

POL410 • Policy Studio: Briefs, Hearings, Decisions

School of Business & Public Leadership • Graduate • 6 ECTS

Overview

A policy studio focused on briefs, hearings, and decision support under critique. Students defend assumptions, revise based on stakeholder feedback, and produce policy documents with evidence, budgets, and implementation risks clearly articulated.

LOGISTICS

Credits: 6 ECTS

Level: Graduate

School: School of Business & Public Leadership

Prerequisites: POL220 (or equivalent problem framing experience)

Tags: policy, writing

Meeting time: Studio: weekly brief reviews + hearing simulations

Instruction mode: Write under pressure, defend assumptions, revise quickly

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- Frame a public problem into testable hypotheses and constraints
- Design an evaluation plan with stakeholder-facing metrics
- Produce a studio dossier: interviews, evidence, and recommendations
- Draft policy briefs that balance evidence, constraints, and stakeholder needs
- Defend recommendations in simulated hearings and respond to critique
- Revise briefs with clarity and traceable reasoning

ASSESSMENT

Components

- Studio dossier (iterative): 55%
- Stakeholder memo: 20%
- Final presentation + defense: 25%

Assessment is based on a sequence of briefs and a final simulated hearing. You are graded on clarity, evidence, and your ability to revise after critique.

WEEKLY PLAN

Schedule

Week 1: Problem framing

- Stakeholders
- Constraints
- Risks

Week 2: Evidence and measurement

- Indicators
- Baseline data
- Evaluation ethics

Week 3: Recommendations

- Options
- Tradeoffs
- Implementation notes

Extended outline

- Brief structure: executive summary, options, recommendation
- Evidence selection: what counts and what is missing
- Assumptions: surface them and stress-test them
- Hearing practice: Q&A, objections, and revisions
- Writing discipline: reduce noise, increase specificity
- Final: portfolio of briefs + hearing defense

POLICIES & RESOURCES

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- Honesty: represent uncertainty and limitations.
 - Respect: hearings are intense but collegial.
 - Academic integrity: cite all sources and data.

Suggested resources

- Brief rubric
- Hearing Q&A worksheet
- Revision checklist for policy writing