

May 2020

Welcome New Students!

Congratulations on your admission to the Public Policy Program of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy! I am the director of the Program, and I am very much looking forward to meeting each of you in September.

I write both to welcome you to the Bloustein School community and to provide you with some information to help facilitate your transition. Much of the information can be found on the new student portal: <https://bloustein.rutgers.edu/students/welcome-policy/>.

I would like to call your attention especially to the following items:

### Orientation

Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday September 1, 2020.

### Program requirements and courses

Please read the overview document on your degree program (MPP or MPAP) as well as the matching advising sheet for a description of required courses, including the recommended semester for completion. You should also review the documents on methods courses, including the methods sequence and incoming skills description of the courses.

### Methods placement and summer reading

If you have taken courses or have a background in basic statistics, please review the placement processes and information about the placement exam in the methods placement memo. To prepare properly for Public Policy Formation, please see the reading requirement document and review the recommended book.

### Academic advising

Also included on the webpage is a list of incoming students and your academic advisers. Please feel free to contact your adviser by email with questions about your courses. You should also plan on meeting with your advisor on orientation day during the advising session.

### Connecting with students

The Bloustein School Graduate Association (BGSA) has a [Facebook page](#) for current and incoming students and you should feel free to join. This will give you the chance to interact with each other.

We are thrilled that you will be joining our diverse and vibrant community soon! The passion and excitement here about public service engagement are inspiring and motivating. With nationwide challenges regarding COVID-19 and trust in public institutions and the political process, it is a particularly important time for you to be active in this field. I have no doubt that you will make significant contributions to public policy and over the next two years we will help you prepare for that goal.

Once again, welcome to the Bloustein School and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.  
My email is [ahetling@rutgers.edu](mailto:ahetling@rutgers.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Hetling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrea Hetling, PhD  
Associate Professor

