

Harris Policy Labs



Start here.

Don't wait until graduation to apply your Harris education and drive real policy change.

Help government, civic, and university leaders address critical policy challenges confronting Illinois.

Apply policy and analysis tools from the classroom to make an impact.

Start now.

ABOUT HARRIS POLICY LABS

Overview

Harris Policy Labs is an intensive experiential learning initiative in which teams of Harris MPP students apply their rigorous Harris education to real-time public policy challenges facing client organizations. Students completing the program will be better prepared policy professionals with a competitive advantage in the job market.

Objectives

HPL strengthens students' professional experience and skills. Through the program, students gain hands-on experience with analyzing, developing, advocating for and executing on effective policy in a "real world" context. In addition, HPL students receive professional training and expand their professional network in the public policy sector.

Program Structure

Each Lab will engage an external client organization, which may be a government agency, non-profit organization or division within the University of Chicago.

Students within each Lab will work in teams to tackle issues directly related to the client organization's mission and policy area, and develop a set of solution-oriented deliverables designed to effectively address the assigned policy challenge.

Guided by a Harris faculty member and a professional advisor, each Lab will include a weekly class session, client meetings and professional development.





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PROGRAM DETAILS

Policy Areas & Clients

For the 2016-2017 academic year, Policy Labs will run in Fall and Winter Quarters. Client projects span a range of policy areas and methodological approaches. Each Lab is organized thematically, each with a distinct mix of clients.

Policy Labs' clients for Fall Quarter include: Chapin Hall Collaborative, Cook County Health & Hospitals System, Illinois Department of Human Services, Metropolitan Planning Council, Oxfam, and Place Lab & the City of Gary. Detailed project descriptions are available to students online.

Benefits

While each Lab will focus on a different policy area, students will benefit significantly from participating in any one of the HPL opportunities:

- Drive policy change in challenging, real world environments.
- Analyze and execute all dimensions of a policy challenge.
- Understand policy institutions from the inside.
- Build your network of policymakers and policy "influencers."
- Enhance communications, project management and collaboration skills.
- Engage in optional professional development sessions (Past workshop topics included "Mob" GIS, Art of the Interview and Using Administrative & Government Data).

Eligibility Requirements

All second-year Harris MPP students are strongly encouraged to participate in one or both quarters. Second- and third-year students from other professional schools are also welcome to enroll, subject to faculty consent.

Students will receive one letter grade and 100 units of course credit (one full course) upon completion of each quarter.

