The Department of Policy Analysis and Management (PAM) serves as the intellectual home at Cornell University for the empirical examination of public policy problems and solutions. We have faculty experts trained in a variety of disciplines, including economics, sociology, demography, and public policy. PAM researchers address real challenges facing our communities.

The multidisciplinary PAM Ph.D. program offers training in

- a social science discipline (economics or sociology),
- empirical methods, and
- a policy area of focus

First year coursework is disciplinary; subsequent coursework and research is guided by student interest and faculty expertise in the areas of health, education, family/social welfare, and regulatory policy.

Learn more and apply today!

Visit us at human.cornell.edu/pam/academics/phd/home or email pam-phd@cornell.edu

Ph.D. Program Fast Facts

- Median time-to-degree is 5 years
- Average enrollment is 5 students per cohort
- Students enroll with diverse research and academic experiences
- Funding is guaranteed for 5 years, which includes a stipend, tuition, and health insurance
- The PAM Ph.D. student organization sponsors social events, a peer research group, and a mentoring program for new students
- PAM graduates go on to academic positions in Policy Schools and in departments of Economics, Sociology, and Consumer Sciences; others join government agencies, consulting firms, and non-governmental organizations
Cornell was founded to be a place where “... any person can find instruction.”

In PAM, we welcome students from all backgrounds, including those from communities that have been excluded or marginalized in higher education. Our scholars study how public policy has produced societal inequalities, as well as how policy can be a tool to reduce inequality along many dimensions, including gender, race, and income. We are actively working to address systemic racism, reduce racial inequality, and increase our own diversity.

Our small cohort sizes create a close and supportive community of policy scholars.

Cornell’s Ithaca, NY campus

- Located on Cayuga Lake, Ithaca is home to many parks, waterfalls, and green spaces.

- Named one of the best college towns in the country, Ithaca is a small town with big appeal.

- Cornell’s campus offers a vibrant, welcoming, and diverse community. The Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center offers over 500 events each year.

- Cornell has a wealth of centers devoted to the social sciences that offer opportunities for collaboration and training. PAM faculty and students are affiliates of the Cornell Population Center, the Center for the Study of Inequality, the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, and the Institute on Health Economics, Health Behaviors and Disparities.

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