½ years.
Rutgers University	3.75 GPA GRE	Any major accepted	2	5 years
Harris School, University of Chicago	3.5 GPA GRE	Any major accepted, but then converted to a "professional option" degree	1-2	5 years
Ford School, University of Michigan	3.4 GPA GRE Calculus	Political Science, Economics, or General Studies	2-3	5 years

Section III: Institutional Impact

Will the proposed recommendation affect enrollments in instructional programs of affiliated departments or programs? **No**

How will the proposed recommendations affect existing administrative structures? **No affect anticipated.**

What (new) faculty, physical facilities or equipment will be impacted? **None**

The MPP program admits 8-15 students each fall. It is anticipated that the addition of the BA/BS/MPP option could increase enrollment to 11-18 students each fall. Currently, MPP core classes have modest excess capacity (e.g., 20-25 students may enroll in a class that has an enrollment cap of 30). Thus, we do not expect that the addition of the BA/BS/MPP option will create a hardship for instructors teaching these classes. There will be no need for new faculty, physical facilities or equipment if the combined degree program is approved. There will be some need for the coordination of academic advising across Political Science, Economics and the Master of Public Policy to insure that students understand the combined degree application process. The MPP program manager will take the lead in this coordination.

Section IV: Finances: *What costs are anticipated? Describe any budgetary impact, including cost savings, on other programs or units within the institution.*

The addition of the BA/BS/MPP option will not impose any new costs on the institution.

Attachment

Sample Program of Study

In addition to the undergraduate semester hour requirements, students will need at least 31 graduate semester hours consisting of MPP courses to earn a graduate degree.

Senior year - Fall

PADMN 5/6320 - Public Policy Theory and Application - 3

ECON 5/6300 - Public Finance - 3

Graduate Level Methods 1 - 3

Undergraduate courses as needed

Senior Year - Spring

PADMN 5/6965 - Policy Analysis - 3

ECON 5/6380 - Law and Economics – 3

Graduate Level Methods 2 - 3

Undergraduate courses as needed -3

Summer

MPP core or elective - 3

Fifth Year - Fall

PADMN 6563 - Policy Evaluation - 3

PADMN 6380 – Practice of Public Management or elective – 3

Graduate policy track elective - 3

Fifth Year - Spring

PUBPL 6950 - Applied Policy Project - 4

PUBPL 6900 - Capstone Seminar – 3

Graduate policy track elective