“I value the applicability of the program to the real world. The MPP has given me core skills needed for a policy career, and I think the school excels in bridging the notorious gap between education and employment. The internship is a big part of that, and looking back that was a really valuable part of the MPP program.”

– Lisa Friis-Petersen (MPP Class of 2013)

“The MPP program has built a well-deserved reputation as a small, professional, rigorous academic environment that’s situated in the best city in the world. The relationships I built with my classmates and with our professors are among the most memorable and rewarding aspects of my time at the School.”

– Aviva Levy (MPP Class of 2012)
Welcome to the University of Toronto's School of Public Policy & Governance, established in 2006. Our School has two broad goals. The first is to form a hub for policy discourse, bringing researchers, practitioners, and community members together in order to contribute to policy debates, development, and discussion across many areas of expertise, both nationally and internationally. The second is to educate candidates in our innovative Master of Public Policy (MPP) graduate professional program to make a difference in the public, private, and community sectors by shaping dynamic and innovative public policy at the local, regional and international levels.

Our Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree allows students to examine the most challenging issues that confront governments at all levels while exploring how decisions and choices are made. From sustainable health care to global warming and energy production, our students learn from and work with top researchers and practitioners in public policy, the community, and government, providing students with a comprehensive educational experience that allows them not only to build an extensive network, but also to emerge with a practical understanding of the world of public policy, and the competence to address the challenges that will emerge in the future.

Our emphasis on providing a comprehensive education is achieved through our curriculum's inclusion of a summer public policy internship program that connects students with positions in the municipal, provincial, and federal governments, as well as with a variety of public, private, and community organizations. Our academic program is furthermore supported by extensive outreach programming that includes integrating seminars, speakers series, conferences, symposia, and roundtables. These events bring together visiting scholars, practitioners, students and faculty along with government, business, and international leaders to contribute to policy debates nationally and internationally.

The policy environment is changing at an increasingly rapid pace. As we enter another dynamic year of programming, the School has become a vibrant centre for scholarly investigation and an important hub for cross-community collaboration and creative problem solving within the policy community. Our School understands and responds to the need in Canada for an innovative form of education to build the professional and academic capacity necessary to address the public policy challenges of the 21st century.

“The best thing about studying public policy at U of T is the dynamic curriculum. Public policy responds to both knowledge and power; the School is unique in that it integrates advanced leadership training with a sound understanding of democratic structures and processes. The sense of collegiality and community amongst students, faculty, and administration is reinforced by a commitment to ensure that each individual student receives the support necessary to succeed and excel.”

– Shannon Wells (MPP Class of 2009)
Our People

The School leverages U of T’s strength in public policy by bringing together a group of leading faculty in fields such as economics, education, law, management, philosophy, political science and sociology to teach in our program. Our faculty are nationally and internationally recognized for their research, they are first-rate teachers, and they have influence: they impact directly on policy at all levels.

For a complete listing of SPPG affiliated and teaching faculty members, please visit our website at www.publicpolicy.utoronto.ca

The Mowat Centre is an independent, non-partisan public policy research centre located at the School of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Toronto. The Mowat Centre undertakes collaborative applied policy research and engages in public dialogue on Canada’s most important national issues, and proposes innovative, research-driven public policy recommendations, informed by Ontario’s reality.

For more information on the Mowat Centre, please go to www.mowatcentre.ca
A Continued Tradition of Excellence

The Master of Public Policy is an intensive, full-time two-year professional program. Founded in 2006, it continues the University of Toronto’s internationally recognised tradition of academic excellence and combines it with practical, real world policy experience.

Students graduate with a strong foundation of analytical and quantitative skills, core policy concepts as well as management and leadership skills.

A mandatory and comprehensive policy internship program means that all students at the School of Public Policy & Governance have the opportunity to transfer classroom theory into practical experience developing and implementing policy. Internship positions are available in a variety of organisations.

Combining Research and Practice

In the real world, policy isn’t developed or enacted in a bubble. That’s why the School of Public Policy & Governance has a curriculum and teaching style that incorporates multiple disciplines and sectors.

Faculty from the University of Toronto’s globally recognized schools of business and law as well as the departments of economics, political science, philosophy, and sociology provide our students with the context and perspectives necessary to appreciate complex policy issues.

Career Building Experience

All students at the School of Public Policy & Governance participate in a summer policy internship that provides students with the opportunity to use their newly developed skills towards real life policy development and implementation.

Staff and faculty work closely with students to help them secure the internship that best reflects their career ambitions and interests. These include paid positions in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

Professional Development

The School offers a range of professional development sessions that provide MPP candidates practical human resources expertise in preparing for an internship and post-grad career strategies. A series of public policy practitioner skills sessions are also offered during the year on key topics such as Writing in Public Policy, Communications: Mastering Oral and Written Briefing Notes, in order to prepare students for the workplace.

Beyond the Classroom

The School is a vibrant hub for policy conferences, symposia, seminars and events. The School is an axis for political leaders, researchers and policy practitioners from all sectors to interact and learn. Students benefit from a regular schedule of discussions, panels and debates on issues of local, national and international importance. Students can also get involved with a number of student-led leadership initiatives such as:

Beyond the Headlines (BTH) is a one-hour current affairs talk radio show airing on CIUT 89.5 FM aimed at providing a greater understanding and thoughtful discussion of the various policy issues in our daily news headlines.

The Ford+SPPG Conference is a student-led policy conference that brings together the best and brightest future policymakers from both sides of the Canada-US border.

The Public Good Initiative (PGI) is the student-led pro bono consulting organization at SPPG. The PGI’s mission is to make a positive contribution to the policy capacity of the not-for-profit sector.

The Public Policy and Governance Review (PPGR) is a dynamic bi-annual publication and blog written by tomorrow’s policy makers and professionals alike. It features peer-reviewed academic articles, political analyses, interviews with policy leaders and innovators, reports from the field, reviews, debates, and opinions.

The Walter Gordon Symposium (WGS) is a public policy conference organized every year by SPPG students in conjunction with graduate students from Massey College.
Degree Requirements

The two-year full-time graduate professional program features four semesters of course and project work and a mandatory summer internship between the second and third semesters. Our location in Toronto at the doorstep of major government, public and private institutions, as well as community organizations, combined with our faculty’s extensive network of contacts in the policy field, enables the School to offer its students exceptional internship opportunities.

Our faculty and staff work individually with students to help them identify, compete for, and secure internships appropriate to their program and their career needs and goals. As a component of the internship, students must prepare a written final report, under the supervision of a faculty member, providing an original analysis of the policy and/or organizational issues dealt with during the internship. Internships are work experiences that relate to any aspect of policy planning, analysis, decision-making and implementation.

A distinguishing feature of the program is that each cohort of students works together, through a broad range of core courses, to develop the analytical tools and critical thinking that will prepare them to tackle a range of public policy issues, both those that are essential to policy makers today, and those that will emerge in the future.

“Public service organizations offer unique opportunities for well-trained public policy students to make an exceptional difference in the lives of Canadians. We need bright, new talent to keep us on the leading edge in making and implementing the best public policy. The U of T School knows that competition for this talent is growing each year and is developing programs that will attract top-flight students and work with them in building the skills that governments and Canadians urgently need.”

– Tony Dean,
Canadian Senator
Former Secretary of the Cabinet,
Head of the Ontario Public Service and
Clerk of the Executive Council, Government of Ontario; Professor, School of Public Policy and Governance
Master of Public Policy Program (MPP)
Internships at a Glance

Sample Internships

- Federal
- Think Tank
- Provincial
- Not-for-Profit
  - Martin Prosperity Institute
  - Association of Municipalities of Ontario
  - The Mowat Centre
- Municipal
  - City of Mississauga
  - City of Toronto
  - City of Markham

Alumni at a Glance

Employment by Sector

- Academics/PhD
- Think Tank
- Private Sector
- Not-for-Profit
- Government
We are grateful to our External Advisory Board for their strategic advice and perspective.

W. Geoffrey (Geoff) Beattie, Chairman, Relay Ventures; Former President, The Woodbridge Company Limited
Paul Cadario, Senior Manager, World Bank
Mel Cappe, Professor, SPPG; Former President/CEO, Institute for Research on Public Policy
W. Edmund (Ed) Clark, Former President and CEO, TD Bank Group
Ed Greenspon, Managing Editor, Global Energy, Environment and Commodities, Bloomberg News
Steve Orsini, Secretary of the Cabinet, Head of the Ontario Public Service and Clerk of the Executive Council of Ontario
Hon. David R. Peterson, P.C., Q.C., Senior Partner and Chairman, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP (Toronto)
J. Robert S. Prichard, Chair, Torys LLP; Chair, Metrolinx Board of Directors; President Emeritus, University of Toronto (1990-2000)
Ian Shugart, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada and Chairperson of the Canada Employment Insurance Comission.

Greg Sorbara, Former Minister of Finance, Government of Ontario
William Thorsell, Former Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Ontario Museum (2000-2010)

The School of Public Policy and Governance brings together leading University of Toronto faculty from the following academic divisions:

Centre for Environment
Centre for Ethics
Faculty of Arts and Science
Faculty of Information Studies
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Medicine
Faculty of Social Work
Munk School of Global Affairs
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
Rotman School of Management
University of Toronto at Mississauga
University of Toronto at Scarborough

Contact us:
School of Public Policy and Governance
University of Toronto
Canadiiana Gallery Building 3rd. Floor
14 Queen's Park Cres. West
Toronto, ON M5S 3K9 Canada
Telephone: 416-978-5120
Fax: 416-978-5079
www.publicpolicy.utoronto.ca
public.policy@utoronto.ca

Photography: Anthony Marci, Caitlin Bar. Design: Rose Schimm Design