

Academic Programs and Planning (APP) Committee  
Feedback and Response Form

Thank you for submission of the proposal titled **Public Policy Minor**.

The APP committee reviewed the proposal on October 24\_\_ and request the proposal authors use this form to respond to the following questions and or suggestions. Please submit your responses by November 17th\_ to be considered in the next APP meeting or submission to the Faculty Senate.

Strengths of the Proposal:

This minor is a very good idea. Offering this as a minor will increase access for all students providing an introduction to the field.

**From the authors:** Thank you for your valuable feedback, we greatly appreciate your time and attention to detail in your evaluation of our proposal. Below we have an explanation for the change in title of the new academic program, followed by responses to your individual points and questions. Additionally, we incorporated feedback from the November meeting of the APP committee into our updated proposal. Thanks again from POLS, ECON, and SUST!

**Author Update on Name Change:** We are changing the title of this proposal from a Minor to a Certificate for the following reasons. Please note that AmyBeth Glass, the University's Registrar, provided some of this information at our request. First, the way that data on academic programs is collected heavily favors Certificates over Minors. AmyBeth shared that data collected/submitted for the NJ State and National Center for Education Statistics centers on degrees and certificates awarded; data is not reported for minors. This was confirmed by other Stockton administrators that this impacts the university in terms of calculating public funding from the state. Apparently, Minors do not translate into more dollars for the university, while Certificates *are* included in New Jersey's funding formula. In terms of the difference in academics between a Minor and a Certificate, our new program with a 20-credit requirement falls in the overlap of credits required for most Minors versus Certificates. AmyBeth noted that some institutions outline the number of credits required for a minor (often known as a "mini-major") with 18-30 credits, while a certificate typically has between 12-21 credits, and these are often interdisciplinary. Our proposal requires 20 credits, which could be either a Minor or Certificate. In New Jersey, AmyBeth noted that community colleges award certificates with a minimum of 30-36 credits, while 4-year institutions have no such minimum requirement. Certificates in 4-year institutions in New Jersey align more closely with the typical ranges cited above. For example, Rowan University awards [Certificates of Undergraduate Study \(CUGS\)](#) with as few as 12 credits. Rowan also provides the following explanation for the differences between Minors and Certificates on their website:

*Minors provide a focused area of study constituting 18 to 29 credit hours of lower- and upper-level undergraduate courses that can be from multiple programs in different departments or colleges.*

*Certificates of undergraduate study are a credential for students completing an area of study totaling 12 to 17 credit hours. Specifically, Rowan's certificate of undergraduate study in Public Policy is 12 credits.*

To recap, it is for these reasons that we are changing the title of our new academic program from a Minor to a Certificate: the new academic program meets the requirements and expectations for a Certificate, and student completions of Certificates are included the formula for state funding, while completions of Minors are not.

Below is our response to the other questions & points:

Committee Suggestion/Clarification	Author Response
<p>This proposal was excellent. I was wondering if it would make sense to include the Washington Internship as a possible way to further gain experience related to policy if the student was involved in policy work during the internship?</p>	<p>Thank you for the suggestion. We have already listed the SUST internship as an option, and we would consider the WASH internship (4 credits only) if the internship is closely related to public policy. Since this is not always the case, rather than providing automatic credit for WASH credits, this would fall under the “Other courses may be added or substituted with permission of preceptor”. We can make this clear on the new website as an example of “other courses”, and make sure the WASH Coordinator communicates this to accepted students, and we added this to the “Additional information” section of the requirements in the proposal.</p>
<p>Could you provide more information why a course on Econometrics would be a core course for the Minor? Would the course itself be taught in a way that focuses on policy or is the goal to develop analytical skills to be used in data analysis, or another reason?</p>	<p>We also offer a non-metrics option for that core class: it is either Econometrics or Political Economy. We do think Econometrics is very valuable for policy analysts. However, we are also offering the option to take a more advanced policy-focused class for those who are not included and to take another quantitative class. We made this more clear in the “Additional information” section of the requirements in the proposal. Econometrics is a key skill for policy analysts, as the way it’s taught is directly aligned with the evaluation and analysis of policies. Both undergraduate &amp; graduate degrees in Economics include an econometrics requirement, where students learn to analyze trade policies, economic policies, and more. While not all policies are economic in nature, they all come with costs (and hopefully budgets) and require economic analysis to review. A 2021 Brookings paper on <a href="#">“The value of qualitative data for advancing equity in policy”</a> by Tiffany N. Ford and Annelies Goger, notes that “Quantitative research is the dominant</p>

	<p>methodological paradigm in policy debates and social policy research”, even while advocating for qualitative methods. Because of this, we decided that of all the skills we’d want policy students to learn, this is our #1 choice. This course is also distinct enough from other social science methods courses to count as a core for this concentration, as other methods courses aren’t similar enough. All of our social science degrees have a methods course requirement, so having this course as a core for the certificate also follows this norm at Stockton. Fun fact: a recent experiment showed that policymakers who were trained in econometrics were more likely to fund policy options that were presented with stronger causal evidence through randomized controlled trial(s) than policy options with no evidence from RCTs; the reason was they learned about causal concepts and were able to successfully apply them when evaluating policies to fund. [Mehmood, Sultan, Shaheen Naseer, and Daniel L. Chen. "Training policymakers in econometrics." <i>Training</i> 1/43 (2023).]</p> <p>Students earning the Public Policy certificate might also consider earning the GIS certificate if they want to use geospatial analysis in their work.</p>
<p>The proposal mentions that “there is evidence of the popularity of this discipline across the university, yet current options are limited to a select few majors.” Could you clarify what you mean by "popularity"? Specifically, how is this popularity demonstrated? Are there existing courses related to this subject that are being offered at full capacity? We would appreciate further explanation on this point.</p>	<p>We added more information and new figures to the proposal about enrollments in policy concentrations in ECON and SUST to demonstrate steady numbers and proportionally greater demand (the raw numbers in policy-related concentrations stayed constant, while overall majors decreased over the same time period). Further, there are several active student clubs focused on policy (e.g., Stockton University Environmental Club, Stockton Action Volunteers for the Environment (SAVE), Model United Nations, College Democrats, College Republicans, Stockton Socialists, Stockton University Sustainability Trust, Students for Justice in Palestine at Stockton University, &amp; Water Watch).</p> <p>In terms of the courses, some of them are in high demand (e.g., ECON 1200), although it is unclear if this new concentration will create new demand for those courses (e.g., ECON 1200) because we anticipate a good proportion of demand will come from students already taking this and other courses for their majors.</p>
<p>The proposal states that the Economics (ECON) program currently offers a Concentration in Economic Policy for ECON majors only, while the Sustainability (SUST) program</p>	<p>Please see the comment above and additional figures added to the proposal.</p>

<p>provides a Concentration in Policy for SUST B.A. majors only. The Political Science program offers courses in public policy; however, it does not have an existing concentration, track, or minor in this specific area. Therefore, the joint Public Policy Minor offered by ECON, POLS, and SUST is essential for students.</p> <p>Could you please provide information on enrollment numbers and historical trends (growth, decline, consistency, etc.) in these similar programs across the different schools? This data will be valuable in demonstrating student interest in this area and could strengthen your proposal.</p>	
<p>Can you add a comparison between this minor's curriculum and each existing policy analysis concentration's curriculum?</p>	<p>Please see the information below, copied and pasted from the SUST and ECON websites for their concentrations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Like all Sustainability students, students concentrating in Policy begin with the basics, including courses in ecology, technology, ecological economics, and the natural sciences. Students pursuing the policy concentration often add other courses in the social and behavioral sciences, such as political science, sociology, psychology, or anthropology, to offer a solid foundation for their understanding of public policy. Students also complete a focused set of courses that offer specific training in the policy field, including Environmental Policy and Law (SUST 3300), Global Health and Justice (SUST 3325), Natural Resource Policy and Law (SUST 3313), and they receive hands-on, real-world training in a Policy Practicum (SUST 3351). Students also complete courses that offer professional training in grant writing, management, and professional writing. It is important to note that the Sustainability program offers both a BA and a BS option with a POLICY concentration.</li> </ol>

	<p>2. The <b>Economic Policy Concentration</b> is for students intending a career as an economic policy analyst or advocate. Such positions may be in federal, state, or local government or with nonprofit policy research and advocacy organizations. In addition to the seven core courses in the General Economics curriculum, students selecting the Economic Policy Concentration must complete the following courses as electives or cognates:</p> <p>Choose <b>ONE</b> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ECON 2104 Health Care Economics</li> <li>● ECON 2200 Ecological Economics</li> <li>● ECON 2276 Urban Economics</li> <li>● ECON 2282 Economics for All Ages</li> </ul> <p>Choose <b>ONE</b> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ECON 3620 Money and Financial Institutions</li> <li>● ECON 3690 Economics of Work and Pay</li> </ul> <p>Choose <b>ONE</b> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● POLS 1100 Introduction to Politics</li> <li>● POLS 2100 Introduction to American Politics</li> </ul>
<p>PLAW 3110 THE LEGAL, SOCIAL, AND ETHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS and ECON 1200 Macroeconomics (4 cr) are two program requirements for all students in the School of Business. How many of these courses are required for students in other direct programs? In the past, in the school of business, students have been denied the ability to declare a minor when this was the case. This can set a new precedence if this is approved.</p>	<p>Please review the comment above, pasted again here: In terms of the courses for this concentration, some of them are in high demand (e.g., ECON 1200), although it is unclear if this new concentration will create new demand for those courses (e.g., ECON 1200) because we anticipate a good proportion of demand will come from students already taking this and other courses for their majors. The precedent mentioned in this comment is unclear. We don't think BUSN majors would be prevented from accessing this certificate. It's standard practice in DegreeWorks for the same class to count towards a major AND a minor or certificate, so maybe this was a past issue that is now resolved. I know that this is the case for SOBL majors with a minor in POLS, where their major requires a POLS class, which then also counts towards their minor, for example.</p>

<p>Please include in the proposal that some of the core courses have prerequisites, which means that students need to plan accordingly for taking those courses first. It would help to outline what courses require prerequisites.</p>	<p>Thank you for noting this oversight; we listed the existing prerequisites for the core courses only, as there is a long list of optional courses for the remaining requirements.</p>
<p>It would help to include information about when specific core courses are offered since it appears not all courses are offered every semester.</p>	<p>This information was added to the list of core courses, with a TBD on the rotation because of current faculty leaves.</p>
<p>Identify if you are referring to Intro to Public Policy or Intro to Public Administration. The proposal currently lists POLS2180 Introduction to Public Policy as a core course but POLS2180 is listed as Introduction to Public Administration in the catalog.</p>	<p>This mistake was fixed, thanks for catching this! POLS 2190 is the Introduction to Public Policy course, and POLS 2180 is Public Administration.</p>
<p>Provide information on how the offered courses will be sufficient to support the program (are there going to be more sections offered, more faculty hires, etc?). For example, some ECON courses reach full capacity quickly, if that is a required core course, how will it impact the completion of the minor and what is the solution?</p>	<p>ECON 1200 and 1400 are in demand from other students (namely BUSN); however, many of the students we expect to attract are already more likely to take these classes for their degree requirements, such as a Cognate or a Minor. The overall decline in enrollment has also meant fewer students taking these classes. POLS will monitor enrollment trends in POLS 2190 to ensure an adequate number of 1000 and 2000-level courses are being taught. Similarly, ECON will monitor enrollment trends in ECON 1200 and 1400 and aim to adjust accordingly.</p>