

POLICY STUDIES

Do you want your career to have impact?
Are you interested in achieving a more sustainable society?
Do you want to study with people who share your passion?

Discover how to make change happen with a degree in Policy Studies!

With a focus on sustainability, our degree program equips you with the knowledge, insights, and skills to make a difference in your communities and beyond.

Graduates from the Policy Studies program will contribute to society's well-being, able to promote community goals like increasing urban agriculture and protecting urban ecosystems. Policy Studies skills can also be used in the private sector, where there is a growing demand for people capable of developing a corporate sustainability strategy or starting a green business.

Sustainability initiatives that have gained in popularity and importance include:

- Urban Agriculture
- Bike Lanes & Light Rail
- Affordable Housing & Net-Zero Buildings
- Alternative Energy
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Green Entrepreneurship & Clean Technology

Sustainability policy can make these innovations a reality and you can be part of these changes with a degree in Policy Studies.

The major and minor in Policy Studies are both interdisciplinary and applied. During the degree, you will work with sustainability policy practitioners on current community-based projects. At the same time, you will learn about policy from the perspective of economics, environmental studies, philosophy, political science, and psychology, developing the critical and ethical thinking skills necessary to successfully engage with key sustainability issues.

For KPU students who are already declared in a different program, the Policy Studies minor enables you to discover and build on your passion for sustainability and sustainability policy. Whether you are in political science, geography, philosophy, sustainable agriculture, urban ecosystems, or another KPU program, you can add the Policy Studies minor to your credential. Please speak with your academic advisor about this option.

Who Studies Policy Studies?

Successful students in Policy Studies are looking for a field of study that allows them to engage with challenging sustainability problems, such as those related to climate change, environmental degradation and urbanization. Our students share a desire to apply their theoretical learning to practical problem-solving as well as a passion to bring about positive change.

Career Opportunities

Policy Studies graduates will begin rewarding careers as policy analysts, sustainability researchers, sustainability program coordinators or consultants with all levels of government, as well as not-for-profit organizations and the private sector.

Graduates of this interdisciplinary degree will also be ready to succeed in further studies at graduate school or law school.

Programs

- Bachelor of Arts, Major in Policy Studies (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/programs-az/arts/policy-studies/policy-studies-ba/>)
- Minor in Policy Studies (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/programs-az/arts/policy-studies/policy-studies-minor/>)

Courses

Registration in some course sections is restricted to students in particular programs. See Timetables - [kpu.ca/registration/timetables](http://www.kpu.ca/registration/timetables/) (<http://www.kpu.ca/registration/timetables/>) - for current section information.

Visit the BC Transfer Guide - [bctransferguide.ca](https://www.bctransferguide.ca/) (<https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>) - for information about course transfer in B.C.

POST 1100 3 credits

Sustainability: Analysis and Ethics

Students will study elements of traditional philosophy courses such as critical thinking, philosophy of science, and ethics to provide a detailed analysis of a variety of concepts of sustainability. They will examine sustainability policies and practices related to the environment, social equity, and economics. Note: Students in the Policy Studies (POST) program must take POST 1100, the first of four umbrella courses required for this degree. This course is cross-listed with PHIL 1111. Students may not get credit for both courses.

Level: UG

Cross-listing: PHIL 1111

Attributes: ASTR (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#astrtext>), ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 2100 3 credits

Sustainability and Government

Students will explore environmental sustainability as an issue in Canadian politics. They will examine the evolution of the environmental movement in Canada, and study the linkages between environmental concerns and Canadian political culture, parties, advocacy organizations, federal-provincial relations, domestic and foreign policy, and other areas of interest. Note: Students may earn credits for only one of POST 2100 or POLI 2100 as they are cross-listed courses.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): 6 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher

Cross-listing: POLI 2100

Attributes: ASTR (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#astrtext>), ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 2140 3 credits

CityLab3 - Rethinking Community

Students will explore sustainability and develop leadership and civic skills by working on projects relevant to community partners. Students will think critically about community and/or project goals, imagining and evaluating possibilities for change. Using team-based processes, students will explore the community through field trips and research, generate, analyze and present sustainability ideas, practices and/or projects.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): 6 credits of courses at the 1100 level or higher

Attributes: ASTR (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#astrtext>), ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 2150 6 credits**CityLab6 Cultivating Community**

Using the Surrey community as a classroom, students explore sustainability through field trips and investigations, and identify community needs. Students engage in complex thinking about community values and goals, and (re-)imagine possibilities for change. Students research and apply best practices and generate sustainability ideas through team-based design processes. In collaboration with city staff and/or community organizations and members, students develop and present goals, proposals and implementation plans that further community sustainability. Students evaluate their projects and when possible implement them.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): 15 credits at the 1100 level or higher.

Attribute: ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 2900 3 credits**Special Topics**

Students will explore a selected topic in policy and/or sustainability. They will conduct research to develop an understanding of the topic. Note: This is a lecture-based course with extensive class discussion. The area of study will be established in advance by the department. Students may take this course twice on different topics. It is recommended that students take POST 1100.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): 6 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher

Attributes: ASTR (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#astrtext>), ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 3100 3 credits**Economics of Sustainability Policy**

Students will study current sustainability issues and policies from an economic perspective. Students will learn about the Neoclassical Growth Theory. The students will study several topics including: the values and the limitations of the alternative measures of economic welfare, policy reports and studies, and the implications of complementarity between natural and human-made capital. Note: Students may earn credit for only one of ECON 3100 and POST 3100 as they are identical courses.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): ECON 1150 and ECON 1250

Cross-listing: ECON 3100

Attribute: ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 3110 3 credits**Applied Policy Seminar I**

Students will study a specific set of applications of the principles of sustainability policy under the guidance of a practitioner. They will work in groups and examine specific situations and case studies to gain an insight into the practical difficulties of decision making and policy setting as it applies to real-life situations. They will study how concepts of ethics, governance, and economics are integrated. They will analyze the sustainability aspects of projects on topics such as water conservation, climate change mitigation, or food security.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher

Attribute: ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 4110 3 credits**Applied Policy Seminar II**

Students will study applications of policy, with a focus on sustainability, under the guidance of a practitioner. They will examine complex real-life situations and case studies, such as impacts of policy decisions on climate change mitigation, energy efficiency, subsidized housing, green space conservation, and others. They will study how concepts of ethics, governance, and economics, as well as the psychology of public behavior, are integrated into policy decision-making for sustainability. They will work in groups on a specific project, liaise with community stakeholders, and make recommendations for action in a formal presentation to stakeholders. Note: Students may earn credit for only one of POLI 4110 or POST 4110 as they are identical courses.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): Either (a) POST 3110, or (b) 18 credits from POLI courses at the 1100 level or higher, including POLI 2100, and SOCI 2260.

Cross-listing: POLI 4110

Attribute: ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 4150 3 credits**Psychology and Sustainability: Attitudes and Behaviour**

Students will explore the challenges involved in changing attitudes and behaviour as it pertains to sustainability policy. They will examine the foundations of attitudes, how they are formed, changed and their relationship to behaviour. Students will also learn what makes persuasion campaigns effective, as well as individual and social factors that interfere with attitude-behaviour consistency. They will learn to apply this knowledge to the evaluation of sustainability policy designed to change attitudes and behaviour. Note (1): This course is a requirement for the BA in Policy Studies. For Psychology students this course counts as a general elective not a Psychology Major/Minor credit. Note (2): This course is cross-listed as PSYC 4150. Students who have taken PSYC 4150 may not register for this course. Students may earn credits from only one of POST 4150 or PSYC 4150.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): 60 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher

Cross-listing: PSYC 4150

Attribute: ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)

POST 4900 3 credits**Special Topics**

Students will examine a selected topic in policy studies and/or sustainability. They will critically analyze relevant literature and develop a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Students will examine and evaluate recent developments in the specific field, assess the implications of these developments, and identify future directions of research or policy development. Note: This is a seminar course. The area of study will be established in advance by the department. Students may take this course up to three times on different topics.

Level: UG

Prerequisite(s): 45 credits from courses at the 1100 level or higher, including 3 credits of POST and 3 credits of ENGL

Attribute: ARTS (<https://calendar.kpu.ca/courses-az/#courseattributestext>)