



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

vpacad@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic
TEL: 778.782.3925
FAX: 778.782.5876

8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	March 19, 2025
FROM	Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP	PAGES	1/11
RE:	Program Changes for the Master of Public Policy (SCUP 25-28)		

At its meeting on March 19, 2025, SCUP reviewed and approved the program changes for the Master of Public Policy.

Motion: That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the program changes for the Master of Public Policy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2025.

For Information:

The following items are included in this package and were approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) at their meeting on March 4, 2025, subject to approval by Senate:

- 1) Calendar Entry Change: Public Policy MPP
- 2) Course Change (title, description, prerequisite): PLCY 817

C: Yushu Zhu, Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy
Genevieve LaBaron, Director, School of Public Policy
Kennedy Stewart, Graduate Program Chair, School of Public Policy



Simon Fraser University
Maggie Benston Centre 1100
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.3042
FAX 778.782.3080

gradstudies@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/grad

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate Committee on University
Priorities (SCUP)

FROM Mary O'Brien,
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies
Committee (SGSC)

RE: Program Changes

DATE March 7, 2025

For Approval: At its meeting on March 4, 2025, the SGSC approved the following program changes and is recommending it to SCUP for approval, effective **Fall 2025:**

Motion:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the program changes for the Master of Public Policy in the School of Public Policy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2025.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

School of Public Policy

- 1) Program Change: Public Policy MPP

For Information:

Course change (Title, Description, Prerequisite): PLCY 817



Memo

Attention Mary O'Brien, Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies

From Kate. Slaney, Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, FASS

Subject Items for SGSC

Date January 15, 2025

Dear Mary,

The following were approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee on January 14, 2025, and are forwarded to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for approval. Please include them on the next SGSC agenda.

~~1 Department of Political Science~~

~~New Course POL 832 Proposal~~
~~To be effective for Fall 2025~~

~~2 Department of Urban Studies~~

~~New Course URB 667 Proposal~~
~~Graduate Course URB 613 Change~~
~~To be effective for Spring 2026~~

3 Department of Public Policy

Graduate Course PLCY817 Change & Calendar Change
To be effective for Fall 2025

Please add these items for consideration at the next SGSC meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen (Kate) Slaney
Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies,
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Simon Fraser University



SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
School of Public Policy

8888 University Drive
Burnaby B.C. Canada V5A 1S
SFU.CA

To: Kate Slaney, FASS Associate Dean
From: Yushu Zhu, School of Public Policy
cc: Genevieve LaBaron, Director, School of Public Policy
Theodore Cosco, Graduate Program Chair, School of Public Policy
Date: Dec 5, 2024
Re: Changes to the Master of Public Policy curricular

Dear Dean Slaney,

As of Oct 23, 2024, the School of Public Policy approved the following curricular changes to the Master of Public Policy (MPP), to be effective in Fall 2025 or as early as possible:

- 1) Make PLCY821 Indigenous Policy an elective course,
- 2) Make PLCY 817 Advanced Qualitative Course a required prospectus development course (new title Research Proposal Development) for the Applied Project Option,
- 3) Reduce the required number of elective courses for the Course-based Option from six to four,
- 4) Reduce the required number of elective courses for the Applied Project Option from four to one, and
- 5) Reduce the required credits for MPP from 65 (effective in Summer 2025) to 50 units for the Course-based Option and from 61 (effective in Summer 2025) to 46 units for the Applied Project Option.

Accompanying the memo is the program change form with the rationale of change and required calendar revisions, as well as the course change form for PLCY 817. We request that you consider circulating these materials to FASS GSC for review and approval. We hope to make these changes effective no later than Fall 2025, if possible, which will bring immediate positive impacts on the learning experiences of our next MPP cohort. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Yushu Zhu

Assistant Professor, SPP & URB, SFU

Calendar Entry Change for Public Policy MPP

Summary of change:

- 1) Make PLCY821 Indigenous Policy an elective course,
- 2) Make PLCY 817 Advanced Qualitative Course a required prospectus development course (new title: Research Proposal Development) for the Applied Project Option,
- 3) Reduce the required number of elective courses for the Course-based Option from six to four,
- 4) Reduce the required number of elective courses for the Applied Project Option from four to one, and
- 5) Reduce the required credits for MPP from 65 (effective in Summer 2025) to 50 units for the Course-based Option and from 61 (effective in Summer 2025) to 46 units for the Applied Project Option.

Note: These changes will be made based on recently approved calendar changes to be effective in Summer 2025 (see discussion above). These changes received unanimous support from SPP faculty as of October 23, 2024.

Rationale for change:

As part of the SPP's curriculum modernization and right-sizing initiative, we made the following changes to MPP Calendar, which were approved to be effective in Summer 2025:

- 1) Remove the extended policy analysis requirement for students in the Course-based Option (originally Applied Project option);
- 2) Consolidate two required introductory method courses into one method course;
- 3) Make co-op optional for certain students;
- 4) Change the credit units for the capstone course (PLCY 809) from 10 to 6;
- 5) Reduce required credits for MPP from 70 to a minimum of 61 credits; and
- 6) Update the languages for the two options to reflect the above curriculum changes: Applied Project Option (originally Major Research Project) and Course-based Option (originally Applied Project)

Currently, the School is exploring or developing proposals of different new undergraduate and graduate programs, including a thesis based graduate program in Public Policy, we request the following additional minor changes to our curriculum to further enhance the School's capacity to deliver these future program and long-term sustainability. These changes will also further distinguish the Course-based Option and the research oriented Applied Project Option, which have distinctive educational goals and serve different student learning and career goals.

- 1) PLCY 821 Indigenous Policy is now a required first-year course. We propose to make it an elective course. This is because PLCY 803 (Political Foundation of Public Policy) covers content on Indigenous policy. This change will reduce redundancy for the first

<p>year curriculum and students interested in Indigenous policy in more depth can take it as an elective in the second year.</p> <p>2) PLCY 817 Advanced Qualitative Course is currently an elective method course that is open to all second year students. We propose to make this course to a required course (new title Research Proposal Development) for the Applied Project students and adapt the course content to better prepare the students for their capstone projects. This course will no longer be available for the Course-based Option students given that the extended essay project will be dropped from this stream and these students are not required to conduct independent research. However, all students will still receive introductory policy research method training in their first year.</p> <p>3) We request to reduce the required number of elective courses for the Course-based Option from six to four and reduce the required number of elective courses for the Applied Project Option from four to one. These changes will allow the School to allocate instructional resources to offering new courses for the minor program or developing new graduate programs. They also help alleviate mental stresses for many students and give students a more flexible and time-efficient path to the completion of the degree.</p> <p>4) The above changes will bring the total required credits for the MPP degree to 50 units for the Course-based Option and 46 units for the Applied Project Option, which still well exceed the minimum requirement of 30 units for SFU Master's Degree.</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Fall 2025</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students?</p> <p>Current second-year students will not be impacted because they will have graduated by Fall 2025. Current first-year students will not be significantly impacted. Students who want to do independent research projects can choose the Applied Project Option and others can choose the Course-based Option and take more elective courses.</p>

Calendar Change: All deletions should be crossed out as follows: All additions should be marked in **bold font**. Do not use “to” and “from” sections.

Program Requirements

This program offers an applied project option and course-based option for a minimum of ~~61~~**46** units.

Students must complete all of

PLCY 800 - Introduction to Policy Issues and Analysis I (5)
 PLCY 801 - Economic Foundations of Policy Analysis I (5)
 PLCY 802 - Economic Foundations of Policy Analysis II (5)
 PLCY 803 - Political Foundations of Policy Analysis I (5)
 PLCY 805 - Public Policy Research Techniques and Methods (5)
 PLCY 807 - Introduction to Policy Analysis and Issues II (5)
~~PLCY 821 - Indigenous Policy (5)~~

and a Co-op*

PLCY 850 - Co-op (0)

and the requirements from either the applied project option or the course-based option.

Applied Project Option

Students complete

PLCY 809 - Major Research Project (6)

PLCY 817 - Research Proposal Development (5)

and ~~four~~ **one** elective PLCY graduate courses**.

Course-based Option

Students complete ~~six~~ **four** elective PLCY graduate courses**.

* Students will supplement their program with a co-op by working for an agency or organization in a position of responsibility for one term. This requirement can be fully or partially waived for students with prior or current work experience in the professional field of public policy after consultation with the school director.

** The program director, in consultation with the student, selects appropriate graduate courses offered by PLCY, affiliated programs and departments.

Program Length

Students are expected to complete the program requirements in six terms (2 years). The maximum course load for this program is four courses per term.

GRADUATE COURSE CHANGE

Attach a separate document if more space is required.

Course Subject/Number PLCY 817	Units 5	Effective Term and Year Fall 2025
Course Title Advanced Qualitative Analysis for Public Policy		
Rationale for Change: The course is re-purposed as part of SPP's curriculum modernization initiative (see accompanying Calendar Change form)		

Proposed Changes (Check all that apply)

☐ Course number
 ☐ Units*
 ☒ Title
 ☒ Description
 ☒ Prerequisite
 ☐ Other _____

Complete only the fields to be changed

FROM	TO
Course Subject/Number	Course Subject/Number
Units	Units*
Course Title Advanced Qualitative Analysis for Public Policy	Course Title (max 100 characters) Research Proposal Development
Course Short Title	Course Short Title (max 30 characters)
Description Covers paradigms for methodological choices and the design of qualitative research for real world public policy applications; critical perspectives of qualitative methods including interviews, focus group discussions, diary methods, visual methods, experimental methods and discourse analysis.	Description A key aim of this course is to prepare and support student capstone proposal development by setting a research problem, designing a research proposal, gaining ethical clearance, planning for fieldwork and data collection, and analyzing and presenting preliminary data
Prerequisite	Prerequisite Students approved for conducting MPP capstone research by the Graduate Program Committee.
Other	Other

* Program requirements may need to be revised when course units are changed. Please review the calendar and submit any relevant program revisions resulting from this course change.

REMINDER: All course changes must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.


CONTACT PERSON

Department / School / Program School of Public Policy	Contact name Yushu Zhu	Contact email yushu_zhu@sfu.ca
---	-------------------------------	---------------------------------------


DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL

Department Graduate Program Committee Theodore Cosco	Signature Theodore D Cosco Digitally signed by Theodore D Cosco Date: 2024.12.02 22:04:44 -08'00'	Date Dec 2, 2024
Department Chair Genevieve LeBaron	Signature Genevieve LeBaron Digitally signed by Genevieve LeBaron Date: 2024.12.03 12:45:12 -08'00'	Date Dec 3, 2024

FACULTY APPROVAL

Faculty Graduate Studies Committee (FGSC) Kate Slaney	Signature 	Date 01-15-2025
---	--	------------------------

SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Mary O'Brien	Signature 	Date March 4, 2025
---	---	---------------------------

ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION (for Graduate Studies only)

Course Attribute: _____
 Course Attribute Value: _____
 Instruction Mode: _____
 Attendance Type: _____

If different from regular units:
 Academic Progress Units: _____
 Financial Aid Progress Units: _____