

**COVER SHEET**  
**NEW DEGREE PROGRAM PLANNING NOTIFICATION OF INTENT**  
**(PLANNING NOI)**

**Program Information**

Program Name: Law and Policy

Institution Name: University of Washington Tacoma

Degree Granting Unit: Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences  
*(e.g. College of Arts & Sciences)*

Degree: B.A. Law and Policy Level: Bachelor Type: (of) Arts  
*(e.g. B.S. Chemistry)* *(e.g. Bachelor)* *(e.g. Science)*

Major: Law and Policy CIP Code: 44.0501  
*(e.g. Chemistry)*

Minor: Not applicable  
*(if required for major)*

Concentration(s): Not applicable  
*(if applicable)*

Proposed Start Date: Fall 2012

Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: 30 At Full Enrollment by Year: 2014 ; 80  
*(#FTE)* *(# FTE)*

Proposed New Funding: \$15,000/year

Funding Source:  State FTE  Self Support  Other

**Mode of Delivery / Locations**

Campus Delivery University of Washington Tacoma

Off-site \_\_\_\_\_  
*(enter locations)*

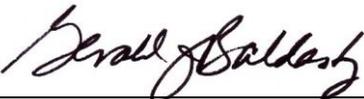
Distance Learning \_\_\_\_\_  
*(enter location(s))*  
*(enter formats)*

**Substantive Statement of Need**

(Attached)

**Contact Information (Academic Department Representative)**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Endorsement by Chief Academic Office

April 20, 2011  
Date

## **I. Program Description and Rationale**

**Description:** This degree program consists of a set of seven core classes that all students take. In these courses (law, politics, economics, philosophy, statistics and writing) students learn the underlying institutional and political framework in which policy is conducted in the US, and are introduced to various ways of thinking about the law and the substance and process of public policy issues. The courses also develop analytical understanding and tools for engaging in policy analysis. Students then take upper division courses in policy-related courses. In these six classes, students develop their ability to understand the foundation of various social problems; develop their comparative understanding of the institutional and political context of these problems and the policy-making process for addressing them; examine the determinants of public policy; and engage in analyses and evaluations of various public policies. In these classes, students must take at least three classes in one policy area (Health Policy, Social Policy or International Development), and at least two courses in another area (these two courses can be from the same area). Because students focus on one area of policy, the degree is structured to build up a level of competence in one policy area. Since students must also take classes in other areas, they also develop an appreciation of ways in which policy dilemmas and processes are similar and different.

**Appendix A contains a more detailed proposal for the degree program.**

**Rational:** The purpose of this new proposed degree in Law and Policy is to provide a new course of study at UWT that leads to a B.A. The proposed degree primarily draws on and integrates existing curriculum across the campus; as such it does not require new resources, and would serve the important function of deepening existing course offerings in particular areas. As designed, the degree offers a new program that develops students' analytical skills in a way that allows them to apply these to current events. The degree would provide a solid liberal arts foundation for thinking analytically about the public action component of current topics in health care, social policy, and international development. More so than most other courses of study in IAS, the degree more closely links curricular content with opportunities and challenges faced in Tacoma, South Puget Sound and Washington State. Finally, to develop curriculum that will attract new students to UWT with minimal need for new resources or new courses.

**Administrative Location:** The B.A. in Law and Policy would be located in UWT's Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences program.

**Relationship with other degree programs (within the university or state):** The degree program as proposed draws on curriculum from IAS (particularly related to IAS's degree program in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, but also from Environmental Sciences and Sociology), from Urban Studies, and from Nursing. By combining existing curriculum in an innovative way, the program allows existing resources to serve more purposes while giving students a unique option for gaining their B.A. While both Nursing and Urban Studies include significant policy-related

courses in its curriculum, this degree program puts policy front-and-center, and relies on a rigorous set of core courses to develop the firm foundation necessary for more in depth understanding and analyses of current policy dilemmas in our society. Within PPE, courses in law and policy play a somewhat significant role; however should this degree be approved, PPE would revise this aspect of its curriculum to reduce the amount of overlap between PPE and Law and Policy. The degree program also complements other degree programs on campus, such as environmental sciences, criminal justice, and social work, insofar as it provides a social-sciences focused curriculum to issues of common concern.

Undergraduate degrees in Law and Policy are not all that common in the U.S. More common are undergraduate degrees in Public Policy or in Legal Studies. However at Arizona State University, the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law is now establishing a similar undergraduate degree in Law, Policy and Society. A degree in Law and Policy thus provides a somewhat innovative program of study that brings together practical or concrete issues relating to law and policy with insights gained from solid background from the social sciences.

## **II. Demand**

Enrollments in higher education in Washington State are expected to grow over the next decade. This is because of both rising numbers of students graduating from high school as well as an expectation that an increasing proportion of them will attend college.<sup>1</sup> Current enrollment rates are particularly low in Pierce County, perhaps due to the number of students who are place bound and left with fewer alternatives for a four-year degree.<sup>2</sup> For all of these reasons, it makes sense to expand programs of study at UWT in particular.

Moreover, the social sciences remain one of the more popular courses of study, especially in political science, economics and sociology, which are the three disciplines that feature prominently in this proposed degree. In terms of employment potential, the HECB anticipates strong demand for college-educated adults in the fields of management, government, community and social services, protective services, financial services, non-profits, and law-related occupations.<sup>3</sup> All of these fields typically rely on graduates from the social sciences, a field where there has been limited growth in graduates in recent years.<sup>4</sup>

The current Politics, Philosophy and Economics degree program at UWT has a track in it for students interested in Law and Policy (should the Law and Policy degree be approved, this track will be eliminated). The PPE degree, which is now just two years old, already has attracted 125 students. Should students also have the option of majoring in Law and Policy, it is reasonable to expect that many PPE students will convert to being Law and Policy majors. In addition, the Law and Policy minor offered at UWT (new this year) currently has 15 students enrolled. More importantly, we believe that with the assistance of some articulation agreements with community

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<sup>1</sup> HECB (2006). State and Regional Needs Assessment, available at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/research/Issues/NeedsAssessment.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Table G-13, p. 146.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 26-27.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 29 and Appendix G, p. 137

colleges, the degree will attract new students to UWT (about 5 of the 7 core classes can be taken at community colleges). For these reasons, we envision that the degree will quickly attract 50 students, and should easily reach about 80 students within three years.

One of the skills that the Law and Policy major will emphasize is writing, as indicated by the requirement that all students take a 300-level writing course. As a 2004 publication by the College Board<sup>5</sup> states, writing is one of the skills most valued by employers in a wide range of areas. Throughout their program of study, Law and Policy students will engage in a wide range of writing. All students must undertake a culminating capstone course that will entail writing a 25 page research paper on a legal or policy-related topic. The degree program is designed to ensure that students graduate with the writing skills needed and expected of college graduates.

In addition to writing, workforce and community demand indicates that it is especially important for students to develop the strong critical and analytical thinking skills needed for working in more complex settings and addressing more complicated problems. This degree develops these skills, as well as written and verbal communication skills, and places a premium on working collectively to identify and solve problems. Graduates will be well placed to either find employment, or to pursue graduate studies in fields such as law, public policy, government, public administration, urban planning, social work, or education. The HECB anticipates that over the next five years, growth in demand for graduate programs will be especially strong in the state.<sup>6</sup> The HECB also projects a shortage of citizens with graduate degrees in the near future, given the somewhat limited supply of them in the state.<sup>7</sup>

We should also mention that policy courses may make important contributions to a variety of programs across campus. In our Environmental Sciences degrees, students take policy-related courses, and many students are interested in environmental policy. These students may be interested in taking the methods class or other policy-related classes. The same might be true for students in Urban Studies and Nursing, as well as possibly some Social Work students.

The curriculum for the B.A. in Law and Policy is found in the Appendix to this PNOI. As shown, this curriculum consists of courses that are already taught at UWT. There are two exceptions. One is the methods class listed as:

T3XX XXX Public Policy Analysis

The second is a proposed capstone class or internship. At least temporarily, however, rather than creating a new capstone class that might be costly to offer before enrollments in the Law and Policy major could justify it, students might for the first year or two enroll in the current PPE capstone class. Thus, we anticipate that at least for some time, all that would be needed in terms

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<sup>5</sup> See A Ticket to Work...or a Ticket Out, available at [http://www.collegeboard.com/prod\\_downloads/writingcom/writing-ticket-to-work.pdf](http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/writingcom/writing-ticket-to-work.pdf)),

<sup>6</sup> HECB (2006), p. 22.

<sup>7</sup> The HECB projects that the supply of graduate will meet only about two-thirds of employers' demands. See HECB (March 2009). "A Skilled and Educated Workforce", p. 9-10, available at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/news/documents/Skilled-EducatedWorkforce2009.pdf>

of new course offerings on campus would be two sections of the course in Public Policy Analysis.

### **III. Preliminary Budget**

The only additional cost will be approximately \$15,000/year to hire an adjunct to teach two sections of one course (Txxx 3xx Public Policy Analysis).

## Appendix

### Proposal For Degree Program in Law and Policy (70 credits total)

#### A. Core Requirements for BA in Law and Policy (35 credits)

##### **Law (5 credits)**

TPOLS 363 Law in Society

TPOLS 320 American Constitutional Law

##### **Domestic Politics (5 credits)**

TPOLS 202 American Politics

TPOLS 382 State Government

T URB 345 Urban Government and Organizations

##### **International Politics (5 credits)**

TPOLS 204 Comparative Politics

TPOLS 203 International Relations

##### **Economics (5 credits)**

TECON 200/TBECON 220 Microeconomics

TECON 201/TBECON 221 Macroeconomics (required for International Policy track)

TECON 100 Understanding Economics

##### **Ethical and Philosophical Reasoning (5 credits)**

TPHIL 240 Introduction to Ethics

TPHIL 361 Ethics in Society

##### **Statistics or Methods (5 credits)**

##### **Writing (5 credits)**

TWRT 211 Argument and Research in Writing

**B. Areas of Concentration for BA in Law and Policy (30 credits):**

At least 15 credits must fall within one category

**Core Class for All Tracks**

T3XX XXX Public Policy Analysis (new class)

**Area: Health Policy**

THLTH 310 Health and Society

T HLTH 372 Environmental Health: Local to Global

T HLTH 440 Business of Health Care

T HLTH 470 Challenges and Controversies in US Health Care

T HLTH 485 Critical Issues in Global Health

THLEAD 380 Healthcare Budgetary Analysis and Financial Decision Making

THLEAD 410 Ethical Issues in Clinical Practice

THLEAD 420 Healthcare Accreditation and Legal issues

**Area: Social Policy**

T URB 220 Introduction to Urban Planning

T URB 312 Race and Poverty in Urban America

T URB 316 Cities and Citizenship

T URB 323 Sustainable Urban Development Policies

T URB 460 Urban Issues in the Developing World

TPOLS/TSOCWF 425 Comparative Social Policy

TECON 360 Poverty in Developing Countries

TECON 416 Current Issues in U.S. Public Policy

TSOC 335 Social Class and Inequality

T SOC 436 History of Social Welfare Policy in the United States

**Area: International Development**

TESC 341 Climate Change

T HLTH 372 Environmental Health: Local to Global

T HLTH 485 Critical Issues in Global Health

TECON 360 Poverty in Developing Countries

TECON 332 Rise of East Asia

TECON 340 International Economics

TECON 394 Comparative Economic Development

TECON 417 Political Economy of India

TECON 425 Contemporary Issues in International Political Economy

TECON 440 Global Economic Challenges

TECON 460 China's Rise and its Global Economic Implications

T GEOG 435 Contemporary Geopolitics

T HIST 315 Industrialization and Reform

TPOL S 311 International Human Rights

TPOL S 321 American Foreign Policy

TPOL S 368 The Politics and Law of International Human Rights  
TPOL S 410 Labor Rights and Human Rights  
TPOL S 422 International Humanitarian Law  
TPOL S 440 American Foreign Policy in the Middle East  
TSOC 435 - Migration in the Modern World  
T SUD 444 Green Internationalism and the City  
T URB 430 Pacific Rim Cities  
T URB 460 Urban Issues in the Developing World  
T WOMN 420 Women in the Global Economy

**C. Capstone: Seminar and Internship (5 credits)**