CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERSHIP

This 15-credit certificate program will provide a professional credential to students who have committed to taking a series of courses on American Government and Institutions, Colorado Politics and Government, and Public Administration, Management, and Policy.

Please contact Sam Houghteling at sam.houghteling@colostate.edu for any questions about the program.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this certificate, students will be able to:

1. Identify and comprehend the institutional processes and politics of domestic governments including local, state and federal entities and agencies.
2. Analyze the political claims and assertions made by political actors.
3. Analyze the role of state and local actors in solving pressing contemporary problems, such as economic and environment issues.
4. Discuss how the actions of state and local governments impact our daily lives.
5. Demonstrate key management competencies necessary for success in public service leadership roles.

Requirements Effective Fall 2026

Additional coursework may be required due to prerequisites.

Code	Title	Credits
FOUNDATIONS I: Select one course from the following:		**3**
POLS 101	American Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	
POLS 160	Introduction to Public Policy and Service (GT-SS1)	
FOUNDATIONS II: Select one course from the following:		**3**
POLS 304	Legislative Politics	
POLS 310	Colorado Politics and Government	
POLS 463	Urban Policy and Management	
INTERNSHIP: Select 3-6 credits of internship credits:		**3-6**
POLS 486A	Practicum: Legislative Politics	
POLS 486B	Practicum: Government	
POLS 486C/ SPCM 486C	Practicum: Civic Engagement	
POLS 487	Internship – Washington DC Semester	
ADVANCED COURSEWORK: Select enough credits to bring the Program Total Credits to a minimum of 15.		**3-6**
IU 470	Effective Leadership I: Success as a Leader	
IU 471	Effective Leadership II: Vision and Change	
POLS 302	U.S. Political Parties and Elections	
POLS 303	Politics of Organized Interests	
POLS 304	Legislative Politics [1]	
POLS 310	Colorado Politics and Government [1]	
POLS 351	Public Administration	
POLS 361	U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy	
POLS 392	Washington DC Semester Seminar	
POLS 422	Democratic Theory	
POLS 459	Program Evaluation for Public Administrators	
POLS 463	Urban Policy and Management [1]	
PPA 553	Public Organizational Management and Behavior	
PPA 575	Public Service Administration	
SPCM 407	Facilitation & Collaborative Problem Solving	
SPCM 486C/ POLS 486C	Practicum: Civic Engagement	
Program Total Credits:		**15**

[1] Cannot be double-counted if used to fulfill the FOUNDATIONS II requirement.