



HEALTH POLICY ANALYSIS AND PROCESS TRACK

High quality, evidence-based policy development and advocacy are central to improvements in the public's health. Public health professionals trained in health policy are essential to the creation of such policy and advocacy. Good public policy requires the *integration* of analytical and political skills. The Health Policy Analysis and Process (HPAP) track integrates the many health policy resources in the Department of Health Services, the School of Public Health and Community Medicine and other schools within the University to create a community of students who share a career path, guided by faculty and mentors active in health policy development, implementation, and evaluation.

The objectives of the HPAP track are to:

- improve public policy in the health and health care arena by adding to the workforce of highly effective policy advocates, analysts, and decision makers;
- create opportunities for exposure to health policy perspectives for a wide range of students in the Department of Health Services, the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, the University of Washington, our alumni, and the broader community; and
- increase connections among faculty and students interested in health policy work;
- increase connections between the University of Washington community (faculty, staff, and students) and health care policy decision makers and stakeholders.

The HPAP track seeks to train students who will go into analytic and leadership positions in a variety of settings related to health policy. In addition to developing quantitative and qualitative analytical skills, students who graduate from the HPAP track will have a deep understanding of how and where public policy is developed, what forms it takes, who the relevant actors and institutions are, the economic and legal forces that affect and are affected by public policy, and the history of public policy as it has shaped population health and health care markets.

The curriculum is competency based, reflecting both the competencies identified by the Association of Schools of Public Health for health policy, and those of the Department of Health Services for the MPH degree. These competencies are addressed through a variety of mechanisms including course content, skills within courses, seminars, and non-classroom activities such as the practicum and capstone project. Students take a total of 70 credits, which are divided among required courses; courses selected from required areas; electives; and the seminar, practicum, and capstone project.

Students in other tracks or degree programs wishing to combine health policy with other areas of study may choose the 15-credit Graduate Certificate in Health Policy.

More information is available at <http://depts.washington.edu/hpap/> .