**Policy Communications**

This course will equip you with the writing and speaking expertise you need to succeed in your policy career.

Each week we will:

* Workshop writing and speaking to build our policy communication muscles
* Role-play to simulate policy environments and practice communicating under pressure
* Give and receive robust feedback – both as students and instructors

Class assignments mirror scenarios you will encounter in policy workplaces. We'll take on the roles of legislative staffers, think tank experts, agency heads, and more.

Examples of assignments include:

* Briefings
* Analysis memos
* Legislative testimony
* 5-minute presentations
* Op-Eds

A key output of this class is a portfolio of polished writing samples. For several assignments you will choose a policy issue you want to work on so you can explore your own policy interests.

Relative to other Policy Communication courses at the LBJ School, the unique flavors of this section are:

1. No specific policy-area focus. For the majority of assignments, students select the policy topic they want to write about. Lessons include examples from local, state, federal, and global policymaking bodies.
2. A two-week unit on “Communicating with Numbers” and “Data Storytelling” to give students the skills to write and speak about numbers effectively.
3. About a 60/40 split of writing/speaking assignments. Public speaking is a big focus of the class.