

Master of Public Policy

كلية السياسات العامة
College of Public Policy
جامعة حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY



Master of Public Policy (MPP)

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) is a full-time two-year degree offered by the College of Public Policy at HBKU. The program features a distinctive combination of interdisciplinarity, strong ethical foundations, entrepreneurship in public management, and innovation in policy-making and design.

The MPP provides training to graduate students from a range of disciplines in the skills needed to understand and enrich policy-making in Qatar and the region. The program will offer world-class academic and professional training in public policy analysis, design, implementation, evaluation, and management; as well as specializations in social policy, and in energy and the environment.

Program mission

The mission of the Master of Public Policy is to educate, enlighten, and empower the next generation of ethically grounded public leaders in Qatar and beyond.

We strive to provide critical knowledge and skills to address complex sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and environmental challenges for the public good. Through a rigorous curriculum, students will be equipped to foster equitable and responsible decisions. We seek to provide an inclusive and diverse learning environment to promote a culture of excellence, integrity, respect, and fairness. We experiment with, analyze, design, and evaluate innovative, evidence-informed, and future-oriented policy options and solutions.

The program enhances meaningful contributions to the community through public service and social value. Our graduates aspire to effectively communicate, contribute, and facilitate positive global and local impacts.

Accreditation

- ▶ The Masters of Public Policy (MPP) is the first MPP in Qatar and the Gulf region to be triple-accredited by three external accreditation bodies. This is a testament to our students, our faculty, and our globally-recognized program management along with the quality of the HBKU learning environment.
- ▶ The European Association for Public Administration Accreditation (EAPAA) for the 2024-2030 period. It is the first MPP program in the Gulf region and the second MPP program in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region to earn such an important recognition.
- ▶ The International Commission on Accreditation of Public Administration (ICAPA) for the 2025-2031 period. It is the first MPP program in the Gulf region and the second MPP program in the MENA region to earn such a respected recognition.
- ▶ The U.S.-based Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) for the 2025-2032 period. It is the second program in the Gulf region and the third MPP program in the MENA region to earn this prestigious accreditation.

EAPAA





Program goals

- ▶ To create a comprehensive curriculum that provides students with a strong foundation in public policy, including an ethical understanding of the political, economic, and social dynamics that shape policy decisions.
- ▶ To cultivate an environment of respect and inclusion where students can explore and debate a wide range of policy issues in a constructive and civil manner.
- ▶ To promote agile and responsive individuals and institutions that foster positive, sustainable change.
- ▶ To encourage multi-disciplinary and evidence-informed scholarship that contributes to advancing public policy knowledge and practice.
- ▶ To empower leaders who are knowledgeable and ethical public policy professionals able to identify, analyze, and develop innovative solutions to complex policy problems.
- ▶ To provide a range of collaborative, participatory, and leadership opportunities that allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world problems.

Program values

- ▶ **Integrity** - Adherence to strong ethical principles, honesty, transparency, accountability, and fairness.
- ▶ **Inclusivity** - Commitment to creating a diverse, equity-oriented, culturally responsive, and inclusive learning environment.
- ▶ **Community** - Fostering collaboration, critical thinking, and civil discourse.
- ▶ **Service** - Dedication to leadership, resilience, and innovation for the public good.
- ▶ **Sustainability** - Encouraging socially responsible environmental stewardship.

Program focus

The MPP program builds on the four pillars of public policy: policy analysis, economics, public management ethics, and research methodology. It is designed to integrate analysis, research, and the practical application of knowledge, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Other distinctive features include a strong focus on ethics in the program design and real-world experiences. The specializations will complement and deepen the core training, and encourage students to work with clients in addressing current policy problems. The program's ambition is to create thinkers who can do, and doers who can think.

Graduates of this program will be equipped to:

- ▶ Articulate and map major multidisciplinary debates, schools of thought, and theoretical approaches in the policy sciences.
- ▶ Critically analyze policy problems by using locally and globally relevant multidisciplinary perspectives with rigorous and appropriate methods.
- ▶ Collaborate effectively via culturally responsive and equity-oriented activities with relevant policymakers, leaders, and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Utilize effective verbal and written skills to encourage community service, public service, policy analysis, and evaluation.
- ▶ Apply ethical standards in policy research, research design, and adaptive policy practice.

Curriculum

A 36 credits program taught in English over two years that includes:

7 Core courses (21 credits)

- ▶ PPO 601 Research Methods for Public Policy
- ▶ PPO 602 Ethics, Law, and Public Policy
- ▶ PPO 611 Policy Analysis and Design
- ▶ PPO 621 Economics for Public Policy
- ▶ PPO 650 Public Management: Innovations and Challenges
- ▶ PPO 652 Comparative Public Policy
- ▶ PPO 653 Analytical Methods for Policy Evaluation

Electives

3 electives (9 credits) if pursuing the Capstone option, or 2 electives (6 credits) if pursuing the Thesis option, selected from the following courses:

- ▶ PPO 651 Global Political Economy
 - ▶ PPO 605 Environmental Change, Innovation & Policy
 - ▶ PPO 604 Advanced Seminar in Sustainability and Climate Policy
 - ▶ PPO 603 Advanced Seminar in Social Policy
 - ▶ PEV 603 Evidence-Based Evaluation Methods for Social Intervention
 - ▶ PPO 672 Digital Governance
 - ▶ SPO 650 Leadership in Public Policy
 - ▶ PPO 671 Postwar Reconstruction
 - ▶ GHP 604 Data, AI and Methods in Contemporary Health Policy
- ▶ PPO 690 Capstone Project (6 credits)
or
▶ PPO 695: Thesis (9 credits)



MPP Graduation and Completion Rates

Enrollment Date	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
Graduation Date	Spring 2021	Spring 2022	Spring 2023	Spring 2024	Spring 2025	Spring 2026	Spring 2027
Initial Enrollment	11	18	19	20	16	16	18
Transfer	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dismissal / Withdrawal	1	1	2	1	0	0	0
Effective Enrollment after Transfer, Dismissal, Withdrawal	10	17	16	17	16	16	16
# Effective Enrolled who Graduated, On-Time, Two Years	10 (100%)	15 (88.2%)	16 (100%)	13 (76.4%)	15 (100%)	In Process	In Process
% of Enrolled who Graduated in Three Years	N/A	16 (94.1%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	In Process	In Process
% of Enrolled who Graduated in Four Years	N/A	16 (94.1%)	N/A	15 (93.4%)	N/A	In Process	In Process
# Have Not Graduated in Four Years	N/A	1 (5.9%)	N/A	1 (6.6%)	N/A	In Process	In Process

Admission and application requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the Master of Public Policy should have a bachelor's degree with a strong academic record (minimum 3.2 GPA out of 4.0) from a recognized university. Applicants from all fields are welcome to apply, including engineering, natural sciences and humanities, but preference will be given to those with an academic background in political science, public administration, economics, communications, or other social sciences.

Applicants are required to submit an IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 79 to demonstrate their proficiency in English.

Further details about the language proficiency requirement and the process to seek exemption (where this is an option) are available on the website: admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Application requirements

A completed online application form:
admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Academic transcripts

Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied with an official translation. Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts will be required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

Standardized test results

Official copies of standardized test results must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:

- ▶ TOEFL: 4981
- ▶ IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Letters of recommendation

Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which must be from an academic referee. Letters that are not directly written for this program, or are incomplete, will not be accepted.

Personal statement of interest

Applicants should submit a personal statement as part of the online application. The statement should explain why the candidate is applying to the program, and how their studies will contribute to the achievement of their personal objectives, including information about the applicant's research interests and achievements.

Resume/Curriculum vitae

Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application.

Identification document:

All applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of the online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatari ID.

Student funding

The College of Public Policy provides opportunities for funding on a competitive basis. Further information will be provided to applicants who are admitted to the program.

Admission inquiries

admissions.cpp@hbku.edu.qa