The M.A. program in Education and Social Policy prepares graduates to become professionals who use statistics, large datasets, and rigorous research designs to formulate and evaluate education policies. The program provides an opportunity to specialize in an area of education policy, such as K–12 education, race and class, international education, or higher education issues.
Why Study Education and Social Policy at NYU Steinhardt?

The M.A. program in Education and Social Policy addresses the growing demand for professionals who can use up-to-date methods, data, and empirical evidence to formulate, implement, and evaluate education policies, ranging from the national No Child Left Behind Act to local or state policies such as New York City’s Children First initiative.

Based in the social science disciplines of economics and sociology, the program teaches you to use statistics, large datasets, and rigorous research designs to analyze education policies for grades K–12 and higher education.

Additionally, you will study with faculty affiliated with the NYU Institute for Education and Social Policy, which conducts non-partisan scientific research about U.S. education and related social policy issues.

What will I learn in the Education and Social Policy program?

- Apply principles of economics and sociology to formulate and analyze K-12 and higher education policies.
- Conduct descriptive and inferential statistical analyses using large, longitudinal education databases to interpret causal effects of programs and policies and to apply conclusions to make policy recommendations.
- Understand policies already implemented as well as needs for additional policies in your chosen area of focus. You will be able to participate in quantitative studies to further evaluate existing policies and to provide evidence on the possible effects of new policies.
- Research organizations such as MDRC, Urban Institute or Mathematica.
- Advocacy or single interest organizations such as the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, the New Teacher Project, or the Center for Education Reform.

In what kinds of settings will I work when I graduate?

- Schools, reform organizations, foundations and nonprofit organizations, such as New Visions for Public Schools or Teach for America.
- Government education policy agencies like the state or city departments of education.
- Research organizations such as MDRC, Urban Institute or Mathematica.
- Advocacy or single interest organizations such as the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, the New Teacher Project, or the Center for Education Reform.

How to Apply

Visit steinhardt.nyu.edu/graduate_admissions/guide for application requirements and details on how to apply. Contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at 212 998 5030 if you have admissions questions.

The application deadline is February 1 for fall admission and October 1 for spring admission.

Admission Requirements

- Strong undergraduate academic record and demonstration of math proficiency through Algebra II. Math proficiency may be demonstrated through GRE or GMAT scores or through recent college-level math or statistics coursework with grades of B+ or better. GRE or GMAT scores are not required, but may be submitted to demonstrate math proficiency.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Personal statement describing why you want to be an education policy analyst.

Degree Requirements

FOUNDATION COURSES IN SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS (13 CREDITS)
- Introduction to Sociology of Education
- Microeconomics for Public Management Planning and Policy Analysis
- Planned Change in Organizational Settings
- Economics of Education

FOUNDATION COURSES IN STATISTICS AND METHODS (14 CREDITS)
- Statistics for Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Regression and Introduction to Econometrics
- Approaches to Qualitative Inquiry OR Survey Research Methods
- Applied Statistics: Using Large Databases in Education

SAMPLE ELECTIVES (9 CREDITS)
- Politics of Education
- Academic Achievement Gaps
- International Perspectives on Education Reform
- Diversity in Higher Education
- Issues in Early Childhood Education
- Social Inequality and Education
- History of American Education and Society: Race and Ethnicity
- International Education
- Comparative Politics, Education, and Conflict

Capstone: Applied Research In Education Policy (4 credits)

In your last semester of study, you will work in teams to formulate and conduct a research study designed and written for a particular “ clientele” in the policy community. Sample past projects include:
- Bang for Your Buck: The Effect of Teacher Salary on Retention
- Does Time Matter? The Effects of Instructional Time on Eighth Grade Math Achievement
- The Impact of Social and Emotional Learning on Academic Outcomes
- Parent Involvement and Its Effects on Academic Achievements

Further Information

Visit www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/humsocsci/policy, call 212 992 9475, or send an email to steinhardt.edandsocialpolicy@nyu.edu.