

In the classroom

Coursework at the Harris School is geared to solving problems in the real world—how to analyze data, seek effective solutions, and evaluate results.

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“The Harris School’s strength in economic development is so important to me. I was born and raised in India, and I witnessed poverty at close range. I’m here to develop the skills I need to do something about it.”

HINA ZAMAN, MBA’09, MPP’09

Whether working toward a Master of Public Policy (MPP), any of several joint degrees, or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in public policy studies, students at the Harris School are assured that they will gain the tools they need to question, to implement, and to evaluate. Policy problems do not fit neatly into self-contained specialties—which is why the degree programs at the Harris School are set in the context of a multidisciplinary approach.

The Harris School’s innovative curriculum offers original opportunities for study unavailable at any other institution. The International Policy Practicum, for example, provides in-depth study of a selected nation, followed by the immersion of a visit. And courses offered by guest lecturers of world renown bring students face-to-face in a classroom setting with leading policy practitioners.



For students at the Harris School, intellectual life centers around three components: core courses, substantive areas of focus, and professional tools.

Core courses

Provide students technical skills and conceptual understanding—in political economics, statistics, politics and policy, organizational theory, and microeconomics.

Substantive focus areas

Encourage students to tailor their studies to their own interests and career goals, with optional concentrations in three broad areas:

International policy

national security policy, international political economy, and international development

Politics and institutions

political economy of state, local, and national governance, and the management of government and nonprofit organizations

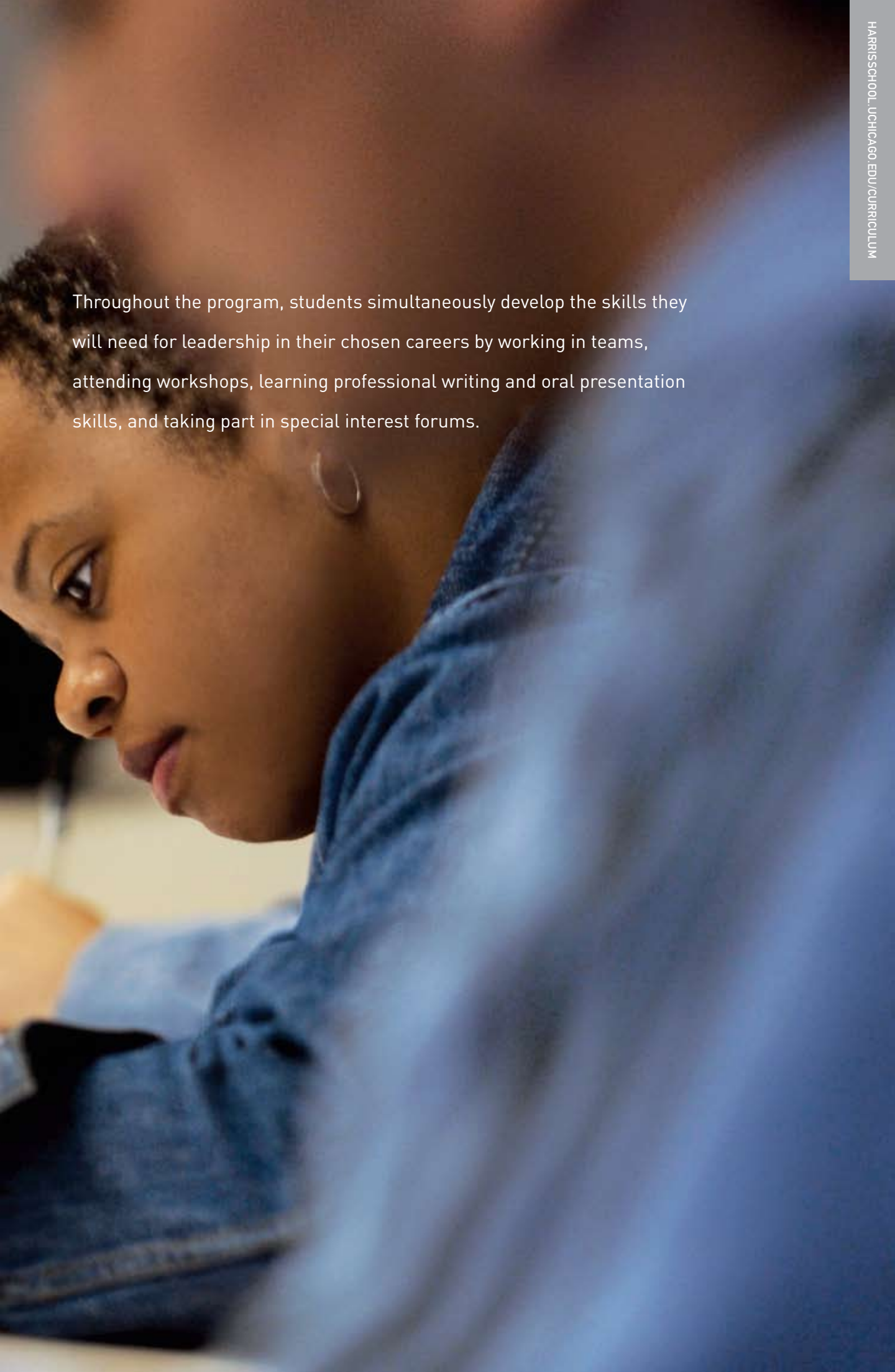
Social and economic policy

education policy, environmental policy, family and child policy, health policy, poverty and inequality, and public finance

Professional tools

Enable students to acquire proficiency in skills such as budgeting, accounting, management, program evaluation, and survey methods.

Throughout the program, students simultaneously develop the skills they will need for leadership in their chosen careers by working in teams, attending workshops, learning professional writing and oral presentation skills, and taking part in special interest forums.



Joint degrees

The Harris School offers several joint degrees with other departments and professional schools at the University of Chicago, including the:

Booth School of Business (MPP/MBA), a three-year program of integrated studies in public policy and business administration.

Center for Middle Eastern Studies (MPP/AM), a three-year program for students wishing to combine public policy training with an interest in modern Middle Eastern languages, history, and civilization in preparation for professional careers in academia, education, government, and business.

Divinity School (MPP/MDiv), a four-year program combining the study of public policy with issues related to public and urban ministry.

Law School (MPP/JD), a four-year program for students interested in exploring public policy issues within a legal context.

School of Social Service Administration (MPP/AM), a three-year program to prepare social workers to be involved in public policy issues influencing their profession.

These programs enable students to earn two graduate degrees in an accelerated timeframe and provide the opportunity to gain additional skills, knowledge, and expertise.

Master's programs

The Harris School offers students several master's level degree options:

Master of Public Policy (MPP), a two-year program for students interested in gaining a thorough training in analytical skills.

Master of Arts in Public Policy (AM), a one-year program for students already possessing another graduate degree or in conjunction with another University graduate program.

Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy (MSESP), a two-year program for students interested in assessing the scientific repercussions of policy on the environment.

Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Relations (AM/MA), a two-year program for students interested in combining public policy training with a focus on international relations.

Cooperative Program with Tel Aviv University (MPP), a two-year master's level program of study with course offerings at both campuses and the opportunity to earn two degrees.

Cooperative Program with the University of Chile (MPP), a two-year master's level program of study with course offerings at both campuses and the opportunity to earn two degrees.

Cooperative Program with Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies (MIS/AM/MPP), a two- or three-year program of study with course offerings at both campuses for students interested in combining public policy training and international studies.

Non-degree programs

Certificate Program in Health

Administration and Policy trains students from professional schools across campus for leadership as managers, consultants, and administrators in public and private health services.

Graduate Student-at-Large

Program enables adult students to enroll in courses that are offered by the Harris School and other departments and divisions of the University without enrolling in a degree-granting program.

Executive Training Program

provides public, nonprofit, and private organizations with training for employees in a variety of subjects from public finance to communication strategies to program evaluation.

Doctoral studies

The Harris School offers a doctoral program (PhD) in public policy studies. This four- to five-year scholastic residency prepares qualified students interested in research-oriented careers involving the substantive and institutional aspects of public policy. Following required coursework, PhD students make the transition from coursework to dissertation research and are expected to make an original contribution to public policy knowledge and to demonstrate mastery of relevant theories and research methods.

“At the Harris School, the disciplines—statistics, international studies, politics—talk to each other. Social problems rarely limit themselves to one field.”

**COLM O’MUIRCHARTAIGH, PHD
PROFESSOR**



Topics for recent student honors papers demonstrate the substantive range of students' interests:



"DEMOCRACY AS A MARKET: POLITICAL DEMAND AND POLICY OUTCOMES IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT"



"POLICY OF CENTRALIZATION IN RUSSIA: INCENTIVES, THREATS, PROSPECTS"



"DEPRESSION AND ITS CORRELATES IN THE CONTEXT OF MIDDLE CLASS JOB LOSS: A MIXED METHODS ANALYSIS"



"THE IMPACT OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT ON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN COLOMBIA"



"ILLEGAL MIGRATION FROM MEXICO TO THE UNITED STATES: AN ECONOMIC APPROACH"



"THE LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT: REINFORCING THE WALLS OF RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION? AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF CHICAGO"



"CLIENT TRANSITIONS IN A CHILD WELFARE AGENCY"



"EXAMINATION OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM"



"FORMALIZING URBAN PROPERTY RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA: IMPACTS AND EVALUATION"



"GAS TAXES, DRIVER RESPONSE, AND CAR EXTERNALITIES"

