

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Public Policy major offered by the College of Arts and Science and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU! I am writing to you as the Director of the Undergraduate Major at Wagner. I am very excited that you are interested in pursuing this major.

As this major evolved we have sought to highlight the multidisciplinary aspect of public policy. Public policy sits at the intersection of economics, politics, law and statistics and as such we wanted students to take courses from these various disciplines. I think you will find that the selected sequence of courses and electives shows the breadth and depth of policy and its impacts.

Indeed, the fact that public policy encompasses a variety of disciplines and perspectives is one of the many reasons I love the field and chose to study it myself. One of the first questions we tackle in the introduction of public policy is: what is public policy? We quickly learn that policy impacts many elements of our daily lives – from major issues like averting financial crises to local but important issues such as the safety of the food we eat and the streets we drive on. To learn about the “how” and “why” behind something simple like a curb cutout, which helps mobility-impaired individuals cross streets, is often a bit of a revelation. In fact a student-led movement, the disability movement of the 1960s, led to curb cutouts. If you’re as curious as I am about the world around you, and want to know more about how it can be made better in both big and small ways, then public policy is the major for you!

As you think about your schedule consider taking advantage of NYU’s global campus. For example, NYU-DC offers in-depth study for those interested in going to the nation’s capital. Alternatively going abroad to one of NYU’s global sites to study international policy would be a fantastic option.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me (nordlund@nyu.edu) or the Director of Undergraduate Studies at CAS Professor Neal Beck (nlb1@nyu.edu)

I look forward to hearing from you!

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