

# SOCIAL POLICY, MSSP

The Master of Science in Social Policy Program (MSSP) program is a ten-course program over eight months 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

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
	or MSSP 7805 Law and Social Policy: Foundations	
MSSP 6360	MSSP Capstone Seminar: Policy Communications	1
MSSP 6370	MSSP Policy Internship Seminar	0
MSSP 6680	Economics for Social Policy	1
MSSP 8970	Applied Linear Modeling	1
<b>Electives</b>		
MSSP Theory Elective (Attribute = SMST) ( <a href="http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/smst/">http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/smst/</a> )		1
Select two SP2 electives from the following course ranges:		2
MSSP 5000-9999		
NPLD 5000-9999		
SOCW 5000-9999		
SSPP 5000-9999		
SWRK 5000-9999		
<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 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 250 hours.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

### Sample Plan of Study

The Master of Science in Social Policy Program (MSSP) program is available as an on-campus, full-time or part-time program. While students may customize their schedules due to participation in a dual degree or certificate program, or enrollment in an international course or study abroad experience, the grid below outlines the standard schedule and course of study for full-time students.

First Year		Course Units
<b>Fall</b>		
MSSP 6280	Policy: Analysis of Issues, Strategy and Process	1
MSSP 6290	Research and Evaluation Design	1
MSSP 6300	Quantitative Reasoning/Social Statistics	1
MSSP 6370	MSSP Policy Internship Seminar	0
MSSP 6680	Economics for Social Policy	1
MSSP Theory Elective (attribute = SMST)		1
		<b>Course Units 5.00</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
MSSP 6310 or MSSP 7805	Law and Social Policy or Law and Social Policy: Foundations	1

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MSSP 6360	MSSP Capstone Seminar: Policy Communications	1
MSSP 6370	MSSP Policy Internship Seminar	0
MSSP 8970	Applied Linear Modeling	1
SP2 Elective 1		1
SP2 Elective 2		1
<b>Course Units</b>		<b>5.00</b>
<b>Total Course Units</b>		<b>10.00</b>