

# SOCIAL POLICY, MSSP

The Master of Science in Social Policy Program (MSSP) program is an eleven-month, ten-course program that prepares professionals with knowledge and skills to use policy to increase equality, promote equity, and forge social change. MSSP graduates are prepared for policy leadership positions in government, philanthropic foundations, research institutes, nonprofit and non-governmental organizations, and other related settings, through:

- Understanding the world views, assumptions, and philosophies underlying all policy solutions;
- Understanding how decisions about social policy issues are made, shaped and influenced at local, state, national and global levels;
- Formulating a social reform agenda that is evidence-based and aims at improving the equity, effectiveness, and efficiency of policy creation and implementation; and
- Generating and considering a wide array of policy options to address social problems.

**For more information:** <https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/program/master-of-science-in-social-policy/>

## Curriculum

A total of 10 course units are required for graduation.

Code	Title	Course Units
<b>Core Courses</b>		
MSSP 6280	Policy: Analysis of Issues, Strategy and Process	1
MSSP 6290	Research and Evaluation Design	1
MSSP 6300	Quantitative Reasoning/Social Statistics <sup>1</sup>	1
MSSP 6310	Law and Social Policy	1
MSSP 8970	Applied Linear Modeling	1
MSSP 6680	Economics for Social Policy	1
MSSP 6320	Capstone Seminar I: Policy Communications	0.5
MSSP 6330	Capstone Seminar II: Policy Internship	0.5
<b>Electives</b>		
MSSP Theory Elective (Attribute = SMST)		1
Select two electives		2
<b>Total Course Units</b>		<b>10</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students are eligible to elect to take a waiver exam for MSSP 6300. Any student who passes the waiver exam must take an elective in its place, which may include, but is not limited to, a more advanced research methods course.

## Social Policy Internships

Students in the MSSP program have the opportunity to practice their policy analysis skills and gain work experience through a required policy internship. The 6-8 week internship is structured on the basis of individual student interests and past social policy experience(s). When appropriate, students may complete the internship requirement at their current place of employment. Internships may occur anywhere in the United States or in another country best suited to the learning objectives of the student. In

every case, the policy internship must consist of a minimum commitment of 150 hours. Credit for the internship is incorporated into the MSSP Capstone course.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2023 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.