

Montana University System
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Program/Center/Institute Title: **Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration**

Campus, School/Department: **Montana State University Bozeman/Political Science**

Expected Submission Date: **January 2019**

Contact Name/Info: **Dr. Franke Wilmer, Department Head**

1) Provide a description of the program/center/institute.

The Department of Political Science at Montana State University—Bozeman proposes to offer the state's first Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration (PPA). This Ph.D. in PPA will prepare students for the study and practice of public policy as applied to issues relevant to Montana, the region, the U.S., and the world. While there is a science of public policy that includes advanced theory and methods training, the discipline of public policy is closely connected to the practice of policy design, implementation, and assessment. As such, graduates will have the capacity to shape the future direction of public policy through work in government, the non-profit sector, the academy and private industry. The Ph.D. in PPA is designed as a post-master's degree¹ emphasizing doctoral research with supporting coursework and research discovery expectations. A Ph.D. in PPA will provide students with skills necessary to research and analyze complex public sector challenges across various policy content areas, for either the practitioner or academic scholar. Graduates will be trained as productive, highly skilled research professionals who will be able to compete successfully in local, state, regional, national, and international job markets in teaching, research as well as public and private sector work. The Department of Political Science has some expertise in public policy and public administration theory and will seek to hire 2.5 faculty over 2 years with expertise in methods, political economy, and intergovernmental (federal, state, local) public policy dynamics, with an additional .5 faculty going to Mathematics department for support in delivering statistics courses required in the Ph.D. Ph.D. students will participate in mentored teaching of undergraduates in both lab (individual faculty and Human Ecology Learning and Problem Solving Lab²) and undergraduate courses (e.g., large sections of Intro to American Government); we expect 11 students/year to be supported through GTAs and 5-7 year to be supported through grant-funded GRAs.

2) Describe the need for the program/center/institute. Specifically, how the program/center/institute meets current student and workforce demands. (Please cite sources).

The study of public policy and public administration is recognized as a growing area of study and employment³. While the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) does not include a category for public policy and public administration positions (e.g., policy analyst, agency manager, researcher etc.), the growth and employment potential is clear from a feasibility study we conducted. We surveyed regional public universities to understand what graduate degree offerings are currently available. Five⁴ had master's programs (MPA, MS), five⁵ had a Ph.D. in Political Science, and three⁶ had programs in public policy or public affairs. Impressively, *all* Ph.D. programs in

¹ Up to 21 credits given for Masters work from a variety of disciplines, e.g., Ecology, Environmental Science, Public Administration etc.) and a minimum of 39 doctoral credits, which includes dissertation.

² <http://helpslab.montana.edu/>

³ <https://administrationjobs.com/career-advice/public-administration-careers/>

⁴ New Mexico State, North Dakota State, University of North Dakota, University of Wyoming, Utah State

⁵ Northern Arizona University, University of Idaho, University of Nevada-Reno, University of Utah, Idaho State University

⁶ Oregon State, University of Colorado-Denver, and Boise State; we included UC-Denver, as they were ranked #34 in US News and World Report and Oregon State and BSU were ranked equally at #96.

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public policy reported 100% placement of their graduates, with a typical placement of 40% academic and 60% practitioner. To investigate the current student and workforce demands, the Department of Political Science surveyed of our Master of Public Administration (MPA) graduates between 2010-2016 (N=58; n=35; 60% response rate). Eighty-three percent (n=29) indicated they were interested in pursuing a terminal degree; 60% (n=21) indicated they were interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in public policy.

3) Describe how the program/center/institute fits with the institutional mission, strategic plan, and existing institutional program array.

The proposed Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration will advance the 2012 Strategic Plan of Montana State University in the following ways:

- Learning. The Ph.D. in PPA will increase the number of doctoral degrees awarded and number of Ph.D. students at MSU⁷, with admission of cohorts of 5-6 students/year, 3.5-4 years to completion (post-masters), and a total program of 20-24 students. The opportunities for Ph.D. students to serve as GTAs for introduction political science courses will provide more compelling and tailored “student learning opportunities that will increase [student] retention”⁸ and undergraduate graduation rates⁹.
- Discovery. The Ph.D. in PPA will raise MSU’s “national and international prominence in research, creativity, innovation, and scholarly achievement”¹⁰ through its empirical, research-based focus on solving policy problems from the local to global levels. The Ph.D. in PPA will help MSU improve its rank among Carnegie Classified Research Universities through doctoral conferrals¹¹, grant productivity¹², and more faculty advising of doctoral students¹³. Recently, MSU political science faculty whose research is centered on public policy issues have successfully secured NSF, USAID, and USDA funding; this trend should increase with the 2.5 additional public policy faculty¹⁴ and Ph.D. students.
- Engagement. Public policy research requires engagement with stakeholders. Agency partners often turn to public policy programs to solve local, regional, and state problems that are often interdisciplinary in nature (e.g., flood risk preparation requires expertise in hydrological information as well as risk communication policy innovations). The Ph.D. in PPA is designed to ensure that students engage with stakeholders at these multiple scales¹⁵. Thus, research activities in the Ph.D. in PPA are necessarily connected to local, state, regional, and global concerns and involve decision makers at all scales. The Ph.D. in PPA builds on existing relationships with campus stakeholders such as the Local Government Center and the Burton K. Wheeler Center for Montana Public Policy issues, allowing for the expansion of public policy infrastructure available on campus while simultaneously providing additional capacity for outreach, engagement, and leadership in Montana and the Pacific Northwest¹⁶.
- Integration. Public policy lives at the intersection of research (evidence-based decision making), teaching (communication), and engagement (understanding stakeholders’ perspectives and solutions)¹⁷. Thus,

⁷ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective L.2, Metric L.2.2: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/learning2.html>

⁸ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/learning.html>

⁹ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective L.2, Metric L.2.1: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/learning2.html>

¹⁰ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Goal D: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/discovery2.html>

¹¹ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective D.1, Metric D.1.3 and Objective D.3, Metrics D.3.1, D.3.2, and D3.3: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/discovery2.html>

¹² MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective D.2, Metric D.2.2: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/discovery2.html>

¹³ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective D.3, Metric D.3.1: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/discovery2.html>

¹⁴ MSU Strategic Plan, Objective D.1, Metric D.1.1: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/discovery2.html>

¹⁵ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective E.1, Metrics E.1.1, E.1.2, and E.1.3: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/engagement2.html>

¹⁶ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective E.1, Metrics E.1.1 and E.1.3; Objective E.3, Metrics E.3.1 and E.2.2: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/engagement2.html>

¹⁷ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Integration Goal: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/integration.html>

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research activities in the Ph.D. in PPA are necessarily connected to local, state, regional, and global concerns and involve stakeholders and decision makers at all scales. Our public policy faculty are already engaged in community-based, multidisciplinary research projects, which would only expand and increase with the involvement of graduate students¹⁸.

- Access. The Ph.D. in PPA will be an access point for students to engage in graduate level education, thereby helping to increase the number of students enrolled in graduate programs¹⁹. Importantly, students may enter the Ph.D. in PPA from multiple Master's degree content areas, thus providing a broad array of students access to this Ph.D. With the current curricular coordination the Department of Political Science has with our MPA program and Native American Studies' M.A. program, we anticipate the Ph.D. in PPA to be an avenue to further diversify the student body and attract Native Americans to pursue doctorate level graduate work²⁰.
- Stewardship. In thinking about careful management of human, economic, and institutional resources, creating the Ph.D. in PPA is proper stewardship of faculty and student resources in one critical way: Our graduates will find jobs. Unlike the traditional Ph.D. in political science where positions are in decline and are incredibly competitive, PPA graduates face far better job prospects both in the academic and in the private/public sectors (see Section 2 of this proposal)²¹. Support of this program is a responsible use of the university's human, economic, and physical resources in a manner consistent with MSU's Strategic Plan²².

4) Describe how the program/center/institute overlaps, complements, or duplicates existing efforts in the MUS. Describe efforts that will be made to collaborate with similar programs at other institutions. If no efforts will be made, please explain why.

The Ph.D. in PPA is the first in Montana. The University of Montana offers some graduate policy courses (e.g., NRSM 560 - American Wilderness Philosophy & Policy; NRSM 622 - Advanced Problems in Environmental Policy), but these courses are embedded in differently focused curricula (e.g., Forest and Conservation Studies). Because the Ph.D. in PPA is a resident, face-to-face program, the primary delivery will be on the MSU campus in Bozeman; however, we always welcome collaboration on individual projects.

Department Head Wilmer and Professor Shanahan have met with Department Heads and faculty from Economics, Earth Sciences, Ecology, and Sociology and all are very enthusiastic about our potential to collaborate mentoring and engaging doctoral students in interdisciplinary research as well as to recruit students from their undergraduate programs. Professors Gilpin and Urban from the Economics faculty were especially excited about including our PAPP doctoral students in the classes they already teach (and commented about the high quality of our MPA students currently taking some of their classes) as well as working with doctoral students in collaborative research.

Signature/Date

Signature/Date

¹⁸ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective I.1, Metric I.1.3 and Objective I.2, Metrics I.2.1 and I.2.2:

<http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/integration2.html>

¹⁹ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective A.1, Metric A.1.3: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/access2.html>

²⁰ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective A.2, Metric A.2.1: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/access2.html>

²¹ MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective L.3, Metric L.3.1: <http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/learning2.html>

²² MSU 2012 Strategic Plan, Objective S.3, Metric S.3.1,
<http://www.montana.edu/strategicplan/stewardship2.html>

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College/School Dean: *il a h e*

Chief Academic Officer: *R. Mohun 1-16-19*

Chief Executive Officer: *Weyado January 16, 2019*

Flagship Provost*: *R. Mohun 1-16-19*

Flagship President*: *Weyado January 16, 2019*

*Not applicable to the Community Colleges.

Date of Final Review:

When submitting the proposal to the BOR, include this signed form with the Level II request.