

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

The orientation session for the public policy program is scheduled for Wednesday August 18, 2021 at noon, 12pm ET, on Zoom. More information will follow later in the summer, and the session will be recorded for those of you who can't make that date.

Program requirements and courses

Please read the outline document for your degree program (MPP or MPAP) or certificate as well as the matching advising sheet for a description of required courses.

The core courses of our degree and certificate programs will be offered in both the Fall and Spring semesters of Academic Year 2021-2022. You are part of a historically large incoming class so we have adjusted our offerings to accommodate a greater number of students and provide more flexibility. *Thus, the semester notes on the MPP degree program outline have changed from previously posted information.* New full-time students should plan to register for *two* of the four required courses recommended for your first year, and register for the other two in the spring. The four core courses recommended for your first year are:

- Public Policy Formation,
- Research Design,
- Basic Quantitative Methods, and
- Economics and Public Policy.

Again, you should register for two, or maybe three, of these, and plan to take the others in Spring 2022.

Full-time students should register for a total of four courses (12 credits) for the Fall. MPP students wishing to complete their management or budget requirement should consider Public Management or Budgeting and Public Policy. In the Spring, we will offer Nonprofit Management, State and Local Finance, and likely Community Development Finance.

Also, please review the documents on methods courses, including the methods sequence and incoming skills description of the courses, for help in choosing methods courses in future semesters or if you place out of Basic Quantitative Methods (see below).

Methods placement and required Formation reading

If you have taken courses or have a background in basic statistics, please review the placement process and information about the placement exam in the methods placement memo – which will be posted soon.

To prepare properly for Public Policy Formation, please see the reading requirement document and review the recommended book.

Academic advising

Please check the webpage for an updated list of students and your assigned faculty adviser. Please feel free to contact your adviser by email with questions about your courses. If you are a certificate or non-degree student, please reach out to me with questions. I will serve as your advisor.

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 we will help you prepare for that goal during your time with us.

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

Sincerely,



Andrea Hetling, PhD
Professor