

## WHERE WE WERE, AND WHERE WE GO NEXT

Strategic Planning Process, Spring 2025

The UConn School of Public Policy (SPP) is dedicated to solving pressing societal problems through cutting-edge scholarship, high quality instruction, and relevant service to the profession and society. We are committed to preparing diverse leaders employed in a wide range of professions and prepared with the important skills and competencies to be highly successful in their chosen careers.

We value diverse experiences and perspectives based on the principles of fairness, equity and inclusion with respect for community, integrity, civility, courage, and kindness. We aspire for our research, teaching, and service to be relevant, responsive, inclusive, impactful, evidence-based, and of the highest quality.

### NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Moving forward with SPP's next strategic plan, we reflect on achievements, expansion of programs and engagement, and key points of pride illustrating our growth and impact.

**NATIONAL RANKINGS**  
(US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, 2024)

**#9** Public Finance & Budgeting

**#36** US Public Affairs Programs

**BECOMING A SCHOOL**

**Our transformation into a School in 2022 reflects our growing scope, ambition, and leadership in policy education and research, at UConn and beyond.**

**IMRP JOINS THE SCHOOL**

**The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) joined SPP in 2021 - underscoring a commitment to policy research in Connecticut and beyond, and our mission to serve public and nonprofit sectors.**

### SCHOOL GROWTH & CAPACITY

SPP's teaching and research capabilities have been enhanced by the expansion of faculty, including with the addition of the IMRP, positioning the School as a leader in teaching and research in Connecticut and beyond. SPP sustains initiatives through diverse funding streams.

#### FACULTY GROWTH

The addition of **six (6) faculty** and **three (3) research faculty** from AY 22-23 to AY 24-25. The School employs **16** full-time faculty, and engages dozens of affiliated and part-time faculty.

#### LEAPS IN RESEARCH FUNDING

**2000% increase** in faculty research grants and contracts from 2019-2024

#### UConn STAMFORD FAIRFIELD COUNTY EXPANSION

Fall 2024 Additions to UConn Stamford:

1. MPA Fellows
2. MPA FastTrack
3. Minor in Public Policy
4. Public Service Executive Leadership Collaborative (PSELC)

#### STAFF GROWTH

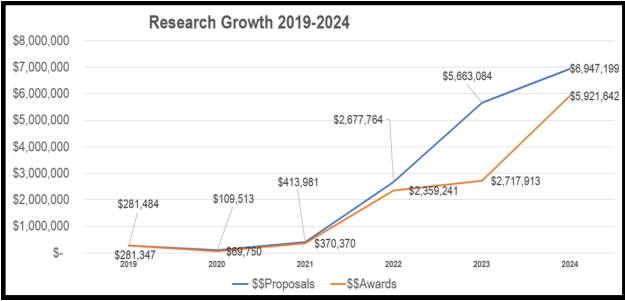
SPP & IMRP employ more than **75+** full-time, part-time, contractor, student employees and graduate teaching/research assistants.



### FACULTY, RESEARCH, AND ADMINISTRATION

We have secured significant funding for research initiatives that address critical local, state, and national policy issues. SPP faculty continue to produce influential research, contributing to national discourse on policy issues and influencing legislation.

#### GROWTH IN FACULTY RESEARCH FUNDING



#### RECENT IMPACT STORIES - RESEARCH

**IMRP** has had a long history of influencing criminal justice, sentencing other areas such as policing and cannabis equity policies in Connecticut. This past year, their work helped pass legislation prioritizing outpatient competency restoration for misdemeanor defendants (PA 24-137).

**Dr. Eric Brunner** recently conducted an evaluation of the Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP) in collaboration with the Center for Connecticut Education Research Collaboration (CCERC). Based in part on the positive findings from that evaluation, Governor Ned Lamont advocated to include the program in the state budget as a permanent line item.

**Dr. Mohamad Alkadry's** work on compensation equity done in collaboration with the CT Office of the State Comptroller led Gov. Lamont to issue Executive Order 24-2, Achieving Equity in Connecticut State Government, which among other things, established the Office of Equity and Opportunity within the Office of the Governor.

As the Director of Advancing Research, Methods, and Scholarship for Gun Injury Prevention (ARMS), **Dr. Kerri Raissian** has been asked to provide testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly, gone to the White House to meet with the Deputy Director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, and meets regularly with federal Congressional representatives about evidence-based gun policy.

**Dr. Renzo de la Riva Agüero**  
"Public Administration's Identity Crisis: Why Decolonizing Theory, Methods, and Instruction is Necessary"

**Dr. Lydia Wileden**  
with Emily Talen - "The Density Puzzle: What is Known, What is Disputed, and Where to Go from Here"

**Dr. David Mitre-Becerril**  
with John MacDonald - "Does Urban Development Influence Crime? Evidence from Philadelphia's New Zoning Regulations"

**Dr. Jinhai Yu**  
with Zhiwei Zhang - "Local Debt Financing in the Shadow of Storms: Disrupted and Destroyed?"

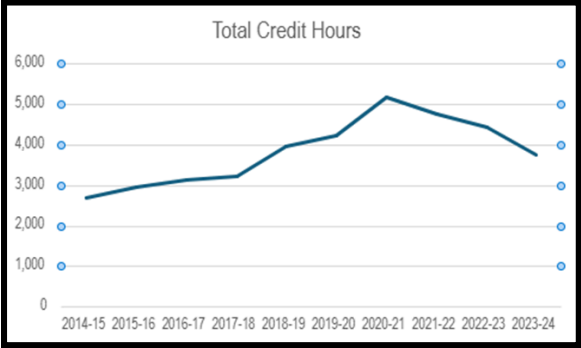
**SCAN THE CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR RECENT FACULTY RESEARCH**



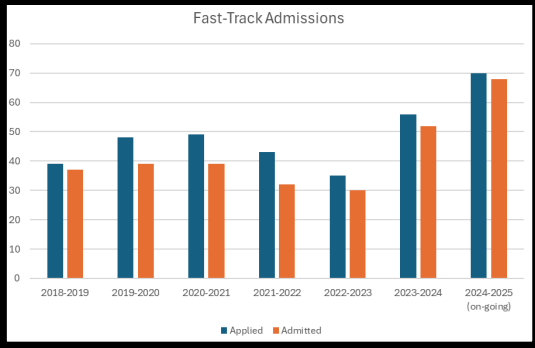
### STUDENTS & ACADEMICS

Core work of the School is to support our undergraduate and graduate students through our Master of Public Administration (MPA), MPA Fellows Executive Track, Master of Public Policy (MPP), Master of Arts in Survey Research and Data Analytics (MASRDA), Public Policy (PP) Minor, and Graduate Certificates. Our enrollments are holding steady in most areas, with substantial growth in the Fast-Track 4+1 MPA/MPP.

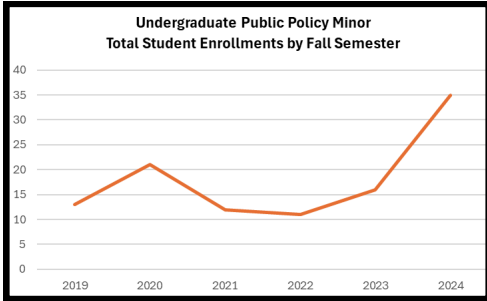
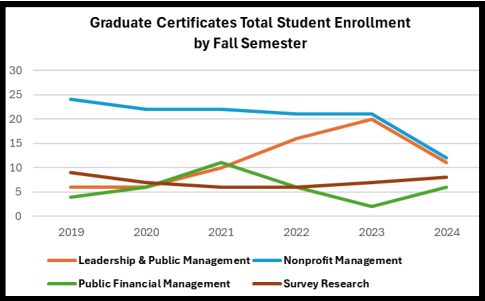
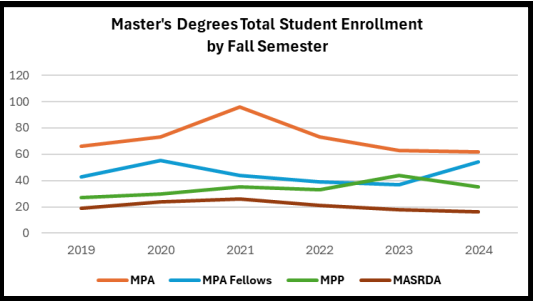
#### CREDIT HOURS, AY '14-'15 - AY '23-'24



#### UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PIPELINE



#### ENROLLMENT TRENDS





## SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

UConn SPP supports students through in-classroom training, experiential learning programs, alumni mentoring, merit based financial awards, social events, and career development programs.

### Classroom Connections

- Supporting “UNITY” Grant with City of Hartford
  - PP 5324 - Serving as Grant Reviewers
- Advancing “Anchor Initiative” Research Initiated by Harvard Kennedy School ‘Transition Term’
  - PP 5363: Providing Research Memo and Presentation to Mayor Arulampalam - City of Hartford



### Student Group - GAPPS

The goal of GAPPS-ICMA is to serve as a social and intellectual forum for students pursuing an SPP degree. GAPPS-ICMA is committed to public service, professional development, and having fun. Throughout the academic year GAPPS-ICMA hosts membership meetings, social events, career panels, and volunteer options.

## UConn Gives

Alumni, current student, and community donors have contributed thousands to fund student scholarships, professional development programming, unexpected hardship funding requests., and funds directed by IMRP to support students impacted by the criminal justice system.

**CTCIP Scholarship:** Support for UConn Hartford students who have experienced the incarceration of a close family member:

2022: **\$4600**  
→ 2023: **\$1480**  
2024: **\$3091**

**UConn SPP**  
School of Public Policy Fund and  
Connected Scholarship Funds

→ **\$40K+**  
Raised 2021-2024

## Student Fellowships (2020-2024)

### Albert G. Ilg Fellowship In Local Government

Award given to MPA students demonstrating interest in local government and public sector service.

**9**  
MPA Students **\$45,000**  
Awarded

### David B. Walker Award

Award given annually to recognize students who exemplify tireless dedication to public service. Named in honor of former program director David B. Walker, award endowed by Parashar Patel (MPA '91)

**6**  
SPP Students **\$15,000**  
Awarded

### Tenzer Fellowship Fund

Established in 1993, when Prof. Morton Tenzer retired from UConn, award recognizes incoming student with academic excellence and the potential to succeed in the program.

**6**  
SPP Students **\$14,500**  
Awarded

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

UConn SPP not only supports students, faculty, and staff - but also a wide array of public service partners and alumni. Recapping recent public sector engagement in Connecticut and beyond:



## GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

### Graduate Interns, 2021-2024

- 2021-2022: **73** Interns / **41,000+** Service Hours
- 2022-2023: **54** Interns / **29,800+** Service Hours
- 2023-2024: **59** Interns / **32,300+** Service Hours
- 2024-2025: **50** Interns / **15,500+** Service Hours\*

\*As of Jan. 29, 2025

## PUBLIC SERVICE TRAININGS & EVENTS

### Public Service Executive Leadership Collaborative

- 2021-2022: **12** Events / **198** Attendees
- 2022-2023: **9** Events / **257** Attendees
- 2023-2024: **9** Events / **235** Attendees
- 2024-2025: **9** Events / **224\*** Attendees

\*as of Feb. 2025

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (ROV) PROGRAM

### Registrar Trainees, 2021-2024

- Assumed administration of program June 2023
- Serve all **169** municipalities in Connecticut
- December 2023-Present:
  - 115+** Registrars Actively Enrolled/Pending
  - 52** Registrars Complete with Certification

## EMERGING NONPROFIT LEADERS OF COLOR

### 2021-2023: 30 Graduates, 40+ Training Workshops

Operating expenses and operational grants for program enrollees provided by **The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven**. This executive leadership program trains middle-management nonprofit staff currently employed in Greater New Haven with growth potential. Cohort-based training sessions draw topics and experiences to actionable strategies for participants’ nonprofit.



## ENCORE! CONNECTICUT

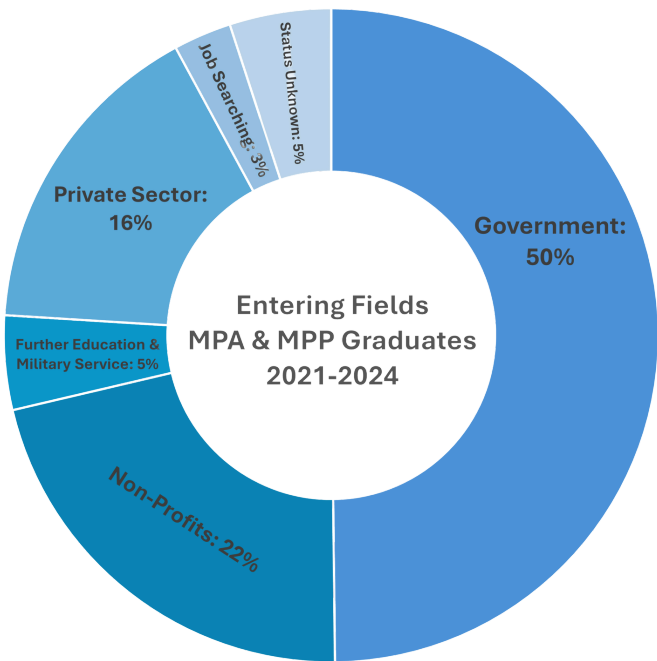
This fee-based program receives supplementary funding from **AARP** and is designed to support community members looking to transition careers from corporate backgrounds to nonprofit work. From 2021-2024 there have been **100+ Encore participants, 115+ fellowships completed, and over 30 different fellowship options annually**. Workshop facilitators have joined SPP from **25+ organizations** to support enrollees.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION CONFERENCES

- NAPA Workforce Development Conf. (Nov. 2022)**
  - 100+ attendees across modalities
  - 20+ municipalities, state agencies, and public service membership groups represented.
- NAPA Social Equity Leadership Conf. (June 2024)**
  - 235 attendees representing 139 institutions
  - 3 day conference with 45+ sessions, all hosted at UConn Stamford. Theme tracks covered:
    - Social Equity in the Face of Resistance
    - Public Policy & Social Equity
    - Emergency Management, Adaptation & Social Equity
    - Health Equity & Social Drivers of Health
    - Criminal Justice & Social Equity
    - Workplace Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility & Social Justice

### Alumni Employment

MPA and MPP Placements:  
6 Month Post-Graduation



### SPP Alumni Council

The SPP Alumni Council (AC) helps current and future students connect with alumni, and build connections among alumni. AC members have planned events around each county in CT, support SPP leaders at functions in Washington DC and the State Capitol, and regularly support current SPP as volunteers for career panels, networking events, and Mock Interview Night.



## SCHOOL FUNDING STREAMS: ANNUAL SNAPSHOTS

**\$3.5M**

UConn College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS)  
[Primarily supporting faculty, staff, and RA/TA funding]

**+\$800K**

“IPP” and “SI”  
Internship Host  
Participation

**+\$500K**

Revenue from  
Entrepreneurial  
Academic  
Programming

**+\$160K**

External Contracts

**+\$70K**

Revenue from  
Professional  
Development &  
Training Programs