The Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies

The Harris School of Public Policy is known for its policy-relevant research and for preparing talented individuals to become leaders and agents of social change. One of six professional schools, Chicago Harris is part of a world-class intellectual community and continues the University’s tradition of scholarship intended to address real-world problems. Established in 1988, Chicago Harris emerged from the interdisciplinary Committee on Public Policy Studies. Influential founding supporters include educational sociologist James Coleman, urban sociologist William Julius Wilson, and the 2000 Nobel laureate economist James Heckman.

Degree Offerings & Programming

An exciting and challenging place to learn, Chicago Harris’ model of public policy training reflects the University of Chicago’s tradition of research and teaching — meticulous scholarship, open inquiry, and cross-disciplinary, critical thinking. Faculty come from diverse academic backgrounds and lend their individual expertise to a collaborative curriculum. Students come ready and willing to work and prepare for leadership in public policy. Alumni around the world apply their Chicago Harris training to a multitude of public policy issues, making an impact in whatever arena they choose to work.

The rigorous curriculum stresses the development of analytical tools, which form the basis of the program’s approach to understanding the nature of social problems and the impact of public policy. Chicago Harris students become conscientious consumers of social science research and are able to evaluate information and make informed policy choices.

However, classroom training is only part of the equation. Chicago Harris provides opportunities for students to apply the critical skills that they learn in the classroom to real-world situations. Through a mentor program, internships, and practica, Chicago Harris students are able to enrich their education, network with community leaders, and lend their growing public policy expertise to local, national, and international organizations. The School fosters a spirit of cooperation between students, public policy professionals, faculty, and others to address societal concerns and is constantly seeking new partnership opportunities.

Harris Degree Programs

- Master of Public Policy (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/MPP) (MPP), A two-year program for students interested in gaining a thorough training in analytical skills.
- Master of Science in Computational Analysis and Public Policy (http://capp.sites.uchicago.edu) (MSCAPP), A two-year program offered with
the Computer Science Department for students interested in the design, implementation, and rigorous analysis of data-driven policies.

- Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/ms-env-sci-policy) (MSESP), A two-year program offered with the Argonne National Laboratory for students interested in assessing the scientific repercussions of policy on the environment.

- Master of Arts in Public Policy (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/one-year-am) (AM), A one-year program for students already possessing another graduate degree or in conjunction with another University graduate program.

- Master of Arts in Public Policy with a Certificate in Data Analytics (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/macda) (MACDA), a 12-month program focused on preparing students for public and private sector jobs at the intersection of public policy and data analytics.

- Master of Arts in Public Policy with Certificate in Research Methods (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/macrm) (MACRM), 15-month program designed to prepare students for top-tier Ph.D. programs in economics and political science as well as other social sciences, policy, and business

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/phd), a doctoral degree for students seeking research-related careers in academia or elsewhere.

- Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Relations (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/am-ma-cir) (AM/MA), A two-year program offered with the Committee for International Relations for students interested in combining public policy training with a focus on international relations.

- Cooperative Program with Tel Aviv University (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/coop-tel-aviv) (MPP), A two-year master’s program of study with course offerings at both campuses and the opportunity to earn two degrees

- Cooperative Program with the University of Chile (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/coop-chile) (MPP), A two-year master’s program of study with course offerings at both campuses and the opportunity to earn two degrees.

- Cooperative Program with Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/masters-degree/coop-yonsei), A two-to three-year program of study with course offerings at both campuses and the opportunity to earn two degrees.

**Joint Degree Programs with other University of Chicago Schools**

Students can earn two University of Chicago graduate degrees in an accelerated time frame.

- Center for Middle Eastern Studies (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/joint-degree/middle-eastern-studies) (MPP/AM), a three year program combining public policy with modern Middle Eastern languages, history, and civilization.
• Divinity School (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/joint-degree/divinity-school) (MPP/MDiv), a four year program combining public policy with issues related to public and urban ministry.
• Chicago Booth School of Business (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/joint-degree/booth-school-of-business) (MPP/MBA), a three year program combining studies in public policy and business administration.
• Law School (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/joint-degree/law-school) (MPP/JD), a four year program combining studies in law and public policy.
• School of Social Service Administration (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/joint-degree/school-of-social-service-administration) (MPP/AM), a three year program. Study broad social policy and issues that influence the social work profession.

Programs for University of Chicago College Students
• The Professional Option Program with the College (http://harris.uchicago.edu/degrees/joint-degree/professional-option-program) (AB/MPP), a five year program. Earn a bachelor’s degree from the College and a master’s degree from the Harris School at the same time.
• Chicago Harris Scholars Program, (AB, plus MPP or MSCAPP) (http://harris.uchicago.edu/chicagoharrisscholars), allows University of Chicago College students to apply for admission to the MPP or MSCAPP programs during their fourth year of study and defer enrollment for two years while obtaining quality experience in the labor market.

RESEARCH CENTERS

Faculty and student research at Chicago Harris is guided not only by theoretical interests, but also by a strong commitment to solving enduring public policy problems.
• Center for Human Potential and Public Policy, which supports innovative social science research and encourages transdisciplinary research approaches on a broad range of issues, including health and well-being; science, technology, and inequality; and poverty and education.
• Center for Data Science and Public Policy, which conducts research and creates computational and data-driven solutions to large-scale social problems in areas such as healthcare, education, sustainability, and community development.
• Center for Health Policy, which aims to develop a new class of healthcare leaders that carry global policy visions and are best prepared to answer challenges in health policy formulation and implementation.
• Center for Municipal Finance, which enables students and faculty to engage the major financial issues of the day facing state and local governments in the U.S. and around the globe.
• Center for Policy Entrepreneurship, which focuses on the politics of the policy-making process.
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- Crime Lab, which seeks to improve our understanding of how to reduce crime and violence by helping government agencies and non-profit organizations rigorously evaluate new pilot programs.
- Cultural Policy Center, which provides research and informs policy that affects the arts, humanities, and cultural heritage.
- Energy Policy Institute of Chicago, which is an interdisciplinary research and training institute focused on the economic and social consequences of energy policies.
- Pritzker Consortium on Early Childhood Development, which brings together the world’s leading experts to identify when and how child intervention programs can be most influential.

The interdisciplinary nature of the centers allows for broad participation by students and faculty. The School works closely with other research centers and programs throughout the University, including:

- Alfred P. Sloan Center on Parents, Children, and Work
- Center for Early Childhood Research
- Center for Health Administration Studies
- Center for Health and the Social Sciences
- Center for Social Program Evaluation
- Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture
- Center on Aging, Health and Society
- Center on Demographics and Economics of Aging
- Chapin Hall Center for Children
- Institute of Politics
- NORC (formerly the National Opinion Research Center)
- Ogburn/Stouffer Center for the Study of Social Organizations
- The Paulson Institute
- Program on International Politics, Economics and Security (PIPS)
- Program on International Security Policy (PISP)
- Population Research Center