Credential Programs

Build in-demand skills quickly with UChicago.
Enhance your portfolio and strengthen your skill set with our virtual programs.

Designed for students and working professionals, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy’s credential programs enable you to gain specific skills that can bridge gaps in your portfolio and accelerate your path to measurable social impact.

Programs range from five to seven weeks in length and cover topics such as data analytics, programming in R, negotiation, persuasive writing, and other interdisciplinary policy domain knowledge. Join us and take the next step in your academic and career development.

Contact us and join an upcoming virtual event to learn more.

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The Battles Ahead: What the 2020 Election Results Mean for Policy and Politics in the United States and Beyond
The Battles Ahead: Implications of the 2020 US Election

Through a series of panel discussions with top scholars and practitioners, explore the domestic and foreign policy implications of the 2020 US election cycle.

What You Will Learn

- Factors that drive the election outcome
- Reforms needed to make American democracy healthier
- Progress in policy making on issues related to healthcare, global economy and politics, police reforms, etc.
- The role of social movements in America
- Challenges and opportunities facing Congress today

Features & Schedule

- January–February 2021
- Six-week, part-time program
- Interactive, live lectures with faculty and diverse speakers, including scholars and practitioners
- Shareable certificate of completion to showcase your skills

FACULTY

Marc Farinella is a political communications specialist and Senior Advisor for the Center for Effective Government at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. Additionally, he serves as Executive Director of Harris’ Center for Survey Methodology. Farinella joined Harris in 2012 as the School’s first Chief Operating Officer. Prior to coming to Harris, Farinella was a political communications and management consultant and held senior leadership roles in both the policy and political arenas. He served as Chief of Staff for the Governor of Missouri from 1993 to 1996 and as North Carolina State Director for Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign.

Learn more about this program, including dates, fees, and application deadlines, at harris.uchicago.edu/ElectionsCredential
Data Analytics Credential
Data Analytics Credential

Develop and expand your data analytics skills in just six weeks. Created for individuals from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, this program provides a foundation in quantitative tools and teaches how to apply rigorous analytics in policy studies. The accelerated format will take you from novice to intermediate in less than two months.

What You Will Learn

- Retrieve, clean, visualize, and analyze data
- Write and share code in R Programming
- Understand the fundamental problem of causal inference
- Use statistical modeling to navigate the causal inference issue

Features & Schedule

- February—March 2021
- Six-week, part-time program
- No quantitative or coding experience required
- Asynchronous lectures: learn on your own schedule
- Live support from UChicago faculty and teaching fellows; problem-solve in office hours and via discussion boards

FACULTY

Austin Wright is Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and a faculty affiliate of The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts. His research leverages microlevel data to study the political economy of conflict and crime in Afghanistan, Colombia, Indonesia, and Iraq. Wright’s work is supported by the National Science Foundation, Niehaus Center for Global Governance, The Asia Foundation, and the World Bank.

Learn more about this program, including dates, fees, and application deadlines, at harris.uchicago.edu/AnalyticsCredential
Monetary Policy and International Finance with Peking University
Monetary Policy and International Finance Program

Offered jointly with top faculty from Peking University Guanghua School of Management, this program is a seven-week live course for students and professionals interested in monetary and international finance policy areas and industry-leading applied work in the US and China contexts.

What You Will Learn

- Study money and banking in the modern world
- Discuss the policy choices of governments and central banks
- Analyze the role of commercial banks, especially in times of financial stress
- Networking sessions with leading financial institutions in the US and China

Features & Schedule

- February-April 2021
- Six-week, part-time program
- 100% live sessions with interaction with top faculty and external speakers
- Hybrid model for in-person (Guanghua) and virtual experience
- Capstone presentation seminar experience
- Shareable certificate of completion to showcase your skills

FACULTY

Thomas Coleman is Senior Lecturer at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, and previously served as the Executive Director and Senior Advisor at the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics. Read more.

Dave Schabes is Assistant Instructional Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy where he lectures on finance, international economics, and financial regulation. Read more.

Dr. Yao Tang is Associate Professor at Peking University Guanghua School of Management, and a research fellow at the CITIC Foundation for Reform and Development. His research interests include monetary economics, international Economics and enterprise strategy. Read more.

Learn more about this program, including dates, fees, and application deadlines, at harris.uchicago.edu/FinanceCredential
Negotiation as a Leadership Skill
Negotiation as a Leadership Skill

Using a blend of theory, cases, negotiation exercises, and facilitated discussion, this program develops your “interpersonal toolkit.” Explore how to execute strategy through persuading other people to work with you towards your objectives and lead the change you aspire to create.

What You Will Learn

• Fundamentals of negotiation
• Navigating obstacles
• Effective communication at the bargaining table
• Maximization of multiple interests
• Tactics for coalition-building

Features & Schedule

☑ March–April 2021
☑ Six-week, part-time format
☑ No prior work experience in negotiation required
☑ Highly interactive, live lectures with faculty and peers
☑ Capstone negotiation experience
☑ Shareable certificate of completion to showcase your skills

FACULTY

John Burrows is Senior Lecturer in leadership at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and an associate fellow at Oxford University’s Said Business School. Previously, he was an adjunct professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Before entering academia, Burrows’ career spanned the public, private, and NGO sectors. He was a partner with the consulting firm Accenture and held senior roles in sales and marketing at enterprise software companies including Siebel and Oracle. Burrows received a PhD and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and an BA from Vassar College.

Learn more about this program, including dates, fees, and application deadlines, at harris.uchicago.edu/NegotiationCredential
Writing Persuasive Public Policy
Writing Persuasive Public Policy Program

Work with expert writers and editors, and practice evidence-based persuasive writing to form policy arguments that have the power to change minds and incite action. The skills will be highly valuable for developing personal and professional pitches, as well as writing personal statements for graduate programs and job applications.

What You Will Learn

• Understand and test an author’s claims, opinions, and evidence

• Generate research questions to allow for inquiry and discovery, not just summary and illustration

• Write engaging and compelling policy stories to address root causes of policy challenges

• Develop a strong portfolio of writing that includes a policy brief and memo, an op-ed, and a piece of “solutions journalism” which illustrates how people around the world respond to policy challenges

Features & Schedule

☑ Spring 2021

☑ Six-week, part-time program

☑ No prior experience in professional writing or editing required

☑ Live lectures with interactive discussions with faculty and peers

☑ Capstone writing project and deliverable

☑ Shareable certificate of completion to showcase your skills

FACULTY

David Chrisinger is Director of the Writing Program at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. He is also the author of Public Policy Writing That Matters, a handbook for anyone passionate about using writing to effect real and lasting policy changes. Prior to joining Harris, Chrisinger worked in the US Government Accountability Office, first as a Senior Communications Specialist and then as a Strategic Planning and Foresight Analyst.

Learn more about this program, including dates, fees, and application deadlines, at harris.uchicago.edu/WritingCredential