By becoming a public policy specialist, you will understand policy choices, you will be able to analyze the effectiveness and impact of those choices, and you will be able to make policy recommendations.

Careers in public policy are both in the public sector and in the private sector, and include public service, international organizations, policy advocacy groups, private industries, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and international organizations.

To get into a career in public policy, you need to get an MPP (Master of Public Policy). An MPP program is similar to an MPA program, except that MPP programs place a greater emphasis on research. And whereas MPA’s end up in careers running organizations, MPP’s end up in careers doing research about what is wrong with the world and what people might do to fix those problems. Either way, you learn how government and/or nonprofits do their work. Sociology prepares you for a career in public policy.

Take these sociology classes:

- Research methods and statistics: Stats 121, Soc 300, 301, 307, 404, 405
- Quantitative analysis classes are especially important
- Theory: Soc 310, 311
- These classes especially prepare you for graduate classes in ethics, which are required in most MPP programs
- Political sociology: Soc 424
- Electives in areas of interest to you

BYU’s MPP program also recommends the following classes:

- Econ 380
- Econ 381 or 382

In addition to taking the relevant classes, you also should consider the following:

- Be a research assistant with professors. This is really important. Get all of the research training and experience you can.
- Do internships related to public policy.
- Get a minor in Economics.

Then go to graduate school for an MPP.
If you want to talk about how sociology can prepare you for a career in public policy, see

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Revised: July 2014