Public Policy Analysis: Foundations and Practical Skills

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Dubai (UAE)



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Why This Course

In today's policy environment, decision-makers are expected to respond to complex social, economic, and institutional challenges with clarity, evidence, and practical judgment. Public policy analysis plays a critical role in this process by helping professionals define problems accurately, assess policy options, understand stakeholder interests, and recommend solutions that are both effective and realistic. Strong analytical capability is essential for improving the quality of policymaking and supporting better public outcomes.

This comprehensive 1-week course introduces participants to the foundations and practical skills of public policy analysis. Through a combination of theoretical frameworks and hands-on exercises, participants will learn to define policy problems, analyze data, design policy solutions, and effectively communicate recommendations. The course emphasizes real-world application and critical thinking in policy contexts.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By joining this program, you will:

- Understand the role of policy analysis in democratic societies and policymaking processes.
- Apply key frameworks and methodologies for analyzing complex policy issues.
- Develop skills in data analysis, stakeholder mapping, and policy option evaluation.
- Enhance your ability to communicate policy recommendations clearly and persuasively.
- Gain practical experience in crafting policy memos and presenting policy arguments.

The Program Flow

Day 1: Foundations of Public Policy Analysis

- Introduction to public policy and the policy process.
- The role of the policy analyst in democratic societies.
- Ethical considerations in policy analysis.
- Problem definition and agenda setting.

Day 2: Analytical Frameworks and Tools

- Policy analysis frameworks, including Bardach's Eightfold Path.
- Stakeholder analysis and mapping.
- Cost-benefit analysis fundamentals.
- Multi-criteria decision analysis.



Day 3: Data Analysis and Evidence in Policy Making

- Types and sources of policy-relevant data.
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques.
- Interpreting and presenting data effectively.
- Evidence-based policymaking principles.

Day 4: Policy Design and Evaluation

- Generating and assessing policy alternatives.
- Policy implementation considerations.
- Approaches to policy evaluation.
- Anticipating and mitigating unintended consequences.

Day 5: Communicating Policy Analysis

- Writing effective policy memos.
- Crafting persuasive policy recommendations.
- Presenting policy analysis to diverse audiences.
- Navigating the political context of policy analysis.

Individual Impact

- Strengthen your ability to analyze policy issues with greater structure and confidence.
- Enhance your skills in using analytical frameworks, data, and evaluation methods.
- Build stronger capability in writing policy memos and presenting recommendations effectively.
- Gain practical tools for addressing real policy challenges with clearer reasoning and evidence.

Work Impact

- Improve the quality of policy analysis and decision support within your organization.
- Strengthen the ability to assess policy alternatives and stakeholder interests more effectively.
- Support better communication of policy findings to decision-makers and wider audiences.
- Enhance institutional capacity for evidence-based and strategically informed policymaking.

Training Methodology

This program integrates policy theory, analytical methods, and practical application to ensure real-world relevance and professional impact. Learning methods include:

- Real-world case studies on public policy challenges and analysis.
- Practical exercises in stakeholder mapping, data interpretation, and policy evaluation.
- Interactive workshops on policy memo writing and recommendation development.
- Group discussions on ethical issues, implementation challenges, and political context.
- Frameworks and tools for applying public policy analysis effectively in professional settings.



Beyond the Course

Upon completion, participants will be better equipped to approach policy issues with greater clarity, analytical depth, and practical confidence. They will return ready to:

- Define and analyze public policy problems more effectively.
- Assess policy options using structured and evidence-based methods.
- Communicate recommendations more clearly to policymakers and stakeholders.
- Contribute more effectively to policy development, evaluation, and public decision-making.

