



MAKE YOUR MARK

With this PhD program, I hope to understand the theory and practice related to energy and environment policy. In a longer run, I hope to bridge the gap between engineering and public policy in this sector.

Vivek Bhandari
PhD Candidate

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Affairs degree program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs prepares students to become public affairs scholars in the Academy or to join innovative institutions involved in cutting-edge research in public affairs, policy, planning, and management. Students are advised by highly accomplished Humphrey School faculty members with research expertise related to policy analysis, urban and regional planning, environmental and energy policy, public management, social policy, transit and transportation planning, and global policy.

The Humphrey School welcomes candidates from all fields. Successful applicants will be clear about the research they wish to undertake and why they think the Humphrey School is the best place to do that research. They are expected to make original theoretical, methodological, or substantive contributions in the area of their specialization. Specializations are available in:

- Public Policy
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Public and Nonprofit Management
- Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

DEGREE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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Students take a common set of core classes, choose one of the four academic sub-plans for specialization, select a customized set of courses within the sub-plan in consultation with their advisor, and complete a dissertation.

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The program requires advanced training in theory, research design, statistics, and other quantitative and qualitative methods.

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Students will also complete training in pedagogy and gain experience in teaching.





The PhD program at the Humphrey School takes advantage of the multidisciplinary nature and active research agendas of our faculty as well as the great resources of the University of Minnesota to produce public affairs scholars ready to make cutting edge contributions to the fields of public policy, urban planning, and public/nonprofit management.

Edward Goetz, professor and director, PhD in Public Affairs program

CORE CURRICULUM

The curriculum of the PhD in Public Affairs is customized based on educational background of the student, the student's research interests, and the student's academic sub-plan.

Students may be admitted with a prior master's degree or with a bachelor's degree. If admitted with a prior master's degree, up to 27 master's credits of approved coursework in specific areas can be used to fulfill PhD degree requirements. Students who enter the program with only a bachelor's degree must complete, prior to completion of the PhD, one of these four master's degrees:

- Master of Public Policy (MPP)
- Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)
- Master of Science in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (MS-STEP)
- Master of Development Practice (MDP)

Requirements include two Integrative Seminars (total of six credits), a Research Seminar (three credits), research methods courses appropriate to the dissertation research (12 credits), up to 18 sub-plan credits, and 24 thesis credits.

Each candidate must complete training in pedagogy and a teaching experience as a course instructor or teaching assistant (TA) with instructional responsibilities. The pedagogical training may take place prior to or concurrent with the teaching experience.

BACKGROUND OF CURRENT STUDENTS

PhD students come to the Humphrey School from throughout the country and around the world with backgrounds as diverse as their areas of research interest. They are teachers, engineers, researchers, consultants, investment bankers, software developers, and nonprofit leaders, who all have a common interest in developing the critical skills necessary to address increasingly complex domestic and global policy challenges. They will graduate prepared for careers doing cutting-edge research in academia, or with public or non-profit organizations.

PROGRAM FIT

Admission to the PhD program is highly selective and competitive. The PhD program enrolls a limited number of students annually to ensure opportunities for close collaboration with faculty advisors and mentors, and the availability of financial assistance. Admitted students are provided financial aid in the form of tuition fellowships, stipends, or research or teaching assistantships.

Admission is limited to those applicants with research interests closely aligned with the interests of one or more Humphrey School faculty members. Applicants are encouraged to identify faculty members who are doing research related to their interests. This type of exploratory work will help applicants determine whether the Humphrey School is the best place to pursue their doctorate. Students who have strong relationships with faculty mentors based on shared research interests and who receive funding from their school or department are more likely to be successful in completing their doctorates.

Qualified applicants with strong GPAs, GRE scores, and letters of recommendation who otherwise would be strong candidates may not be admitted if their research interests are not a good match with those of a faculty member. An applicant's "Statement of Purpose and Research Interests" should be as clear as possible about research interests and how they align with the interests of a faculty member.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Statement of Purpose and Research Interests
- Résumé or CV
- GPA and transcripts
- GRE scores
- Writing sample
- Three letters of recommendation
- Diversity Statement (optional)
- Indication of English language proficiency (for non-native English speakers)

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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