

PUBLIC POLICY (PH.D.) - SOCIAL POLICY

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2025 through summer 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs, concentrations, or cognates.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
PLCY 700	Foundations of Public Policy	3
PLCY 701	Natural Law, The State & The Gospel	3
PLCY 702	Founding Era and the Constitution	3
PLCY 703	Contemporary Challenges to Constitutional Order and the Role of the State	3
PLCY 802	Competing Visions of Statesmanship	3
PLCY 804	Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	3
Total Hours		18

Code	Title	Hours
Research Methods & Tools Courses		
PLCY 805	Policy Analysis and Research Design	3
PLCY 809	Data and Analysis for Policymakers	3
PLCY 810	Quantitative Methods I ¹	3
PLCY 811	Quantitative Methods II ¹	3
PLCY 812	Qualitative Methods	3
Total Hours		15

¹ PLCY 815 Advanced Quantitative Methods I (3 c.h.) and PLCY 816 Advanced Quantitative Methods II (3 c.h.) may be substituted for PLCY 810 Quantitative Methods I (3 c.h.) and PLCY 811 Quantitative Methods II (3 c.h.) by permission of the Department Chair

Code	Title	Hours
Social Policy Cognate		
PLCY 710	Social Issues and Public Policy	3
PLCY 850	Introduction to Social Policy Studies	3
PLCY 851	Research Seminar in Social Policy	3
Total Hours		9

Code	Title	Hours
Dissertation Courses ¹		
PLCY 885	Research Concept	3
PLCY 987	Dissertation I	5
PLCY 988	Dissertation II	5
PLCY 989	Dissertation III ²	5
PLCY 990	Dissertation IV - Dissertation Defense	0
Total Hours		18

¹ Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

² Any student who is not ready for enrollment in PLCY 990 Dissertation IV - Dissertation Defense (0 c.h.) after completing PLCY 989

Dissertation III (5 c.h.) may be required, as determined by the student's dissertation chair, to repeat PLCY 989 Dissertation III (5 c.h.) until deemed ready for enrollment in PLCY 990 Dissertation IV - Dissertation Defense (0 c.h.)

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 60 hours
- A maximum of 50% of a post-graduate and doctoral degree may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level
- 3.0 GPA
- No grades lower than a B- may be applied to the degree
- Successful completion of Research Concept
- Successful defense of Dissertation
- Degree must be completed within 7 years
- Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Program Offered in Online Format

Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Semester		
PLCY 700	Foundations of Public Policy	3
PLCY 701	Natural Law, The State & The Gospel	3
PLCY 702	Founding Era and the Constitution	3
Hours		9
Second Semester		
PLCY 703	Contemporary Challenges to Constitutional Order and the Role of the State	3
PLCY 710	Social Issues and Public Policy	3
PLCY 802	Competing Visions of Statesmanship	3
Hours		9
Third Semester		
PLCY 804	Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	3
PLCY 809	Data and Analysis for Policymakers	3
PLCY 810	Quantitative Methods I ¹	3
Hours		9
Fourth Semester		
PLCY 805	Policy Analysis and Research Design	3
PLCY 811	Quantitative Methods II ¹	3
PLCY 812	Qualitative Methods	3
Hours		9
Fifth Semester		
PLCY 850	Introduction to Social Policy Studies	3
PLCY 851	Research Seminar in Social Policy	3
PLCY 885	Research Concept	3
Hours		9
Sixth Semester		
PLCY 987	Dissertation I ²	5
Hours		5

Course	Title	Hours
Seventh Semester		
PLCY 988	Dissertation II	5
Hours		5
Eighth Semester		
PLCY 989	Dissertation III ³	5
Hours		5
Ninth Semester		
PLCY 990	Dissertation IV - Dissertation Defense	0
Hours		0
Total Hours		60

¹ PLCY 815 and PLCY 816 may be substituted for PLCY 810 and PLCY 811 by permission of Department Chair.

² Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed.

³ Any student who is not ready for enrollment in PLCY 990 after completing PLCY 989 may be required, as determined by the student's dissertation chair, to repeat PLCY 989 until deemed ready for enrollment in PLCY 990.