

BHA-Politics & Public Policy

Fall 2023

Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA)

Dietrich College (DC) Concentration in Politics & Public Policy

81 units (minimum)

Advisor: Emily Half, Posner Hall 391, 412-268-7082, ehalf@andrew.cmu.edu

Rooted in the discipline of political science, the concentration in Politics and Public Policy investigates US public policy issues and other matters of domestic politics while providing students hands-on and practical learning experiences. Students pursuing the Politics and Public Policy minor must participate in the [Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program \(CMU/WSP\)](#) for one semester during their undergraduate years. The CMU/WSP, sponsored by the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Security and Technology (CMIST), is a semester-long program in which students live, intern, and take CMU classes in Washington, DC. Undergraduates from any course of study at the university may participate in the program. Students earn 48 units for the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program, interning about twenty-four hours per week in any sector or field of interest within Washington, DC, while taking classes taught by Carnegie Mellon faculty.

From embassies to nongovernmental organizations, think tanks to advocacy organizations, government agencies to congressional offices, and consulting firms to media outlets, Washington, DC, is the center of US political, international, and public policy activities. Students in the program come into direct contact with policymakers, Congressmen, think tank leaders, and business leaders, and through hands-on experience learn about the most pressing policy issues of the day.

Through this experiential learning program, CMU/WSP participants develop professional and networking skills, explore how coursework connects to the real world, learn to give and receive constructive feedback in the workplace and classroom, and intentionally reflect on their learning and growth. Every CMU/WSP student is paired with a Washington, DC-based alumni mentor to share career advice and tips about life in DC. CMIST also sponsors events and policy-oriented opportunities in Washington for students participating in the program to further enrich their experience and enhance their understanding of how Washington functions as a hub of international and domestic policy decision making.

BHA students take at least 9 courses in their DC concentration, for a minimum of 81 units. A completed DC Concentration Declaration Sheet must be approved by the concentration advisor and submitted to the BXA office by spring mid-semester break of the student's sophomore year. BHA students who are admitted through internal transfer must have chosen a DC concentration at the time of their application, which serves as declaration.

Foundation Courses

(2 courses, 18 units)

Students must complete the following course:

84-104 Decision Processes in American Political Institutions 9

Students must complete one of the following courses:

84-275 Comparative Politics 9
or 84-226 International Relations

Economics Course

(1 course, 9 units)

Students must complete one of the following courses:

84-110 Foundations of Political Economy 9
or 73-102 Principles of Microeconomics
or 73-103 Principles of Macroeconomics

CMU/WSP Core Seminars

(3 courses, 24 units)

Students must take the following courses while participating in the CMU/WSP:

84-360 CMU/WSP: Internship Seminar 12
84-450 Policy Seminar 6
84-451 Policy Seminar II 6

CMU/WSP Elective Seminars

(3 courses, 24 units minimum)

Students must take 24 units from the below list of elective seminars offered in the CMU/WSP. Offerings vary by semester:

84-330 The Shading of Democracy: The Influence of Race on American Politics 6
84-331 Money, Media, and the Power of Data in Decisionmaking 6
84-333 Power and Levers for Change in Washington, DC 12
84-334 The History and Practice of Economic Statecraft 6
84-335 US China Relations 6
84-336 Implementing Public Policy: From Good Idea To Reality 12
84-337 Biomedical Science Research, Policy, and Governance 6
84-339 Seminar in Public Policy Research 12

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84-340	Making Change: How Organized Interests Work in Washington	12
84-348	Advocacy, Policy and Practice	6

American Politics Elective

(1 course, 6 units minimum)

Students must take one course from the below list of electives taught in Pittsburgh.

84-252	Briefing in the Policy World	6
84-304	In the News: Analysis of Current National Security Priorities	6
84-325	Contemporary American Foreign Policy	9
84-352	Representation and Voting Rights	9
84-354	The American Experiment: Unravelling the US Electoral System	6
84-362	Diplomacy and Statecraft	9
84-380	US Grand Strategy	9
84-393	Legislative Decision Making: US Congress	9
84-402	Judicial Politics and Behavior	9
84-421	Advanced Topics in American Politics	9