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California Polytechnic State University

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Contact: Linda Valenty
 Cal Poly Political Science Department
 (805) 756-2919

Application Deadline Approaching for Cal Poly's New Master of Public Policy Program

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Graduate-level students interested in earning a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree have until July 1 to apply to the new Cal Poly program, which kicks off fall quarter.

The MPP program is designed for graduate students interested in acquiring skills in policy analysis, public management, policy research and research design. The program offers specializations in environmental policy, health policy, education, economics, agribusiness, technology and methodology, among others.

To accommodate working students, MPP courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening. The program is designed to be completed in two years, however, students may take courses at a pace suitable to their schedules, completing a degree in one-and-a-half to seven years. Class sizes will be small, with about 15-20 graduate students per seminar.

The MPP degree is becoming increasingly valuable to public, private and nonprofit employers, said Linda Valenty, acting executive director of the new Institute of Policy Research at Cal Poly and director of the MPP program.

Core courses include policymaking, policy analysis, public finance, applied statistics, quantitative methodology, applied research design, the graduate research seminar, and the policy internship. Students choose their elective courses with the intent of developing a specific area of expertise.

Cal Poly MPP students will have an opportunity to apply for internships through the university's new Institute for Public Policy Research. The institute funds faculty and student research on policy issues. "The internships will give students the chance to work on 'real world' policy formation, implementation and analysis," Valenty said.

For more information, call Cal Poly's Political Science Department at (805) 756-2984, Professor Valenty at (805) 756-2919, or visit <http://mpp.calpoly.edu/>.

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California Polytechnic State University
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

polynews@calpoly.edu