

A TOP-RANKED PROGRAM IN NEW ENGLAND

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst BE REVOLUTIONARY™



MEET OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS



NEW UNDERGRAD PUBLIC POLICY MAJOR



ALUMNI NEWS FROM THE FIELD

UMassAmherst

School of Public Policy

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Public policy education at UMass Amherst has a great tradition and an exciting future. We're celebrating fifty years since the launch of our first graduate degree in public administration. The School of Public Policy, established in 2015, builds on this tradition with an exciting plan for growth.

We've expanded our two-year MPPA class and added a 37-credit MPP that students can complete in one year. In 2019, we hired our first faculty with tenure lines in the school. We've added six new faculty since 2020, and we're hiring again in 2021–22.



SPP's faculty now totals **20 members**. We are midway through a three-year hiring plan.

Our faculty approach public policy from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives and with a shared commitment to public service and social change. Areas of focus include social justice, technology and governance, and sustainability. SPP research is recognized worldwide. Three of our faculty are fellows of the prestigious National Academy of Public Administration.

To make public policy education affordable, we provide students with generous funding through our Commonwealth Policy Fellow-

Since 2018, we've offered more than **100 Commonwealth Policy Fellowships**, which recognize academic achievement and leadership potential.

ships. SPP graduated the largest class in its history in spring 2021. Our alumni network, built over five decades, now spans the globe.

Starting in fall 2022, we'll build on this success by launching a new undergraduate major in public policy.

The new undergraduate major in public policy will **focus on social change** and will prepare students for careers in government, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

We're honored by recognition of our progress. The School of Public Policy is now in the top 25 percent of graduate public affairs programs in the United States, according

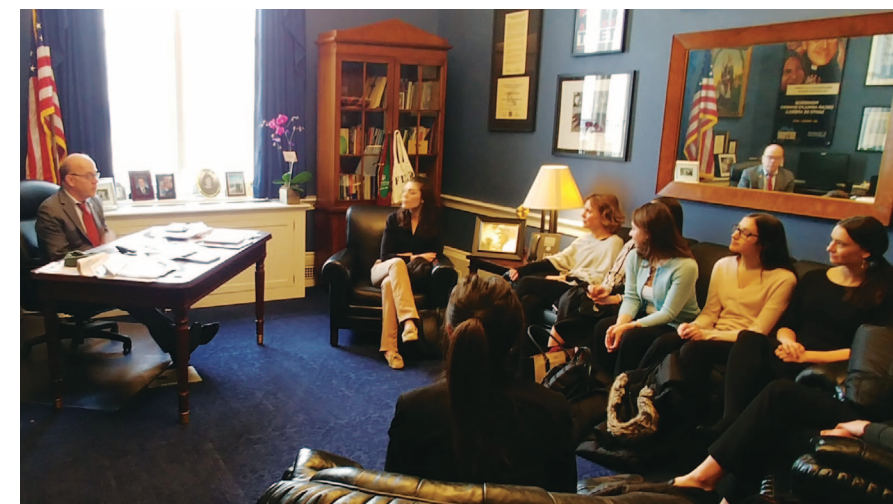
to *US News & World Report*. Our ranking has risen by 28 spots since 2014.

We don't have modest ambitions

in SPP. Our aim is to build a world in which all people are empowered and treated with dignity. We pursue this aim in many ways — professional education, research, and policy dialogue. Read on to learn more about some of the people in our extraordinary community and the work we do.

SPP is **the top-ranked program** at any public university in Massachusetts and is in the top five overall in New England.

Alasdair Roberts
Director and Professor
UMass Amherst School of Public Policy





Faculty



The UMass Amherst School of Public Policy faculty is growing: We've added six new faculty members in the past year, with plans to hire several more over the next few years. In addition, four faculty members who were already affiliated with the school as joint faculty recently moved their tenure homes into SPP.

Our exciting new additions join a core of talented and highly regarded faculty, many of them joint appointments with other UMass departments, in keeping with the School of Public Policy's commitment to interdisciplinarity.

Learn more at
umass.edu/spp/about/faculty.

MEET OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS



Juniper Katz
Assistant Professor,
School of Public
Policy
RESEARCH INTERESTS:
*environmental policy,
policy process, new
public governance,
nonprofit management*

Katz received a PhD in public affairs from the University of Colorado Denver, where she received the Best Dissertation Award. Her research focuses on the effects of policy implementation on citizens and non-profits. She also researches nonprofit financial management. Her background includes leadership roles at land conservation organizations.



Thaddeus Miller
Associate Professor,
School of Public
Policy
RESEARCH INTERESTS:
*interdisciplinary
research collabora-
tions and research-community
partnerships to advance urban
sustainability and resilience*

Miller came to UMass from Arizona State University, where he codirected the Center for Smart Cities and Regions. He works with communities, practitioners, and interdisciplinary researchers to coproduce research agendas that support sustainability and resilience policy.



R. Karl Rethemeyer
Dean, College of
Social & Behavioral
Sciences & Professor,
School of Public
Policy
RESEARCH INTERESTS:
*structure, management, and effect
of social networks; social network
methodology, particularly policy
networks, clinical health networks,
network systems, and terrorist
and insurgent networks*

Rethemeyer came to UMass Amherst from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy of the University at Albany, where he served as dean. A fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, Rethemeyer received a PhD in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.



Elizabeth Sharrow
Associate Professor,
School of Public
Policy & Department
of History
RESEARCH INTERESTS:
*Title IX, gender and
race in US politics, politics of the
family, politics of college athletics*

Sharrow's research is featured in many peer-reviewed and public-facing outlets and is funded by the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the American Association of University Women, and the American Political Science Association, among others. Her collaborative work with #MeTooPoliSci was awarded the Mansbridge Award from the National Women's Caucus for Political Science.



Viviana Chiu-Sik Wu
Assistant Professor,
School of Public
Policy
RESEARCH INTERESTS:
*philanthropy and
nonprofit manage-
ment, inequality, social media
advocacy and engagement*

Wu holds a PhD in social welfare from the University of Pennsylvania and was managing editor of *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. In 2020, she received an Emerging Scholar Award from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, as well as a Generosity Commission grant to study the "philanthropic gap" in the US.



Ethan Zuckerman
Associate Professor,
School of Public
Policy, Department of
Communication &
College of Information
and Computer Sciences
RESEARCH INTERESTS:
*media as a tool
for social change, the role of tech-
nology in international development,
the use of new media technologies
by activists*

Internet pioneer Zuckerman joined UMass from MIT, where he directed the Center for Civic Media. Cofounder of the international citizen media organization Global Voices, he leads the UMass Initiative for Digital Public Infrastructure. His latest book is *Mistrust: Why Losing Faith in Institutions Provides the Tools to Transform Them*.

Michael Ash Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Economics
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *labor, environmental justice and policy, healthcare workers, health*
M.V. Lee Badgett Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Economics
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *labor economics, employment discrimination, economics of sexual orientation and gender identity, economic empowerment*

Brenda Bushouse Associate Professor,
School of Public Policy
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *nonprofit governance,
institutional analysis, child policy*

Jane E. Fountain Distinguished University Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Political Science & Adjunct Distinguished Professor, College of Information and Computer Sciences
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *technology, policy, and governance; public management; organizational and institutional change*

Krista Harper Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Anthropology
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *qualitative and participatory visual research methods; environmental, food, and energy justice mobilizations*

John Hird Professor, School of Public Policy
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *policy expertise and advising, the use of information in policymaking, policy analysis, policy entrepreneurs*

Kathryn McDermott Professor, School of Public Policy & College of Education
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *state and federal education policy, educational equity, policy implementation*

David Mednicoff Associate Professor,
School of Public Policy & Chair, Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *Middle Eastern, comparative, and international law and politics; US foreign policy, human rights, and refugee politics*

Joya Misra Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Sociology
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *inequality; race, gender, and class; work and labor; political sociology; welfare states; research methods*

Lenore Palladino Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Economics
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *corporate governance reform and tax, labor rights, care economy*

Alasdair Roberts Professor & Director,
School of Public Policy
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *governance, law, public policy*

Brian Sargent Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Sociology
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *race and racism, economic sociology, comparative and historical methods, the politics of governmental reform, urban sociology*

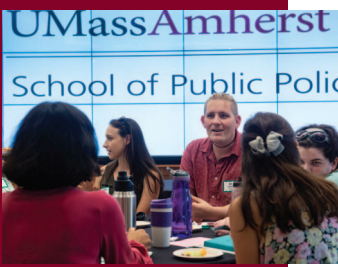
Elizabeth Schmidt Professor of Practice,
School of Public Policy
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *nonprofit law, nonprofit management, social enterprise*

Charles Schweik Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Environmental Conservation
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *environmental policy and management, institutional analysis, knowledge and information commons*

Marta Vicarelli Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy & Department of Economics
RESEARCH INTERESTS: *environmental economics, development economics, applied microeconomics and climatology*



Students



Our students are the heart of SPP. They come from diverse backgrounds but share a deep commitment to public service and social change.

SPP students excel in and out of the classroom. Since 2019, fifteen SPP students have been accepted to Boston's prestigious Civic Action Project fellowship program. Many students work on client projects with external partners, from local to international organizations. Others serve the community in elected or volunteer positions or as activists and advocates for social reform and equity. In 2020–21, several students coauthored research with faculty members about COVID-19 policies. Others have recently published research on healthcare policy, women's leadership in politics, nature-based responses to climate risks, and other topics.

UMass Amherst School of Public Policy

I am studying public policy because ...

"**Governance matters** to me. Having ideas is one thing, but being able to understand, flesh out, and implement those ideas is another. I genuinely believe in public service. I want to make our world and communities better."

— **Samuel Hockenbury Hopedale, Massachusetts, MPPA**

"[I want] to **gain a further understanding** and focus on immigration policy, as well as practical experience on the interplay of this particular policy area to other important policy areas such as the economy, criminal justice, and education."

— **Alphoncina Lyamuya Gardner, Massachusetts, MPPA**

"As a Black woman and an immigrant, I think it's really important to understand how policy is made. So often policies are created that negatively impact the lives of people who look like me, so I think it's time that more people like me help shape policy. Policymaking needs to be more representative, and more diverse voices need to **be at the table**."

— **Whitley Plummer Bronx, New York, MPPA/MBA**

"I'm studying public policy — specifically reproductive justice and immigrants' rights policy — in an attempt to **improve our country**, which is currently failing many of our most vulnerable folks. In the future, I hope to work in the organizing sphere, either on electoral campaigns or on other grassroots interests campaigns."

— **Julia Mathis Kensington, Maryland, MPP**

"[I want] to better understand the policy advocacy and creation process. I would like to learn how to best push legislative change, in building a future where economic and social justice are prioritized. My low-income class identity serves as a motivator for my policy interests, as I hope to **serve the communities** I have come from in crafting just housing, education, and social welfare policy."

— **Tim Scalona Wilmington, Massachusetts, MPP**

"I want to make sure that all people with disabilities are given an equal opportunity to succeed in life, regardless of their needs or the challenges they may face. I plan to get a job **drafting policy** designed to improve the public school experience for students with disabilities."

— **Sophie Korpics Newburyport, Massachusetts, MPP**

"The policy issues I am passionate about are the intersection of race and technology as well as criminal justice reform. I'm studying public policy to become best equipped with the necessary tools to **address social oppressions** with policy efforts using the most effective strategies."

— **Ayla Thorntona Nashua, New Hampshire, MPP**

... I want to make our world and communities better.



Khalif Nunnally-Rivera
Springfield, Massachusetts, MPPA

"I am studying public policy because I hope to assist in building a more equitable future through combating racial and wealth inequality. I would also like to help make government more effective, efficient, and trustworthy."

As a Civic Action Project fellow, Khalif interned with state Senator Eric Lesser.



Madeline Leue
Ashfield, Massachusetts, MPPA

"My policy interests lie in reimagining public safety, including better child-welfare and family health services, and in just transition planning for the shift to renewable energies. I have spent much of my time in this program focusing on gathering economic background for the issues that matter to me."

Madeline has collaborated with an SPP faculty member to publish research on the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Make Positive Social Change. Become a Leader in Public Service.



Degree Programs



The School of Public Policy offers several degree options, so students can pursue the program that best fits their interests and their needs — whether it's a Master of Public Policy, a Master of Public Policy and Administration, or a joint degree with another UMass Amherst graduate program.

All of our degree programs balance academic theory with professional skills development and practical experience, leaving graduates uniquely prepared for the professional opportunities ahead of them.

We strive to make our graduate programs financially accessible to all students. Generous **Commonwealth Policy Fellowships** are available to students who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership potential.

Core courses in the program focus on foundational areas including policy analysis, economics, research methods, statistics, and public management. Students also take **elective courses** based on their individual interests, choosing from a broad range of topics such as education policy, social equity, environmental policy, health policy, internet governance, the nonprofit sector, public advocacy, financial management, and information systems.

Internships are an integral part of the School of Public Policy program. All SPP students complete a policy- or management-related internship, where they gain professional experience and make valuable connections. Some go on to find jobs at the places they interned. School of Public Policy staff, as well as our wide alumni network, help students find internships in the fields they plan to pursue.

Our hands-on **Professional Development Seminar** provides students with the tools and support to create a strategic plan to reach their career goals. Students learn how to write effective resumes and cover letters, research potential careers, practice employment negotiations and public speaking, and put their skills to the test through informational interviews and networking opportunities. They connect with alumni and other professionals and learn about career options during **networking trips** to Washington, Boston, New York, and other sites. Flexibility in the curriculum makes the course beneficial to all students, whether they've come to the program with years of work experience or are seeking their first job or internship.

In our **Capstone Course** (required for MPPA students), students conduct in-depth research and analysis of a policy issue in their area of interest, working closely with a faculty advisor. The capstone is an opportunity to synthesize major concepts and skills covered in the program and can take the form of a client project, a policy brief, a case study, or more traditional academic research. In the **Workshop in Public Policy Course** (optional for all students), students work in teams on projects for external clients, offering policy analysis and recommendations on real-world issues. Both courses provide students with crucial practical experience as well as valuable networking opportunities.

Students in the MPPA program can opt to pursue a **dual-degree program**, which allows them to graduate with both a Master of Public Policy and Administration and a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Higher Education (MEd), Public Health (MPH), or Regional Planning (MRP).

The **Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA)** provides students with a strong foundation in public and nonprofit management and analytical skills that can be applied to a wide variety of policy issues and sectors.

- The **48-credit MPPA** is typically completed in two years. Part-time students are welcomed.

- A **capstone project** and a policy- or administration-related **internship** are required.

- **Dual-degree options** are available in Business Administration, Higher Education, Public Health, or Regional Planning. Joint MPPA programs are typically completed in three years.

The one-year **Master of Public Policy (MPP)** degree's mix of online and in-person classes allows students to move quickly and affordably toward their professional goals with the skills they need to succeed.

- Students begin the program in the summer, taking up to **12 credits of online courses**, then complete the degree over two semesters in residence.

- An **internship** in a policy- or management-related field is required.

- Students can complete the **37-credit MPP** over one calendar year (May to May). Part-time students are welcomed.

Our **4+1 Master of Public Policy** degree allows motivated undergraduates to begin working on their graduate degree during their senior year, saving them money and allowing them to move toward their careers goals quickly.

- Open to **outstanding undergraduates at the Five Colleges**: UMass Amherst and Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith colleges.

- Students can **apply 12 credits** taken during their senior year to their MPP.

- An **internship** in a policy- or management-related field is required.

- Students take a total of **37 credits** over their time in the program.

Learn more at umass.edu/spp/academics.

Alumni



School of Public Policy alumni pursue a wide range of public service careers across the globe, using their skills and knowledge to solve problems for the common good. Many stay closely connected to the program, creating a vibrant, engaged network that current students and fellow alums can connect with for career opportunities, advice, and inspiration.

ALUMNI PROFILES



Liana Ascolese (MPP '16) is the communications and community partnerships manager at the National Archives Foundation and the national legislative director of the Every Voice Coalition, a student- and survivor-led organization that works on legislation to address the pervasive problem of campus sexual assaults. She helped found Every Voice while a student at the School of Public Policy, where her paper, "If You Want Something Done, Ask a Woman: How Women College Administrators Implement Effective Title IX Policies to Prevent Sexual Assault," received the Best Capstone Award from the Massachusetts chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

"It's always been my goal not only to elect and appoint more leaders who are more diverse and really share the life experiences of their constituents, but also people who have empathy for these situations and will use the political process to break cycles of violence," she says. "Our students and survivors are such amazing and powerful people and they've inspired me so much."

UMass Amherst School of Public Policy



Not long after receiving his MPP in 2019, **Cobi Frongillo** was elected to the Town Council in his hometown of Franklin, Massachusetts. He balances his work as a councilor — which includes a seat on the Economic Development Committee — with his job as a researcher for the Massachusetts Legislative Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, where he reviews legislation assigned to the committee, much of it related to climate and clean energy policy. "I get to work every day to ensure my home state remains a leader in protecting the well-being of present and future generations," he says. One recent exciting work experience: "I helped prepare the committee chair's remarks for the announcement of the nation's first offshore wind farm!"



Emily Hajjar (MPP '15) serves as legislative director for the Massachusetts Department for Children and Families, which works in partnership with families and communities to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. She's also worked in the State House, as a legislative research director and deputy chief of staff, and as a political campaign manager.

"The School of Public Policy gave me the most amazing academic curriculum that exposed me to real practical experiences," she says. "Those experiences helped me understand how thoughtful policy analysis could significantly impact different populations of people and brought light to some of the implementation challenges that come along with bold changes to public policy."



Fran Hutchins pursued a dual-degree program at the School of Public Policy, earning her MPPA/MBA in 2013. Today she's the executive director of Equality Federation, a national organization that serves as a strategic partner to state-based organizations advocating for LGBTQ people, providing leadership development and advocacy support to a network of 40+ member organizations across the country.

The best part of her job? "I love helping local LGBTQ activists, especially those working in conservative states, feel less alone in their work," she says. "Whether it's having a coaching conversation with someone dealing with a rough legislative session or connecting leaders in a dozen states who are all facing copycat negative bills, the work my team and I do builds the movement for equality."



Josh Geyer, who received his MPPA from the School of Public Policy in 2010, is an energy program analyst for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Environment and Energy.

"Most of my work goes toward removing barriers to deploying efficiency measures and renewables in affordable multifamily housing," he says. Recently, that included work to ensure that tens of thousands of affordable-housing units in California qualified for a state program that provides financial incentives for installing solar photovoltaic systems on multifamily affordable rental homes. "SPP equipped me with a suite of analytical tools and frameworks that can be applied to any policy question. These tools have allowed me to effectively analyze and propose solutions to issues in multiple domains."



Since receiving his MPP in 2019, **Dillon Coutinho** has been employed at the Pearl Initiative, a United Arab Emirates-based think tank focused on corporate governance, accountability, and workplace transparency for businesses in the Gulf region. He leads the organization's Governance in Small Businesses program, which helps businesses be more competitive by improving their governance standards and adopting frameworks that lead to long-term sustainability and resilience. He's also launching a Governance in Tech program, focused on data governance and the ethical use of technology in business operations.

"There are a lot of skills I use today that I honed during my time in SPP," he says. "My forte has always been research, but understanding how to conduct research ethically and effectively was something I was able to further develop in graduate school."

Make Positive Social Change. Become a Leader in Public Service.

**"NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME,
NOT TOMORROW, NOT SOME MORE
CONVENIENT SEASON. IT IS TODAY THAT
OUR BEST WORK CAN BE DONE AND NOT
SOME FUTURE DAY OR FUTURE YEAR."**

— W.E.B. DuBois

The UMass Amherst School of Public Policy

Thompson Hall
200 Hicks Way
Amherst MA 01003-9277
Phone: 413-545-3940
umass.edu/spp

For admissions, please contact sppadmissions@umass.edu.

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst BE REVOLUTIONARY™