

Ph.D. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The **DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION** provides students with the theoretical and methodological training needed to perform original research in public policy, management or finance. The program encourages students to design a plan of study that draws from several disciplines and to take advantage of course offerings at Wagner and NYU's other graduate schools. It emphasizes teaching and research experience and provides many opportunities for students to become active in the classroom as teaching colleagues and lecturers and/or to participate in research projects with individual faculty or through our affiliated research centers. Our doctoral program prepares graduates for careers at academic institutions, in think tanks, research firms, and research units of public, quasi-public and private organizations, as well as for other positions with substantial responsibilities for the supervision and administration of research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: 72 CREDITS

Students are required to complete the following:

- **Research Methods**—by first fall semester
- **Statistical Data Analysis: Multiple Regression** (or equivalent)—by first spring semester
- **Qualitative Research Methods** (or approved alternative)—by third semester
- **Research Colloquium**—before the end of the program
- **At least one Doctoral Seminar in Policy, Management or Finance**—within two to three years of matriculation

Students choose other courses based on their interests. It is strongly recommended that students begin taking coursework in their chosen fields of specialization, and in the Research Methods courses in particular, during the first year of study.

The major purpose of advanced coursework is to develop expertise in research methods and two fields of concentration, at least one of which must be management, policy, or finance; the other may be urban policy, health policy, international policy or a customized field option (with permission).

CRITICAL MILESTONES

1. **Preliminary Qualifying Examination**
2. Three **Comprehensive Field Examinations** (including one in research methods)
3. Participation in **Research Colloquium**

4. **Dissertation** based on independent and original research defended before a faculty committee

PRELIMINARY QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (PQE)

The PQE is scheduled in the spring semester and must be taken during the first year of matriculation. Registration for the PQE takes place in the Office of Academic Services during the regular registration period in the fall and spring terms.

The PQE is an essay exam constructed to assess the student's capability to design a research proposal based on a research problem scenario presented to them. It also tests the capacity for clear and logical expository writing. The student answers one question chosen from a set of four or five questions based on a policy or management problem. The PQE does not examine specific substantive knowledge from any given course; instead, it relies on the student's general knowledge and the appreciation of the logic of applied social science research.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

The doctoral field comprehensive examinations are the second and final set of exam requirements for the Ph.D. degree. In these examinations, students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge and comprehension of the literature in Research Methods and two other fields (one of which must be either finance, policy or manage-

ment); their capacity to analyze and assess critically the major concepts, theories and research of each field; and, their ability to present these perspectives in a well-documented, cogent, clear and logical manner. All three comprehensive exams must be taken within three semesters of the first exam. Students may take three exams in three different semesters or may take two exams in one semester. Students should pass all three comprehensive exams within two years of passing the PQE or by the end of their fourth year in the program. The comprehensive examinations may not be waived. Students who do not pass a comprehensive exam on their first try must take the exam again during the next scheduled exam period.

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

The colloquium is a seminar series at which prominent researchers present current work on pressing social issues. The presenters represent a range of disciplines and methodological approaches, and are affiliated with institutions from around the country. The colloquium offers doctoral students and faculty a chance to see the latest work, discuss and debate different approaches to research, and interact with researchers from other institutions. It also provides doctoral students with an academic forum in which to present their own research.

DISSERTATION

A dissertation is the result of a scholarly investigation on a topic or problem conducted independently by the candidate under the general guidance of a faculty committee and chaired by a primary advisor. The committee plays a key role in guiding the candidate's proposal, research, and writing. To facilitate the advisory process, the candidate selects his/her faculty com-

mittee on the basis of common intellectual interest on the dissertation topic. Two additional faculty members are added later in the process, in consultation with the Doctoral Program Director, to participate in the defense as external readers. Ultimately, what constitutes a dissertation is the result of an agreement between the student, the chair, and the committee members.

In order to maintain current student status, all students must register for one of the following during the dissertation stage: NYU Wagner Research Colloquium; Maintenance of Matriculation; or Seminar on Research in Progress.

Wagner doctoral students have written dissertations on a diverse range of topics spanning the fields of finance, policy, management, health policy and urban policy. Examples of recent dissertation topics include:

- Understanding Within-school Segregation in New York City Public Elementary Schools
- Implications of Urban Population Aging for Elderly and Child Care Services: A Comparative Analysis of Services Across Tokyo's Municipalities
- Redistributive Policy in an Individualistic Culture: Welfare Reform in Pennsylvania, 1996-2002
- Ownership and Outcomes: Investigating Nonprofit and For-profit Subsidized Housing Developers in New York City
- Evaluating the Health Impacts of Primary Care Decentralization in the Context of a Developing Country
- The Role of Monitoring and Evaluation in the Budgetary Process: Insights from a Study of Chile's Performance-based Budgeting System

OUR GRADUATES

Graduates of our program have recently published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *International Migration Review*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Journal of Urban Health*, *American Journal of Evaluation*, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Journal of Nutrition*, *Academic Medicine*, *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, and *Policy and Society*.

Our graduates have recently taken such significant positions as:

- *Associate Professor*, Maxwell School Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University
- *Assistant Professor*, School of Public Policy and Public Administration, George Washington University
- *Research Scientist*, The Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research and The Center for the Study of Issues in Public Mental Health
- *Assistant Professor*, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, New York University
- *Research Associate*, College of Human Ecology, Cornell University
- *Assistant Professor*, Department of Planning, Public Policy, and Management, University of Oregon

» FOR MORE INFORMATION

please e-mail us at
wagner.phd@nyu.edu

Established in 1938, the **Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service** offers advanced programs leading to the professional degrees of Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Public and Nonprofit Policy and Management, Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Health Policy, Master of Urban Planning, Executive Master of Public Administration, and Doctor of Philosophy. Through these rigorous programs, NYU Wagner educates the future leaders of domestic and international public, nonprofit, urban planning and health institutions as well as private organizations serving the public sector. NYU Wagner takes a broad-based, interdisciplinary approach to a grounded public service education that recognizes the importance of a cross-sector perspective.