The Curriculum

Students take a core set of courses that cover U.S. government, various substantive public policy issues, political theory, public management, policy implementation, and research methods. Students also choose from a range of electives in such specializations as science and technology, environment, telecommunications, information technology, regional economic development, law, or philosophy. They conclude their studies with a real-world policy design exercise, often for a government, nonprofit, or corporate client.

Certificate Programs

Georgia Tech students can enrich their degree with a certificate in public policy, pre-law, political science and philosophy, and science and technology.

Minors

Providing greater depth than a certificate, minors in public policy, political science, philosophy, science and technology, and law are also offered.

Research

Public policy majors can do research for credit or pay. Students have been involved in projects investigating water policy, economic development, the causes of homelessness, and the political use of the Internet.

"The School of Public Policy offers a unique opportunity for students to cultivate their leadership skills and become more sophisticated thinkers in a problem-solving-focused environment."

— Rebecca Arce • Third-year Public Policy Student
ICM Student Advisory Board Member
Intern, Office of the Governor

Law, Science, and Technology Program

The School of Public Policy is home to Georgia Tech’s Law, Science, and Technology/Pre-Law Program, which offers a range of courses as well as pre-law advising and support services for students considering law school and careers in law. The program welcomes students from every college and major. Georgia Tech pre-law students have gone on to attend law schools at Columbia, Emory, Georgetown, Harvard, Mercer, Stanford, University of Georgia, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, University of Virginia, Georgia State, and Vanderbilt.

Philosophy, Science, and Technology

The School of Public Policy is also home to Georgia Tech’s Philosophy, Science, and Technology program. The program offers undergraduate courses in philosophy, with a particular focus on science and technology. The courses enable Georgia Tech students to reflect on the nature of their disciplines and to focus their understanding on the context of their lives as professionals and citizens. Certificate and minor programs are available for students who wish to concentrate their course work in philosophy.

"My experience as a student in the School of Public Policy has been excellent because the degree has prepared me for working in the legal or policy arenas in the real world. The ability of the department to combine internships with classroom experience is outstanding."

— Sara Cames • 2003 Public Policy graduate
First-year law student, Stanford University

Combined Graduate and Undergraduate Degree Program

Five-year Bachelor’s and Master’s Program

This program combines coursework in the bachelor’s and master’s program to enable students to graduate with both degrees after five years of study. Students with a GPA of at least 3.5 can apply to this competitive program after their first year. The program offers intense interaction between students and faculty, including mentoring and undergraduate research experience. Because the program offers a challenging course of study in a fast-paced environment, applicants must satisfy rigorous entrance requirements.

"Although I decided on Public Policy as a result of my interest in politics, studying at Georgia Tech has allowed me to explore different fields of study. Thus, I was able to use my skills in economics to analyze political questions."

— Michael Handelman • Fourth-year Public Policy/Economics student
ICM Student Advisory Board Member
Executive Vice President, Student Government Association

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Research for credit in the School of Public Policy is "hard-wired" into the required curriculum through methods and capstone courses.
Opportunities

The School encourages students to complete internships to get real-world policy experience. Our students have interned for the Georgia legislature, the Sierra Club, the Atlanta Youth Project, the Southface Energy Institute, the DeKalb Department of Juvenile Justice, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Recent graduates of our programs have gone on to work in city planning in local government, in the Georgia state governor and lieutenant governor’s offices, in real estate development, in the Peace Corps, the Army, and in policy work for Georgia Tech. Others have continued on to graduate education and to professional programs, including top-ranked law schools.

Georgia Tech and Ivan Allen College

Humanities and social sciences are essential to Georgia Tech’s mission. The School of Public Policy is playing a key role in Georgia Tech’s strategic plan to increase the university’s role in shaping local, national, and international policy making. The School of Public Policy is one of six schools in the Ivan Allen College, which was established in 1990 as the liberal arts college of Georgia Tech. The others are Economics; History, Technology, and Society; Sam Nunn School of International Affairs; Literature, Communication, and Culture; and Modern Languages. In addition to the liberal arts, Georgia Tech is also nationally recognized for engineering, architecture, computing, sciences, and management.

Atlanta

A lively city with a population of more than 4 million, Atlanta offers many cultural and economic opportunities for students. The Tech campus is located in the city’s heart, close to the Carter Center, High Museum, King Center, CNN, and Turner Field. More than 1,600 internationally-owned companies are located in the greater Atlanta area, contributing to the character of the city.

For additional information, contact:

Elizabeth Miller
Academic Advisor/Recruitment Coordinator
Phone: 404.894.0513
E-mail: elizabeth.miller@iac.gatech.edu

Georgia Institute of Technology
Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts
School of Public Policy
685 Cherry Street
Atlanta, GA 30312-0345

Undergraduate Coordinator
Phone: 404.894.6822
E-mail: BSPP@mail.gatech.edu

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