

Curriculum Structure

The curriculum of the Graduate School of Public Policy consists of four types of course: Basic, Topics, Practical Training, and Case Studies.

Basic Courses

Basic courses aim to provide students with knowledge and analytical skills that will serve as a foundation for any public policy profession. It is important that students' studies consist of a good balance between the three disciplines of Law, Political Sciences, and Economics.

Topics Courses

Topics courses include courses connected to different policy areas, courses on area studies, and courses that aim for students to learn about various fields in pursuit of a higher level of expertise. Students are encouraged to make logical course selections to suit their future career paths.

Practical Training

Practical Training courses constantly consider real-world application, aiming to ensure that students learn about practical experience. This includes courses directly related to policies in practice, as well as courses that are taught by instructors who have been involved in practical application, allowing students to study real-life experiences.

Case Studies

These courses consist of classes taught using techniques for case analysis based on actual examples. The goal is for students to strive to improve their policy analysis skills through examples and application of knowledge.

Research Paper and Thesis

The Graduate School of Public Policy has established a system for research papers and theses, which awards a certain number of credits to students who submit a paper or thesis and pass an oral examination.

It is recommended that students who are considering a career in research submit a research paper or thesis; students must write a thesis to advance to the doctoral course of the Graduate School of Public Policy or Graduate School for Law and Politics. As for the PhD programs of other departments/graduate schools, students are required to check their application criteria on their own.

Specific cases are provided as teaching materials in all of the courses offered by the Graduate School of Public Policy, stimulating interactive discussions between instructors and students and encouraging students' unprompted participation in classes, with the aim of cultivating high-level expert knowledge, practical skills, and an ethical viewpoint to support students' activities.

Capstone Courses

Starting in AY2022, several courses will be classed as capstone courses, serving as a medium for more practical learning.

Students carry out capstone courses in teams, using all the knowledge and skills they have gained to devise solutions to challenges presented by external clients, and then accepting feedback from those clients. Capstone courses also count as credits towards course completion in the same way as regular courses (courses that do not involve capstone courses). Capstone courses are recommended that students sign up for one or more of these projects during their studies.