



**Docket Item:**

University Program Approval: Oregon State University, Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Public Policy.

**Summary:**

Oregon State University proposes a new degree program leading to a B.S. in Public Policy. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program: B.S. in Public Policy at Oregon State University.



**Oregon State University seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to a BS in Public Policy.**

*1. Describe the purpose and relationship of the proposed program to the institution's mission and strategic plan.*

Oregon State University is proposing to offer a new BS in Public Policy degree program beginning Fall Term 2018. The program will be located in the School of Public Policy, College of Liberal Arts. The School currently offers a Master of Public Policy (MPP) and PhD in Public Policy.

The proposed program will draw on the richness of the existing graduate programs to create an exciting interdisciplinary, undergraduate degree program. The program will be offered both on-campus and online (via OSU's Extended Campus) with students having access to both face-to-face and online classes.

The BS in Public Policy degree program will provide students with a set of research, analytical, and management skills for employment not only in the public service (federal, state, and local government), but also in not-for-profit and for-profit organizations. The program will also prepare students to be competitive for admission into graduate programs through which they may further broaden their intellectual and practical expertise and experiences.

As identified through OSU's Strategic Plan and OSU's Signature Areas of advancing science and sustainable earth ecosystems, improving human health and wellness, and promoting economic growth and social progress, the proposed BS in Public Policy degree program will significantly contribute to helping solve many of the complex social and public policy issues Oregon is currently facing. The OSU BS in Public Policy program will be training the next generation of policy practitioners who will be operating in a new environment of tightened budgets, allocating resources to meet the demands of citizens and elected officials, and working in an environment of increased public scrutiny and skepticism—all while addressing some of the most complex problems we have ever been asked to deal with including climate change, demographic and population shifts, rapid technological development, and a globalized economy.

*2. What evidence of need does the institution have for the program?*

The results of three separate need assessments (one looking at online programs in public policy, another with current OSU students, and a third with non-academic organizations), concluded that there is considerable interest among organizations, prospective employers, and students for this type of degree/skill set.

The online assessment found that there are currently fifty-one institutions offering a public policy undergraduate degree, but only one offering an online program. The student assessment showed that more than half of the students surveyed were interested or very interested in this type of degree program. The students saw the proposed BS in Public Policy

degree program as a way to create flexibility in job options, as well as a pathway to a meaningful position, and for personal development. Finally, from government organizations, more than half of the respondents were interested or very interested in working with OSU's Public Policy students with the highest priority going to students with capacity to work in social, rural, and/or environmental policy.

*3. Are there similar programs in the state? If so, how does the proposed program supplement, complement, or collaborate with those programs?*

There are three related but not duplicated programs at Oregon universities, including a Civic Leadership minor at Portland State University (PSU), an undergraduate degree in Politics, Policy, and Administration at Western Oregon University (WOU), and an undergraduate degree in Planning, Policy, and Public Management at the University of Oregon (UO). The PSU program focuses on urban planning and policy, while the OSU proposed program has special attention directed at rural and environmental policy. The WOU program is linked to its Political Science program making it less interdisciplinary than OSU's proposed BS in Public Policy program. The strengths of the UO program is in urban planning and nonprofit administration, neither of which will be pursued by OSU's proposed degree program.

*4. What new resources will be needed initially and on a recurring basis to implement the program? How will the institution provide these resources? What efficiencies or revenue enhancements are achieved with this program, including consolidation or elimination of programs over time, if any?*

The BS in Public Policy is designed to leverage existing faculty strengths and classes that are offered through the existing programs in School of Public Policy. Currently, the School of Public Policy is funded through a combination of OSU support and revenue generation by School instructors teaching Ecampus, summer session, and INTO OSU courses. Additional costs for the BS in Public Policy program will include: ongoing support for a part-time advisor that will come from Ecampus; an on-going Program Director funded out of general and/or earned funds; and a one-time cost for developing, printing, and distribution of a brochure describing the new program which will be funded out of earned revenue. In addition, the following applies to the proposed program:

- The School recently received a grant to create a dedicated computer lab.
- The library resources have been deemed adequate to support the proposed program.
- The School has a dedicated web master who will be responsible for maintaining the BS in Public Policy webpage.
- Existing resources will be used to create a conference room with phone conferencing capability to facilitate hybrid classes, interactive advising, and other program related activities.

---

All appropriate University committees and councils, Faculty Senate, the OSU Board of Trustees, and the Statewide Provosts' Council have positively reviewed the proposed program.

### **Recommendation to the Commission**

The Statewide Provosts' Council recommends that the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission authorize Oregon State University to establish an instructional program leading to a BS in Public Policy, effective Fall Term 2018.

**Institution: Oregon State University**  
**Program: B.S. in Public Policy**

Action: At the April 3, 2018 meeting, the Statewide Provosts Council approved a new program for Oregon State University, B.S. in Public Policy, to move forward to the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission for its review and approval. The OSU Board of Trustees approved it at their January 19 , 2018 meeting.

---

**Eastern Oregon University**

Sarah Witte, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon Health & Science University**

Elena Andresen, interim provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon State University**

Ed Feser, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon Tech**

Gary Kuleck, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Portland State University**

Margaret Everett, interim provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Southern Oregon University**

Susan Walsh, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**University of Oregon**

Jayanth Banavar, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Western Oregon University**

Steve Scheck, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained

