

## PROGRAM DETAILS



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL OF  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

### Departmental Distinction in Public Policy

The Departmental Distinction Program in Public Policy is geared towards advanced students who wish to pursue their study in public policy in a more intensive manner. Students in the University Honors Program must achieve Distinction in at least one of their majors. However, participation in the Honors program is not required in order to achieve Distinction.

The core of this program is the writing of a thesis, which is completed in the Fall or Winter Quarter of the student's senior year. The thesis provides an opportunity for students to do in-depth research on a topic of their choice, focusing on providing evidence-based solutions to a real-life policy issue.

Students who successfully complete the requirements will graduate "with Distinction" in Public Policy. This achievement will be reflected on the student's transcripts and in the commencement ceremony book.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Declared Public Policy Major
- Minimum overall GPA of 3.5 and PPOL major GPA of 3.7 (at time of application, and at graduation)
- Prerequisites - completion of the following courses prior to registration in the independent research credits:
  - PPOL 2000 (Analysis and Action)
  - PPOL 3230 (Analytical and Critical Skills)
- Meet all deadlines outlined below in an acceptable manner

#### THESIS DETAILS

The public policy thesis is an in-depth policy analysis of a societal issue, including identification of solutions and a policy recommendation. Formatting and other details are outlined in the "Undergraduate Thesis Guidelines," which can be found on the [Korbel BA Portfolio page](#).

It is the student's responsibility to seek out and secure an appointed PPOL faculty advisor for the thesis prior to submitting the "Thesis Intent" and "Independent Research" forms by the end of Spring quarter of junior year (see deadlines below). Faculty collaboration is entirely voluntary, and is based on the alignment of appropriate and mutual research interests.

Upon securing an advisor, student and advisor should meet to discuss topics and set individual deadlines for completion of the thesis. A customizable timeline is included in the Guidelines for your use.

## DEADLINES AND TIMELINE *(for Spring graduation)*

April 1 <sup>st</sup> of junior year	Submit “ <b>Departmental Distinction Application.</b> ” Notification of approval will be emailed by the end of April.
Prior to the start of the quarter in which you intend to register for the thesis credits	Once application is approved, submit “ <b>Thesis Intent</b> ” and “ <b>Independent Research</b> ” forms
Fall or Winter quarters, senior year	Registered in PPOL 3995 (“Independent Research”); Begin writing thesis
Spring quarter, week 4, Monday @ noon *	Submit final copy of thesis digitally to Debbie.gaylinn@du.edu and “ <b>Final Thesis Approval</b> ” form, signed by your advisor. <u>Late submissions not accepted.</u>

(ALL FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE [KORBEL BA PORTFOLIO PAGE](#))

\* *Students graduating in Winter quarter must submit by Monday of week 4 of Winter quarter*