think. act. change. lead.
Choosing just the right graduate program is a critical decision because it can dramatically alter the direction of one’s life and influence a whole range of subsequent opportunities.

Some students make their choice to refine their analytical skills and to influence decision makers through better data. Other students hope to combine those tools with organizational talents, dramatically leveraging their work through the activities of other people. And there are critical and rewarding opportunities that await these two groups in both the public and private sectors. However, there is also a select group of these who, guided by the confident strength of moral purpose, are able to design and inspire organizations that not only create value for those they serve, but make meaning for those they lead.

It is precisely this last group who seem to thrive best in the rarefied atmosphere of the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, whose program is uniquely designed for them.

James R. Wilburn  Dean

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu
The School of Public Policy is located in Malibu, California, on the Drescher Graduate Campus, a dedicated graduate facility housing its own library, dining center, technology lab and support, and auditorium.
Prospective students are encouraged to visit the Drescher Graduate Campus and tour the facilities in Malibu. Please call 310.506.7493 to schedule a tour.

The Drescher Graduate Campus apartment complex provides graduate housing across the street from the School of Public Policy. Burnett Heroes Garden, Gulls Way Courtyard, Stauffer Chapel, and the Phillips Theme Tower provide exceptional views of the Pacific Ocean for relaxation and reflection.

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/admission/campus-visit
Los Angeles is the entertainment capital of the world, a cultural mecca boasting more than 300 museums and a paradise of good weather.

The diverse multiethnic population of Los Angeles today distinguishes the city as the cultural hub of the Pacific Rim. People from about 140 countries, speaking approximately 86 different languages, currently call Los Angeles home.

Downtown Los Angeles is the largest government center outside of Washington, D.C., and is home to 40,000 public-sector jobs.
Pepperdine University is located in Southern California in the coastal community of Malibu, about 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Malibu boasts beautiful beaches and a small-town atmosphere.

California is known as an incubator of new ideas and new products, celebrating an entrepreneurial spirit along with its people, its institutions of knowledge, and its attractive climate.

California would be the eighth largest economy if it were a separate country.

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/welcome/visitor-information/around-malibu
At the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, the approach toward the increasingly important interdisciplinary field of public policy is student-centered, innovative, and distinctive.

Public policy is not limited to the study of government solutions, but is broadened to embrace a full range of community-based and free market approaches to public policy challenges.

Effective public policy solutions are rooted in the classic literature of history, philosophy, and economics, and are guided by moral and ethical principles best captured in the lives of great leaders.

Whatever one’s political views, those who shape public policy today are confronted by challenges of unprecedented magnitude.

In no other field is there a greater need for the moral, ethical, and spiritual paradigm that Pepperdine University encourages. This strong focus on the student’s character at the heart of the educational enterprise is especially fitted to nurture the next generation of policy leaders.
WHY STUDY PUBLIC POLICY AT PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Pepperdine is a Christian university committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, where students are strengthened for lives of purpose, service, and leadership.
TODAY’S DYNAMIC ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL CLIMATE DEMANDS A NEW GENERATION OF ETHICAL LEADERS WHO CAN MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR RAPIDLY EVOLVING PUBLIC, CIVIC, AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

The Pepperdine School of Public Policy aims to equip students for this challenging role with leadership skills rooted in time-tested concepts and values.

Pepperdine is committed to an education that values the role that businesses, labor associations, nonprofit organizations, local schools, and families, as well as churches, synagogues, and mosques, play in shaping the public arena. Students are empowered to engage these core institutions to confront the big questions of today and arrive at versatile solutions.

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/welcome/public-policy
Gordon Lloyd, Professor of Public Policy

Leadership

Pepperdine is committed to nurturing leaders who can use tools of analysis and design to effect real change and lead lives of purpose, not only in government agencies, but also in the private and nonprofit sectors.
Pepperdine’s School of Public Policy is a singular place—a place to ask hard questions, to explore ideas with intellectual intensity, and to address perplexing problems without recourse to standard formulas.

Pepperdine shapes effective policy leaders to develop and master the resources of personal character that are necessary to give substance and integrity to management techniques, as well as build the courage to make decisions and risk action to achieve policy results of lasting significance.

Students are drawn to the Pepperdine School of Public Policy because they seek a place that nurtures their need to make a profound difference and transform them into effective leaders.

Our graduates have taken positions of leadership throughout the globe in a host of venues where they are serving as agents of change and leveraging the influence of Pepperdine University.
Master of Public Policy (MPP) Degree Program at Pepperdine

A FULL-TIME, RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM, REQUIRING 64 UNITS OF COURSE WORK, FOR TWO ACADEMIC YEARS (FOUR SEMESTERS), WITH ENROLLMENT OF NEARLY 120 STUDENTS.

THERE IS NO PREDETERMINED UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR TO BECOME AN MPP CANDIDATE.

- Year One—Composed primarily of core courses, including immersion in the great books and the roots of American order, as well as the tools of applied economic analysis, quantitative research methods, and strategy.

- Summer—An internship is required between the first and second years of study.

- Year Two—Composed of specialization courses and a policy research seminar (Capstone).

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/master-public-policy
My students inspire me every year to develop connections between theory and practice, between ideas and action. I know of no other school with this sort of intellectual and practical dynamism.

TED McALLISTER
Edward L. Gaylord Chair and Associate Professor of Public Policy
Students may add versatility to the curriculum by choosing to double specialize without adding any additional units to the program.
Students are offered a choice of four distinct specializations:

- **AMERICAN POLITICS**
  Analyzes the dynamic nature of American society and considers the political, economic, and social implications of federal and local policies, including building consensus among a variety of constituents affected by new policy initiatives.

- **ECONOMICS**
  Examines such policies as social and global issues, the evaluation of law and policy, economic development, and the role of government in a market economy.

- **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
  Traces a new role for U.S. leadership including studies in statesmanship; national security; global alliances; economic development; and region-specific areas such as Latin America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

- **STATE AND LOCAL POLICY**
  Teaches students how regions grow, develop, and can be effectively governed through examination of finance policy relationships and citizen engagement.

[publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/master-public-policy/specializations.htm](http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/master-public-policy/specializations.htm)
10 PERCENT OF SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY STUDENTS PURSUE A JOINT DEGREE.
THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY OFFERS JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS WITH THE GRAZIADIO SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT, AND WITH THE PEPPERDINE SCHOOL OF LAW AND ITS STRAUS INSTITUTE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

These joint degree programs permit the student to complete two degrees in less time than would be ordinarily required if the programs were pursued separately.

- MPP/Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- MPP/Juris Doctor (JD)
- MPP/Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR)

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/joint-degrees
School of Public Policy alumna Jillian Kissee (MPP ’07) interned for HOPE Worldwide Indonesia, working on its HIV-drug prevention program called Positive Choice.

INTERNSHIPS

- Students pursue a 240-hour summer internship related to their area of specialization as a requirement for graduation.

- Internships provide a perspective on how the methods and theories learned in the classroom find practical expression in non-textbook and complex real-life settings.

- Such internship agencies may be local, state, or federal government; a nonprofit agency; or an international experience in a non-U.S. setting.

- After completing the internship, supervisors and faculty evaluate students’ internship experiences and students prepare a substantive report.

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/master-public-policy/internships.htm
My decision to attend the Pepperdine School of Public Policy was heavily influenced by the program’s internship component. Interning at the White House, gave me the opportunity to apply the skills I had learned during my first year to the policy-making process. The combination of policy-related course work and practical application are what sets Pepperdine apart from other schools, and distinguishes its students from the rest.

HATTIE ARRINGTON (MPP ’12)
Intern, The White House Domestic Policy Council, Education Policy
CAREER SERVICES

Career Services helps to facilitate regional, state, national, and global internships that enable students to apply their classroom work to actual public policy situations.

Students are provided with the skills and effective tools to manage their own career planning efforts through professional development workshops, networking seminars, and employer information sessions, as well as an online job and internship database.

An active alumni network, alumni panels, and information sessions are a valuable resource in internship and career planning.

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/careers/services
Employment Profile

- 21% Private Sector
- 23% Nonprofit Sector
- 34% Public Sector
- 9% Postgraduate / Doctoral Education
- 13% Non-Public Policy Jobs
The faculty of the School of Public Policy is drawn from leading academics and practitioners in the various fields of public policy.

Faculty members are carefully chosen for their high academic qualifications, their real-world orientation, and their philosophical congruence with the values of the school.

The school’s view of teaching and scholarship integrates instruction with research, and focuses on the student at the heart of the academic enterprise.

The School of Public Policy also involves prominent public policy scholars and practitioners as distinguished visiting professors, including Michael Novak, James Piereson, and Victor Davis Hanson.

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/academics/faculty
I challenge my students to question the current system and to be able to form their own judgment on specific issues. I know that through the concepts and material covered in class, my students will be effective agents of change, play an important role in society, and will look back to the unique moral and ethical approach they experienced here when considering policy decisions.

Luisa Blanco
Assistant Professor of Economics
Recent School of Public Policy Research Topics:

- Aftermath of the financial crisis
- Analysis of K-12 education expenditures in California
- Drug use, crime, and recidivism
- Geography, identity, and civic engagement in modern America
- Survey of international public opinions on dissatisfaction
- Telecommunication effects on public safety
The School of Public Policy is committed to creating a community of academic and scholarly excellence where faculty and students have opportunities to engage in research:

- Graduate assistants work closely with faculty in their various fields of research in collecting data, analysis, and coauthoring final publications and research websites.

- *Pepperdine Policy Review*, the student-led academic journal features articles, commentaries, opinion pieces, and book reviews that address a variety of issues from health care and national security to political philosophy.

- Students have opportunities to participate in research conferences held on campus throughout the year.

[publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/research](http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/research)
DAVENPORT INSTITUTE

THE DAVENPORT INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP EQUIPS LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SOLVE PUBLIC PROBLEMS BY ENGAGING THEIR CITIZENS IN DECISION MAKING THROUGH:

▶ Training for municipal government staff and elected officials on when and how to conduct public engagement processes.

▶ Consulting with city and county governments and special districts to develop and facilitate legitimate public engagement.

▶ Grantmaking to support California cities, counties, special districts, and civic organizations as they endeavor to engage their residents on a variety of issues.

▶ Supporting School of Public Policy students by hosting lectures, connecting students with municipal government research projects and internships, and spearheading the annual City Manager in Residence Program.

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/davenport-institute
The Davenport Institute is at the forefront of a wave of innovation in the way local governments relate to citizens. Its focus on best practices and emerging techniques in civic engagement gives hope to better policy-making and governance. Greater public participation and trust in local government fosters more effective local representative democracy in California. Civic engagement is a game changer for the good and the Davenport Institute is leading this change.

ROD GOULD
City Manager, City of Santa Monica, California
2011 City Manager in Residence, Davenport Institute
Member, Davenport Institute Advisory Board

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu
A number of student organizations and opportunities exist on campus for students to complement their academic studies.

Student organizations have hosted an array of guest speakers, panels, debates, cultural events, and community service projects.

Student Organizations and Honor Societies:

- Christianity and Public Policy
- The Churchill Society
- Pi Alpha Alpha
- Women in Public Policy
The School of Public Policy prides itself on being a student-centric community where faculty and staff access, support, and interaction are a priority.

The school is host to several noteworthy visiting scholars, public- and private-sector officials, and policy leaders, giving students the chance to interact with those responsible for shaping policy in their respective fields.

Every graduating student is offered the opportunity to join a small group lunch with the dean to reflect on their experiences at the school.

Above: Natan Sharansky, Soviet dissident and former prisoner, speaks about the faith of Ronald Reagan in a partnered event with the Pepperdine School of Public Policy and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Centennial Celebration.
All applicants are evaluated on their undergraduate course work and grade point average, accepted standardized test scores, essays, career interests, recommendations, and breadth of background and work experience.

The School of Public Policy encourages applications from graduates of regionally accredited institutions in all areas of study.

Students are accepted for fall admission only.

Application deadline for fall admission is May 1. Early application is encouraged. Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.
Application Checklist

- Completed application form
- Personal statement
- Moral/ethical dilemma essay
- Resume
- Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate course work
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official GRE, GMAT, or LSAT score report
- TOEFL or IELTS/Cambridge exam (international students only)
- $50 nonrefundable application fee

CONTACT:

MELINDA VAN HEMERT, Assistant Dean for Admission
310.506.7493
melinda.vanhemert@pepperdine.edu

Apply online at: publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/admission
Scholarships are awarded to 90 percent of School of Public Policy students.
The program offers a number of scholarships to all highly qualified candidates.

The Scholarship Committee takes into consideration academic performance, professional experience, standardized test scores, community service, and volunteer work.

No separate scholarship application is required.

Scholarships are renewed automatically for students in good standing.

The Office of Financial Aid administers federally insured loan programs and Federal Work-Study.
STUDENT BODY

- 20 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
- 12 LANGUAGES SPOKEN
CLASS PROFILE

- 20% international students
- 32% diverse student population
- 26% out-of-state residents
- 16:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- 24 years average age
- 2 years average work experience
CONTACT US

APPLY ONLINE AT:

publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/admission

MELINDA VAN HEMERT
Assistant Dean for Admission, Financial Aid, and Student Services

310.506.7493 • melinda.vanhemert@pepperdine.edu

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

MPP/MBA
Graziadio School of Business and Management Full-Time Admission

310.506.4858
gsbmadm@pepperdine.edu

MPP/JD
School of Law Office of Admission

310.506.4631
soladmis@pepperdine.edu

MPP/MDR
Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution School of Law

310.506.4655
dracademics@law.pepperdine.edu
Pepperdine University is religiously affiliated with Churches of Christ. It is the purpose of Pepperdine University to pursue the very highest academic standards within a context that celebrates and extends the spiritual and ethical ideals of the Christian faith. Students, faculty, administrators, and members of the Board of Regents represent many religious backgrounds, and people of all races and faiths are welcome to benefit from the University’s values-centered campus. Pepperdine University does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any status or condition protected by applicable federal or state law in the administration of its educational policies, admission, financial aid, employment, educational programs, or activities. This brochure is intended to serve as an introduction to the School of Public Policy. It does not contain a comprehensive coverage of University policies. It is the responsibility of every student to obtain and read the School of Public Policy Academic Catalog.