BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS (BSPA)

OUR MISSION
The mission of the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs and its degree programs is to empower the next generation of public and nonprofit leaders, advance knowledge about public life and policy, and engage communities across our city, nation, and world to foster effective, inclusive institutions and societies.

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135 E. 22nd Street, 4th floor
(Students are encouraged to make an appointment to see an advisor.)
Email us today!
The BSPA is a unique degree within the city that cultivates passion, prepares individuals to tackle social justice issues, and uplifts communities both domestically and internationally. The College and School acknowledge its significance. As a result, there has been a commitment to serve more individuals focused on public service.

The program is interdisciplinary, which means that many diverse fields are studied. With this degree students develop a strong, marketable foundation that is flexible across the various sectors.

**CURRICULUM**

The courses examine how the public sector, along with nonprofit and private sectors, use the policy process to effect change. They are offered both in person, hybrid, and online. Classes are small with 20-25 students that are taught by accomplished scholars, as well as, practitioners with current and previous leadership roles in the field.

- Proficiency is developed in analysis, negotiation, qualitative and quantitative methods, and rhetoric.
- Policy areas include community development, education, environmental sustainability, health care, housing, immigration, and social welfare.
- Students learn to effectively lead, understand policy, and communicate while implementing practical solutions to challenging issues.

**Public Service Careers**

- Graduates work for all levels of government, in nonprofit organizations, for public schools and colleges, and private sector companies.
- Public and nonprofit salaries are comparable to the starting level salaries in business. We also encourage students to continue on to graduate and law school.
- Public servants address real-world policy issues and seek to make democracy effective. Democracy requires an educated population who enjoy discussing shared concerns in the public sector.

**INTERNSHIPS**

In addition to their courses, BSPA students apply their knowledge through experiential learning. Several credit-bearing internship courses are offered that allow students to become immersed in real-world opportunities and create building blocks to the careers they are seeking. Students have the opportunity to work at the local, state, and national levels of government, as well as within a myriad of nonprofit organizations.

**City Council Internship**

This internship focuses on local government. Students work in the office of a New York City Council Member for eight hours per week for eight weeks, attend a weekly seminar, and receive three academic credits. Students learn about the legislative process and obtain a unique perspective on community issues.

**Hagedorn Internship**

This internship course provides students an opportunity to work within one of NYC’s most influential nonprofit organizations. This course is open only to BSPA majors with a 3.0 or higher. Students receive a stipend upon successful completion of the internship.

**New York State Legislature Internships**

Students experience first-hand the law-making process and constituent services working with a Senator or Assembly member. Students receive a housing stipend and 15 credits for PAF 5001.

**Advisement**

Every BSPA student’s public service path is distinctive. Our team works closely with each student in defining their career goals and helping them select the courses that meet their interests.

**Honor Society**

High-achieving BSPA students are eligible for induction to Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society in public affairs and administration.

**Preparation Beyond BSPA**

**BSPA Capstone**

The Capstone is the final course required to complete the BSPA degree. It is the culmination of all that has been learned throughout the program. Within this course, students create an actionable business plan for a nonprofit venture or a specific program or project within an existing nonprofit organization or a government assisted program.

**Honors Thesis**

Completing an honors thesis is an opportunity to develop a thorough research project, work closely with an expert faculty mentor, and open windows into future professions. Completion of an honors thesis is highly recommended when considering an advanced degree (e.g., masters, doctoral, or professional). Registration is for PAF 6001H in the first semester and PAF 6002H in the subsequent semester.

**Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute**

For the best in graduate school preparation, BSPA students may apply for the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute. This program helps undergraduates prepare for graduate education in public policy and public administration. Students attend a summer session at Princeton University, Carnegie-Mellon University, the University of Michigan, or the University of California at Berkeley. Students receive six credits for PAF 5000 from Baruch College, full tuition at the participating university, travel expenses, a stipend, and university housing with a meal plan.