



PhD Program in Planning and Public Policy

Welcome and Overview of Program

Introductions

- Name
- Where are you from?
- Research interests

Program requirements

- 72 credits (minimum), of which
 - 40% may be transferred from prior graduate work (up to 24 credits)
 - 24 credits of coursework (8 courses)
 - 24 research credits (minimum)
- Required courses
 - Theory:
 - 762:624 Planning, Public Policy, and Social Theory
 - Methods:
 - 833:628 Advanced Qualitative Methods
 - 970:630 Discrete Choice Methods (or equivalent advanced quantitative methods course)
 - One additional methods course of your choosing
 - Weekly PhD Colloquium: required of 1st and 2nd year students, strongly recommended for all
- Research Workshop:
 - 762:626 Advanced Scholarly Research – preferably taken after completing all qualifying examinations

Qualifying Examinations

- Doctoral students are required to pass four comprehensive examinations. These include both a written and oral component
 - Theory
 - Methods (both quantitative and qualitative)
 - Two substantive field (subject) examinations
- The Methods exam is typically taken at the end of the first academic year after completing the methods sequence.
- The Theory exam is typically taken at the end of the second academic year
- Field exams should begin during the summer of your first year and the written component completed during the school year.
 - The oral theory exam is administered jointly with the two subject exams.

Elective courses

- You basically have three elective courses that you can take.
 - Topical courses – think about what you want to teach in the future
 - Methods courses – these can be valuable for building up your research skills both for your dissertation and the future
- Of these, you can do two independent studies
 - Provides an opportunity to develop your topic and work on your qualifying examinations.
- Courses can be taken anywhere at Rutgers (including Newark and Camden)
 - You can also take courses at Princeton, Columbia, The New School, CUNY, NYU, Stonybrook, NJIT, Fordham, and Penn with approval of instructor and program director

Mentoring and Tracking Progress

- I always recommend scheduling regular meetings with your supervisor, even if you have nothing to say.
 - Supervisors are there to provide you with support and guidance on all topics.
- Program of Study meetings:
 - During your first two years, your supervisor, the program director and 2-3 other faculty meet to discuss your progress, objectives, and anything else.
- Individual Development Plans
 - Each year you will add to your Individual Development Plan and discuss your goals and objectives with your supervisor (and possibly the program director). These are for your benefit and help us to provide advice on how best to achieve your own individual goals.

Other things you will do while a student

- Those of you receiving funding packages will most likely be a Graduate Teaching Assistant
 - This can include teaching your own class after some initial training
- Part-time lecturing
 - Some students will also have the option to be paid as part-time lecturers (usually after your 4th year)
- Hourly work for faculty or for a research center
 - The School has many research centers that often hire students for research tasks
 - You can get paid for this even if you have a full funding package
- Writing papers and presenting at conferences
 - Many of our students write and publish papers, often co-authored with faculty
 - This may be based on faculty-initiated research or your own
 - Conference presentations are important for future networking

Key conferences to attend and/or to present your work

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)	Toronto, ON	Oct 21-24, 2021
North American Regional Science Council (NARSC)	Montreal, QC	November 9-12, 2022
Transportation Research Board (TRB)	Washington, DC	Jan 8-12, 2023
American Association of Geographers (AAG)	Denver, CO	Mar 21-28, 2023
Urban Affairs Association (UAA)	Nashville, TN	Apr 26-29, 2023
Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) research conference	Washington, DC	November 17-19, 2022

Your Dissertation Committee and Proposal

- All students are assigned a supervisor on entry based on your interests.
 - The supervisor does not need to be your dissertation chair, but often is.
 - Your committee will include two faculty internal to the graduate program and one external from elsewhere at Rutgers or anywhere in the world.
- Advanced Scholarly Research is run as a workshop to move through the steps of formulating your dissertation proposal.
- Once your proposal is completed, you will defend it publicly.
- After that, all you have to do is the easy part which is to finish!



The Graduate Faculty

- Our doctoral faculty is not the same as the Bloustein faculty
 - We include faculty from other units at Rutgers including:
 - Human Ecology
 - Social Work
 - Sociology
 - And others
 - Most can also Chair your committee and all can serve as internal members (but not external)

Finishing your dissertation

- Be sure to structure your work schedule
 - Regular meetings with chair and other committee members
- When completed you will defend publicly



Other activities

- Weekly PhD pizza colloquium series
 - Required participation by 1st and 2nd year students
 - Research presentations by faculty
 - Discussion of professional and academic issues you do not learn in class
 - And all with free pizza!
- A variety of Bloustein lecture series throughout the year
- Lots of other activities throughout Rutgers



The School of Graduate Studies (SGS)

- What is it and why should you care?
- Your degree is conferred by the School of Graduate Studies
 - This means you get to go to there commencement ceremony and the Bloustein School's commencement!
- SGS provides funding to students for:
 - Conference travel (usually \$400-500)
 - The Bloustein School provides \$250 once a year in addition to this, if presenting at a conference
 - Dissertation development funds (historically up to \$3000, might be more)
 - Can be used for data collection or purchase, travel if needed for research
- The Grad Fund
 - Provides lists of possible student funding sources
 - NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Awards
- Many other opportunities for learning and involvement through SGS

Questions?

Please reach out to other faculty who share your interests. Our recruiters can help arrange meetings, email: recruit@ejb.rutgers.edu

