

PUBLIC POLICY (PH.D.)

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	Advanced Research Methods 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
Elective Courses ¹		
Choose nine credit hours of the following:		9
PLCY 840	Introduction to Education Policy Studies	
PLCY 850	Introduction to Social Policy Studies	
PLCY 860	Introduction to Foreign Policy Studies	
PLCY 870	Introduction to Economic Policy Studies	
PLCY 880	Introduction to National Security Policy Studies	
Total Hours		9

¹ Other courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 802	Competing Visions of Statesmanship	3
Public Policy Elective ¹		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 ²	3
Hours		9
Fourth Semester		
PLCY 805	Policy Analysis and Research Design	3
PLCY 811	Quantitative Methods II ²	3
PLCY 812	Qualitative Methods	3
Hours		9
Fifth Semester		
PLCY 885	Research Concept	3
Public Policy Elective ¹		3

Course	Title	Hours
Public Policy Elective ¹		3
	Hours	9
Sixth Semester		
PLCY 987	Dissertation I ³	5
	Hours	5
Seventh Semester		
PLCY 988	Dissertation II	5
	Hours	5
Eighth Semester		
PLCY 989	Dissertation III ⁴	5
	Hours	5
Ninth Semester		
PLCY 990	Dissertation IV - Dissertation Defense	0
	Hours	0
	Total Hours	60

¹ Choose from the following: PLCY 840, PLCY 850, PLCY 860, PLCY 870, or PLCY 880; other courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

² PLCY 815 and PLCY 816 may be substituted for PLCY 810 and PLCY 811 by permission of Department Chair.

³ Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed.

⁴ 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.