“The MPP program introduced me to quantitative subjects such as statistics and economics and how to work with data. I became passionate about these subjects and I am now working as a Research Analyst at BakerRipley while working on another master’s degree.”

Alexander May, MPP, ’18
Research Associate, BakerRipley

“The MPP program gives students an edge in the field with expert and supportive faculty, a curriculum with a strong quantitative focus along with the school’s commitment to teaching an ethical approach to policy making and leadership.”

Sara Moran, Current MPP Student

Admissions

The deadlines apply to both the MPP and graduate certificate programs.

Fall Application Deadlines
March 1: Priority deadline for scholarships
June 15: Application deadline

Spring Application Deadlines
October 15: Priority deadline for scholarship
December 1: Application deadline

Scholarships
Qualified students receive a Hobby School scholarship to help cover tuition and fees.
Awards range from $500 to $3000.

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Hobby School of Public Affairs

The Hobby School prepares students from a variety of academic backgrounds for careers in public policy through training in the policy-making process, research methods, leadership, and values and ethics in public life.

Degrees
- Master of Public Policy
- Dual Degrees
- Graduate Certificates

Center for Public Policy
- EITM Summer Institute and ICPSR Summer Workshops
- Concept Visualization Lab

Public Service/Community Engagement
- Leland Fellows in Washington, D.C.
- Hobby Fellows in Austin
- Civic Houston Internship Program (CHIP)
- Civic Engagement Boot Camp
- Certified Public Management Program
- The Hobby Symposiums

Civitas
- Hobby School Programming and Lectures
- Ethics in Policy Research and Practice

Survey Research Institute
- Opinion Polling and Data Analytics

Faculty

John Antel, PhD
Professor

Gail Buttorff, PhD
Visiting Assistant Professor

Dan Engster, PhD
Professor
Director, The Ethics Center

Jim Granato, PhD
Professor
Executive Director

Pablo Pinto, PhD
Associate Professor
Director, Center for Public Policy

Alan Witt, PhD
Professor

Sunny Wong, PhD
Professor
Director of Graduate Studies

Mission

From a foundation of integrity, the Hobby School of Public Affairs prepares its graduates to make government, business and communities work more effectively by harnessing data and research to improve public policy.

Why the Hobby School is for You: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach for Students from Multiple Backgrounds

The program will give you the professional skills you need to succeed in a public policy career:

- Quantitative and Data Analytical Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Ethical and Problem-Solving Skills
- Advanced Writing and Presentation Skills
- Interdisciplinary skills using political science, economics, computer science, business, and statistics

What to expect:

- The 39-hour curriculum includes an internship.
- The schedule accommodates working students.
- Courses focus on quantitative methods, statistics, policy analysis, budgeting, and ethics.
- Graduates are also prepared for employment or a doctoral program with a quantitative emphasis.
- Qualified students receive a Hobby School scholarship to cover tuition and fees.

Led by Executive Director Jim Granato, the Hobby School is supported by an advisory board of Houstonians prominent in business and civic affairs. The Hobby School maintains cooperative relationships with many education and public service entities in the Houston area and the State of Texas.