The school currently offers a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, as well as minors in Nonprofit Leadership and Social Innovation, Sustainability Studies and Public Leadership. Courses may be found under PLCY. These courses are suggested for students wishing to develop knowledge and experience in public policy and leadership. The school also offers a 5-year bachelor’s/master of public policy program for selected students. For additional information on the wide range of undergraduate opportunities see https://www.publicpolicy.umd.edu/undergraduate

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR
First-time freshmen students who wish to major in Public Policy at the University of Maryland are encouraged to apply for admission to the University by the priority deadline of November 1. There is no separate application for our major and seats in the major are guaranteed as we are NOT a limited enrollment program.

Current University of Maryland Students who wish to add the Public Policy major should contact our advisor at plcyundergrad@umd.edu for more information. Our major is not limited enrollment so all students are welcome assuming you have time to complete all the major requirements.

Academic Programs

Major

- Public Policy Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/public-policy/public-policy-major)

Minors

- Sustainability Studies Minor (PLCY) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/public-policy/sustainability-studies-minor)

Advising

The Public Policy Major has mandatory advising every semester. Academic advising is an ongoing process that helps students clarify their educational and career goals, and then chart a meaningful plan for achieving those goals. Advising is the joint responsibility of the student and the advisor. The advisor assists students in evaluating their degree progress and helps them select appropriate courses and other educational experiences tailored to their personal goals. Ultimately, students are responsible for making decisions, setting and meeting identified goals and published requirements. Students can contact the Public Policy advising office by calling (301) 405-2370 or emailing plcyundergrad@umd.edu.

Opportunities

Living-Learning Programs

Public Leadership Program in College Park Scholars
Public Leadership explores the theory and practice of leadership, empowering students to become social change agents through hands-on public service projects and examination of pressing social, political, and economic issues. Public Leadership is defined as “the inspiration and mobilization of others to undertake collective action in pursuit of the common good.”

The mission of the College Park Scholars Public Leadership Program is to develop social change agents who provide ethically based leadership from the local to the global level. Students become informed citizens able to reason critically and persuasively about public matters and to apply diverse approaches to leadership and citizenship in a multicultural society. Students learn to form an ethical vision and develop their own leadership potential as they explore and assess personal values, beliefs, and purpose.

Public Leadership is a community of students from all majors who are committed to developing their leadership skills for the common good. Through small classes and discussions, active learning, and living together in the shared community of Cumberland Hall, the Public Leadership program prepares students with a set of skills that will serve them in every aspect of their adult lives.

For more information see: https://www.scholars.umd.edu/programs/

iGive: Carillon Community

The iGive program gives first year students an opportunity to learn about philanthropy, innovation, and social change through rigorous class work and hands-on experience. Through iGive, part of the Carillon Community, students live together in the Denton Community and develop lasting peer relationships grounded in common interests, experiential learning, and shared academic commitments. Over the course of the year, students study theories of philanthropy, design a philanthropic fund, award $7,500 to an area nonprofit, and design their own social action projects. The iGive courses are team-based, interactive, and provide an opportunity for students to work on issues they are passionate about. Students complete the year with an understanding of some of the world’s most pressing problems and the actions being taken to address them. Most importantly, students will finish their freshman year having practiced social change and energized to use their talents to continue doing good. For more information see: http://carillon.umd.edu/igive.html

Specialized Academic Programs

Rawlings Undergraduate Leadership Fellows Program

The prestigious Rawlings Undergraduate Leadership Fellows Program is the University of Maryland’s premiere undergraduate leadership and public policy training program. It honors the legacy of Howard Peters “Pete” Rawlings and the work he did as a Maryland delegate. Participants in the Fellows program are provided multiple opportunities—both academic and experiential—to grow as ethical leaders and become champions for those whose voices may otherwise go unheard in the leadership and decision-making process. Maintaining a commitment to
those historically underrepresented in leadership positions is central to the program.

The program works with students, faculty, alumni, and local leaders to provide undergraduates with a commitment to cultural pluralism, advocacy, and change with the necessary skills, resources, and support to prepare them for leadership roles during the school year and after program completion.

If students have at least two semesters remaining at the university and a commitment to public leadership, they are strongly encouraged to apply (http://publicpolicy.umd.edu/undergraduate/academics/programs/rawlings-undergraduate-leadership-fellows-program/apply). Fellows design and implement their own community action projects, take courses on leadership, serve at an internship, and meet elected officials, community advocates, and non-profit leaders.

For more information: https://www.publicpolicy.umd.edu/undergraduate/academics/programs/rawlings-undergraduate-leadership-fellows-program

Financial Assistance

Senator John A. Cade Public Leadership Scholarship

Senator John A. Cade was one of Maryland’s most extraordinary and exemplary public servants. As a member of the Maryland Senate from 1975-1996, his dedication to government, public service and education helped enhance the lives of his constituents.

"As much as any legislator, Jack Cade understood that it was education that made a difference. He was a champion for higher education funding throughout his career.”

–Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

This scholarship was created to honor the memory of Senator John A. Cade by enabling students to carry on his legacy of public service and leadership.

Eligible candidates must:

• be a current Maryland resident
• be an undergraduate student
• have a 3.0 GPA or higher
• have an interest in public service, government involvement, or political leadership.

For more information: http://publicpolicy.umd.edu/undergraduate/academics/financial-aid/cade-scholarship

Rosalie Reilly Gubernatorial Fellowship

Rosalie Reilly was one of Maryland’s most extraordinary and exemplary public servants who was a role model for young leaders as they prepared to enter public life.

This fellowship was created to honor the memory of Ms. Reilly by enabling female students to carry on her legacy of public service and leadership. As a part of the fellowship, students commit to completing a project of significant impact to the community during their fellowship year.

Eligible candidates must:

• be available to serve at least 135 fellowship hours
• have an interest in public service, government involvement, or political leadership
• be a female undergraduate or graduate student
• have a 3.0 GPA or higher

For more information: http://publicpolicy.umd.edu/undergraduate/academics/financial-aid/reilly-fellowship

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OFSA) administers all types of federal, state, and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other University offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For more information, visit: www.financialaid.umd.edu.