

# Assessment Must Start with Senior Exit Surveys

The Policy Studies Undergraduate Major  
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## Program Facts

Program began in 1976  
Four full time faculty equivalents  
Between 50-85 graduates per year  
Average number of majors is 112 per year

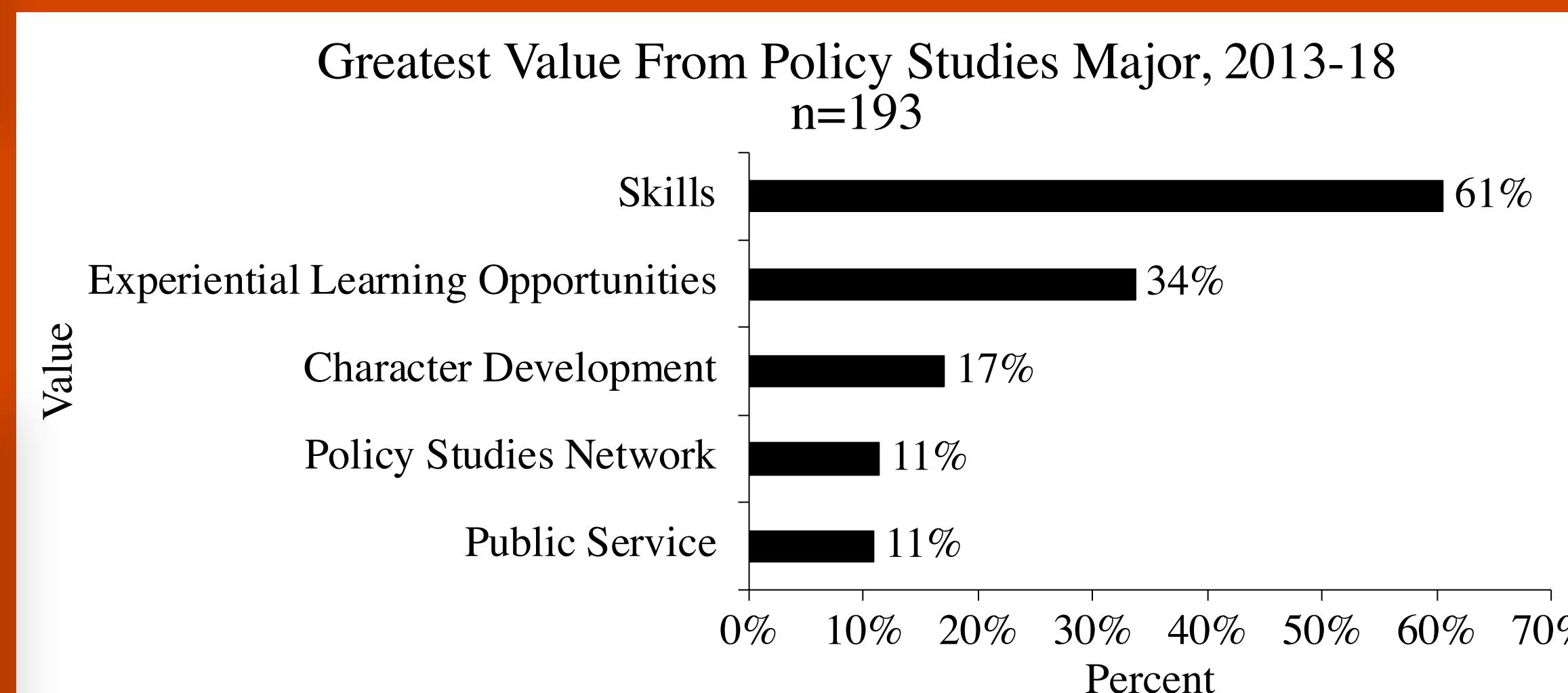
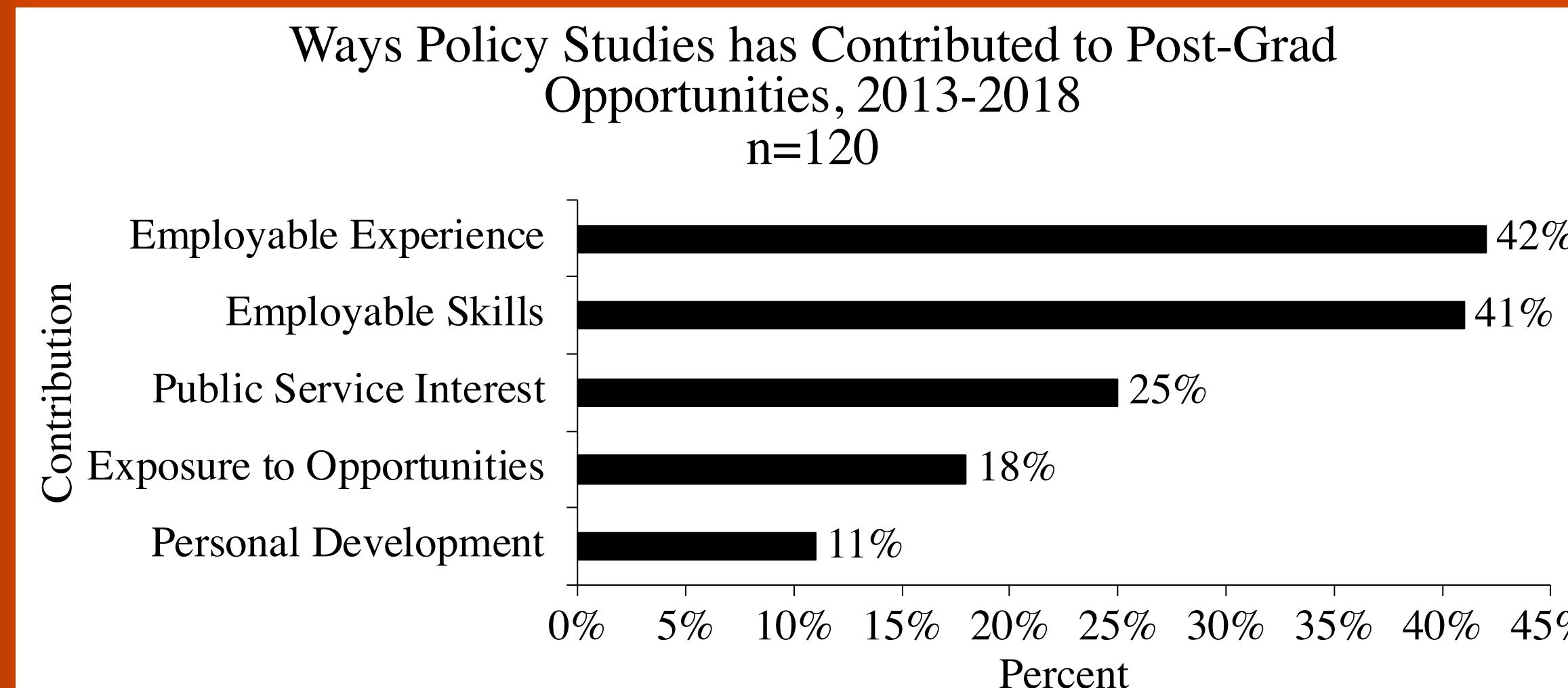
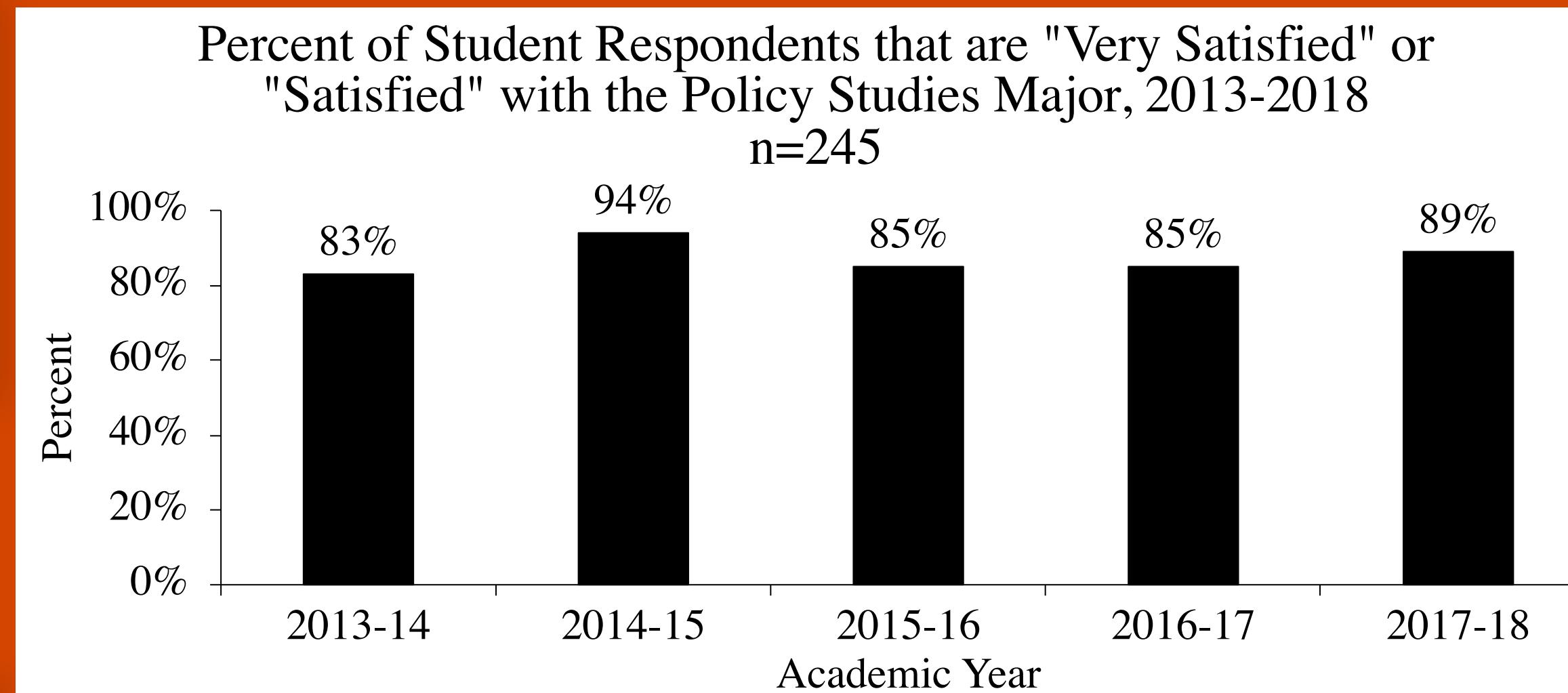
## Purpose and Process

The Policy Studies undergraduate major has conducted senior exit surveys for the past 20 years. The data is used as the main source for program evaluation. Having the same survey annually provides a stable data set. The surveys are completed anonymously online. 86% of seniors between 2012 and 2018 responded to the senior exit survey. Upon completion, students print out the confirmation page and bring it to Angela Ward in the Policy Studies office to receive a gift such as a t-shirt, fidget spinner, pop socket for cell phones, or mug.

## Resulting Actions

- Past exit surveys indicated dissatisfaction with topical specialization offerings. Because of this, the Policy Studies Program began offering courses on specific topics under the PAF 410 Practicum. These experiential courses were taught by adjunct professors with professional expertise in the topic.
- Given the consistent request for more courses on policy, the Program requested and received a position for a full time teaching professor. Austin Zwick joined the program beginning in the Fall of 2018 to teach Methods of Public Policy Analysis and Presentation, Non-profit and Government Practicum in Public Policy and Smart Cities.

## Finding Graphics



\* Source: Public Affairs Exit Survey, 2018

This year's gift for seniors upon completion of the senior exit survey.



## Survey Questions

- Why did you become a major?
- How satisfied have you been as a major? Please explain your response.
- List your USEFUL topical specialization courses under the following headings, indicating instructor and add relevant comments.
- List your USELESS topical specialization courses under the following headings, indicating instructor and add relevant comments.
- How satisfied are you with the advising you received from PAF faculty/staff? Which faculty/staff person did you primarily rely on for advising? Please provide specific examples of positive or negative advising experiences.
- If you were a department chair, what would you do to improve the major?
- What is the greatest value you have received from being a PAF major?
- Do you know what you are doing following graduation? If you responded yes, has your work as a PAF major contributed to this result? Please explain your response.
- Please indicate one or two classes that made the greatest contribution to your learning. When referring to a PAF 410 course, please indicate the instructor.

## Quotes

\* All responses are from senior exit surveys.

### Why I am satisfied with my choice:

"Policy Studies allowed me to have a very hands on education and provided me with the necessary skills to enter the work force with confidence."

"I valued the classes I took and felt like I learned hard skills that are applicable to the work force."

### How Policy Studies has contributed to my post-graduate career:

"MAX 201, PAF 315, PAF 410, etc., have all given me tangible reports & products that display my research and analytical abilities."

"The internships and skills acquired through the major helped me to get the job."

### Recommendations for improvement:

"Increase the number of classes required for the topic of specialization."

"I would add more emphasis on politics and the creation and implementation of policies for core courses."