



Robert M. La Follette
School of Public Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

September 2023 Graduate Program Admissions Information Session



What Will Be Covered Today?

- Introduction of La Follette School staff, students, and faculty
- Brief overview of admissions requirements, timeline, funding, and job outcomes
- Q&A with attendees

We will be recording this session for prospective applicants.

Who are the Student Services Staff Presenters?

Mo O'Connor

(she/her)



Graduate Program Manager

Marie Koko

(she/her)



Director of Career & Employer
Services

David Wright-Racette

(he/him)



Graduate Program Admissions &
Recruitment Coordinator

Who are the Student Presenters?

Carlos Puga



Second-year MPA
and Law student

Interest in mitigating
financial, social, and
educational barriers
faced by
marginalized
communities

Project
assistantship with
Associate Director
Steve Kulig

Tatiana Paula da Cruz



Second-year MIPA
student

Interest in
macroeconomic
policy and
international
governance

Frederic Bastiat
Fellowship from
the Mercatus
Center at George
Mason University

Who are the Faculty Presenters?

Professor Sarah Halpern-Meekin



Graduate student courses: Public Affairs 869: Workshop in Public Affairs

Uses qualitative and quantitative methods to study romantic relationships and low-income families' finances, as well as government policies directed at both of these areas. Her research includes examining how social poverty shapes people's wellbeing and decisions.

Professor Manny Teodoro



Graduate student courses: Public Affairs 874: Policy Making Process and Public Affairs 869: Workshop in Public Affairs

Works at the intersection of politics, public policy, and public management. His research focuses on U.S. environmental policy and implementation, including empirical analyses of environmental justice.

What is Public Affairs and Why Study it?

What? The professional field of government programs, laws, and regulations designed to address societal problems and to manage people and agencies.

Why? To address complex challenges such as inequality, crime, educational and health disparities, climate change adaptation, and homelessness. Also to study the harms and unintended consequences created by government actions.



How are Students Trained in Public Affairs?

How? Through courses in Economics, Statistics, Policy Analysis, International Governance, Trade & Finance, Policymaking, Public Management, and a capstone course involving a real-world client project.

Earning a public policy degree can open the door to many [different career paths](#).



What Graduate Academic Offerings Exist?

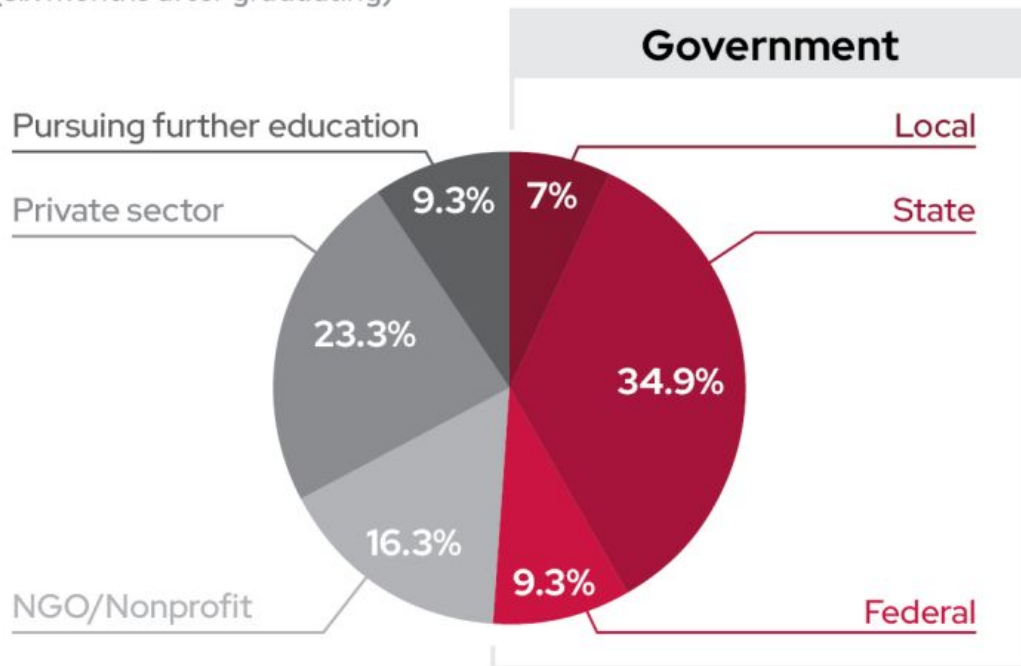
- Degree options
 - Master of Public Affairs
 - Master of International Public Affairs
 - Accelerated MPA and MIPA (4+1)
 - Dual-degrees and Double-degrees
 - Juris Doctorate
 - Master of Public Health
 - Ph.D. in Neuroscience
 - Master in Urban and Regional Planning
- Popular certificates
 - Energy Analysis and Policy
 - Business certificates:
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Strategic Innovation
 - Business, Environment, and Social Responsibility
- Other options
 - Community Engaged Scholarship
 - Life Sciences Communication
 - Many others



Where Do Students Work After Graduation?

Graduate Class of 2022 Career Placement

(six months after graduating)



- 93% of 2022 graduates secured employment in their field by December of 2022
 - This number was 98% in 2021 and 96% in 2020

What is Required to Apply and By When?

Priority Deadline for 2-year and Accelerated programs: January 1, 2024

- Online application
 - Resume
 - Statement of Purpose
 - Quantitative Statement
 - 2 letters of recommendation
 - Unofficial transcripts
 - Supplemental application
 - GRE (optional)
 - English as a foreign language test scores; IELTS scores of 7 or higher or TOEFL IBT of 92 or higher
- (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>)

The Accelerated Program is only available to UW-Madison undergraduates.



What is the Admissions Timeline?

- **January 1:** Submit application materials
- **Late February:** Admissions decisions sent via email
 - Letter will include whether or not you are offered funding if 2-year program applicant
- **March 18:** Admitted Student Visit Day
- **April 15:** Deadline to accept or decline if offered funding
- **May 1:** Deadline to accept or decline if not offered funding



What about Costs and Funding?

Research

- [UW-Madison cost of attendance](#)
- [UW-Madison tuition & fees](#)

Fund your education

1. **Federal loans:** US citizens are advised to submit the [FAFSA](#) by **December 1**
2. **Personal funds:** work income, savings, private loans, military benefits, external fellowships
3. [Fellowships, assistantships, scholarships](#) on the LFS Funding and Financial Information website

[Wall Street Journal analysis](#) shows that LFS among most affordable public policy schools



What Are the La Follette School's Offers?

Fellowships (8 total)

- 2 year funding offer
- First-year stipend to cover all tuition and some cost of living
- Second-year work as a project assistant with a La Follette School faculty member

Project Assistantships (4-6 total)

- 1 or 2 year offer
- Work with La Follette School or other campus entity

Scholarships (3-5 total)

- 1 year offer
- Offset some but not all tuition

Additional Campus Assistantship Announcements

- Sharing assistantship openings with admitted students

In academic year 2022-23, 74% of LFS students held a position on campus that covered tuition and provided a stipend and health insurance



Why Choose the La Follette School?

- Tenure-track faculty teach courses
- Course flexibility
- Client-based projects
- Small program, supportive community
- Tailored career services
- Strong alumni network
- State capital city
- World-class, tier-1 research university with many funding opportunities



Questions?



- Contact 608-262-9163 or admissions@lafollette.wisc.edu with questions at any time
- Complete our [Prospective Student Questionnaire](#) to speak one-on-one with an advisor, current student, or faculty member depending on availability