CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (CSHPE)

DUAL DEGREE OVERVIEW

This dual degree, offered in conjunction with the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, is an intensive and highly selective degree program providing an in-depth examination of both the public policy and higher education arenas.

ACADEMIC FOCUS

Broad policy issues affect higher and postsecondary education, such as state governance and coordination, financial aid funding, and affirmative action in college admissions.

The master’s degree program in higher and postsecondary education is structured to provide individuals with a general understanding of higher education as a field of practice and inquiry, while allowing the flexibility for students to probe more deeply into areas of specialized interest. A distinct feature of the master’s degree program is the interaction among students with different professional backgrounds and diverse career goals. Students have opportunities to work together in master’s required courses as well as with doctoral students in cognate and elective courses. As they work together on assignments and discuss issues in and out of class, CSHPE master’s students come to appreciate and understand the multiple frames of reference that may be brought to bear on higher education decision-making.

The Ford School’s Master of Public Policy (M.P.P) is designed for students seeking a strong foundation of analytical skills in economic, organizational, political, and quantitative fields.

Core courses develop a foundation of skills, knowledge, and concepts in economics, statistics, political analysis, ethics, and public management. All students receive serious quantitative training in data analysis and program evaluation, moving as a cohort through a carefully sequenced set of courses.

Students then have tremendous flexibility in choosing from advanced classes in social policy, international trade, education, national security, human rights, politics, and more.

TIME TO COMPLETION

A minimum of 5 semesters is required. 2½ years enrolled during Fall and Winter semesters in addition to participation in a mandatory 10-week summer internship. Students have found taking courses concurrently in both Education and Public Policy is most effective for learning outcomes, however, students can begin this dual degree program at either school.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students must apply to and be admitted by both the Ford School and the School of Education. An application fee must accompany each application. Students currently enrolled in either program may apply to the dual program during the first year of study.
**PLAN OF STUDY**

These courses provide a general introduction to the field, knowledge of theories that underlie different areas of practice, and discussion of critical issues in postsecondary education (EDUC 561-Introduction to Higher Education; and one of the following three courses: EDUC 662-Learning and Development in Postsecondary Education; EDUC 663-Organizing for Learning; or EDUC 864-American College Students.)

**CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

In consultation with a faculty advisor, students identify a set of courses that are relevant to their professional and academic interests within the field of higher education.

**RESEARCH PREPARATION REQUIREMENT**

This course introduces students to elementary statistics, exploratory data analysis, research design, and computer-based data analysis methods (EDUC 793-Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Educational Research).

**COGNATES**

Specialization electives chosen from the Ford School of Public Policy help to satisfy this requirement.

**PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE**

EDUC 777-Administrative Practicum

This required 2-semester internship in higher education offers students opportunities to develop specialized skills in a particular functional area or to explore the inner workings of offices with which they are less familiar. Internship experiences also enhance the student’s preparation and development of professional networks that will aid the student’s career success upon graduation.

**CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE HIGHER EDUCATION PORTION OF DUAL DEGREE**

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**PUBLIC POLICY CURRICULUM**

Please see fordschool.umich.edu for current Public Policy Curriculum.

**CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE PUBLIC POLICY PORTION OF DUAL DEGREE**

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**ELECTIVES**

Selected in consultation with advisor.

**COMPLETION OF M.A./M.M.P. DEGREE**

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