



Internship POL 599

General Description: See Specific Course Syllabus When Available on Course Site

Course Description

Prerequisite: Must complete 9 hours of coursework in the MPP. Should be taken in last academic year (preferably semester) of program completion.

A policy-related internship tailored to each student's career preferences or academic interests. The selection of an internship venue will occur in consultation with the student's MPP advisor and with the approval of the MPP Internship Coordinator. The Internship venue is usually selected from a pre-approved list of local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and private sector businesses. Note: The field work component of the internship (2 credits) is waived if an individual has at least 2 years substantial and relevant work experience in a policy making or public management position, although students must still enroll in the academic course component (1 credit) of the internship to graduate.

[Policies related to the internship can be found here.](#)

Course Goals

This course satisfies the experiential component of the Masters of Public Policy (MPP) program. There are two components to this course: the experiential component (2-units), and the seminar component (1-unit). The goals of this course are broken down as follows:

- **2-unit experiential component:** Students are expected to directly engage the concepts learned in the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program in a practical learning environment. Students should gain practical experience applying some or all of the concepts they have learned in the MPP program.
- **1-unit seminar component:** Students reflect upon their internship experience through reading specific articles related to public policy participation, and engaging in discussions on the topic with one another throughout the semester.

Requirements

1. **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Attendance is monitored by online discussion responses. Over a set period of time, a number of online questions are

- asked in conjunction with the reading and other materials contained in learning modules. You are required to respond to these questions (called discussion boards) by the stated deadline. In addition, you are required to interact (comment on other students responses) in each discussion board question. These responses are considered your attendance and will form the basis for your class participation grade.
2. **Online Access:** Necessary course materials will be housed at “MyCourses” via your “MyUMassD” login portal. The username is password is *exactly* the same as your UMass Dartmouth email username and password. All of your online courses are located at this site.
 3. **Outside Readings/Personal Interests:** Students are encouraged to develop a dialogue in the online setting based on outside readings, experiences, or personal interests that are related to the subject matter. Because we are dealing with subjects of **public policy** (health, welfare, and justice), each student undoubtedly has personal experiences/viewpoints that will add to the discussion. You are encouraged to share such viewpoints.
 4. **Deliverables:** Students will be required to interact with materials online, and complete discussion board interactions. Please note: an e-portfolio is no longer required. Any references to it should be disregarded.

Required Readings

Handouts via Web-postings, Links, Videos, Etc. **These readings will be provided throughout the semester.**

Portfolios (optional)

Please note that portfolios are no longer required for POL 599. They are voluntary. If you would like further instructions related to creating an e-portfolio, please let me know.

Student Behavior/Conduct

UMass-Dartmouth has developed a [detailed student handbook](#) to deal with various issues of student behavior. Each student should consult this resource for a better understanding of issues surrounding academic dishonesty. Any perceived negative behavior in this class will result in the student being reported and disciplined. I strive to treat each student as an adult, and will do so unless I am given a reason to act otherwise.

Course Assignments (1 Unit Seminar Component)

Module One

- Internship details

- Understanding service learning in content

Module Two

- What is happening in your internship?
- Reflecting on your internship experience

Module Three

- Relating your experience back to your learning
- Best practices in community-based research

Course Evaluation Measures

The grading for the internship is holistic. You receive credit for the 1-unit seminar component by fully engaging in the readings, discussion boards, and interactions required online during the semester. Of course, you must fully complete your internship requirement in order to receive credit for the 2-unit experiential component.

All of these grading components will be more clearly discussed throughout the semester.