



Policy Analyst

MPA- related certificates and concentrations:

- Public Policy Analysis

MPA- related courses:

- PUAD 5004: Economics and Public Finance
- PUAD 5007: Qualitative Research Methods
- PUAD 5320: Public Policy Analysis
- PUAD 5350: Program Evaluation
- PUAD 5460: Political Advocacy
- PUAD 5503: Public Budgeting and Finance
- PUAD 5630: Economic Development

Internship:

- Think tanks or consulting firms
- Government agencies
- Nonprofit or international organizations
- Research institutes

Duties and Responsibilities: Policy analysts play a crucial role in informing decision-making processes, shaping public policies, and addressing pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. Their work involves a combination of research, analysis, advocacy, and collaboration to advance evidence-based policy solutions and promote the public interest.

Work Environment: The work environment for policy analysts can vary depending on the specific organization, sector, and focus area of their work. Policy analysts typically work in office settings but may conduct fieldwork, site visits, or interviews to gather primary data, observe program implementation, or assess policy impacts on the ground.

Work Schedule: While policy analyst often involves working standard office hours, their work schedule can vary based on the demands of their role, organizational policies, and individual preferences.

Career Path/Promotion: Policy analysts may start their careers in entry-level positions, such as research assistant, policy associate, or program coordinator, within government agencies, non-profit organizations, research institutes, consulting firms, or private sector companies with a focus on public policy. Experienced policy analysts may have opportunities to advance into leadership and management roles within their organizations. This could involve roles such as policy director, program manager, department head, or executive director, where they oversee teams, projects, and organizational strategy. Some policy analysts may transition into government positions, working for federal, state, or local government agencies in roles such as legislative analyst, policy advisor, program manager, or government affairs specialist.

Education, Training and Certification: Most policy analyst positions require a bachelor's degree in a relevant field. Many policy analysts pursue advanced degrees to enhance their qualifications and opportunities for advancement. Common advanced degrees for policy analysts include a Master's in Public Policy (MPP) or Master's in Public Administration (MPA).

Skills and Competencies: Policy analysts need strong research and analytical skills to gather, analyze, and interpret data, conduct literature reviews, evaluate policy options, and communicate findings effectively. Policy analysts must be able to communicate complex policy concepts, analysis findings, and recommendations clearly and persuasively in written reports, policy briefs, memos, presentations, and other forms of communication. Many policy analyst positions require proficiency in quantitative analysis, including statistical analysis, econometrics, cost-benefit analysis, and modeling techniques. Policy analysts should be familiar with various policy analysis techniques and frameworks for assessing policy options, conducting impact assessments, and evaluating policy effectiveness.

Colorado Salary Averages:

Bottom 10%: \$53,863

Median: \$77,951

Top 10%: 112,813

Median Salary in U.S.: \$81,524