

# Evaluation, Prevention, & Policy Studies (EPPS) Seminar Series:

## Graduate Training in 3 Colleges

EPPS Work Group in Education & Human  
Development, Public Affairs, & Public Health  
University of Minnesota

November 18, 2025 (11am-noon)



# Overview of Today's Seminar

- Overview: Arthur Reynolds & Jodi Benenson
- Evaluation Studies in OLPD: Stuart Yeh, John Hitchcock & Jodi
- Prevention Science Minor in FSS: Tim Piehler & Arthur
- Social Policy Area in HHH: Judy Temple
- Advanced Behavioral Intervention Design in SPH: Joe Gaugler

# Goals for this Seminar Series

1. To share and co-create knowledge through a forum around current work in evaluation at the university
2. To integrate and amplify the study and practice of evaluation studies across colleges and disciplines
3. To build a community of evaluation scholars and practitioners at the university

# Evaluation Studies Benefit from Interdisciplinarity

No matter the field, evaluation & policy studies are basic requirements for improving lifespan health & well-being.

A new and improved “Worldly Science”

# EPPS Special Features

1. Action research to directly improve well-being
2. Theory testing
3. Accountability for the value of public investments
4. Community engagement & collaboration by definition

# Key Associations

American Evaluation Association

Association for Public Policy & Management

American Public Health Association

Society for Prevention Research

Society for Research in Child Development

Various Divisions of Am. Psych. Association

*2025 National Academies "Blueprint for a national prevention infrastructure..."*

Increasing resources and funding for evaluation studies is major focus.

“Prevention [evaluation] research can be improved with more specific support for improving existing intervention and developing new ones with a focus on generalizability, external validity, and implementation science” (p. 4).

# R&D in Relation to GDP/Budgets

Total (\$606b)	2.9%
IT (private sector)	8-10%
Fed/State Health	0.07-0.3%
Research on programs	<0.3%

Note. 2019, NSF & Nat. Science/Tech. Council. Business=\$446b

# Critical Areas for Evaluation

Promoting healthy devel. in young people

Improving school and career success

Preventing crime, promoting behavioral health

Improving QOL and supports over the lifespan

Promoting Mental Health over the lifespan

# Key Topics in Courses

Assessing Needs

Program Development & Improvement

Implementation Science

Research Designs & Elements

Mixed Methods

Impact Assessment

Longitudinal Studies

Benefit-Cost Analysis/ROI

Research Synthesis/Meta-analysis

Dissemination & Use

Scaling

Community Engagement

# Key Web Sites & Registries

## Healthy People 2030

<https://health.gov/healthypeople>

Go to “Tools for action.”

## What Works Clearinghouse

<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc>

## Crime Solutions

<https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov>

## Washington State Inst. of Public Policy

[www.wsipp.wa.gov/BenefitCost](http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/BenefitCost)

# A Few Others

Campbell Collaboration

[www.campbellcollaboration.org](http://www.campbellcollaboration.org)

Cochrane Collaboration

[www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)

Arnold Ventures

[www.arnoldventures.org](http://www.arnoldventures.org)

California Evidence-based Clearinghouse

[www.cebc4cw.org/registry/](http://www.cebc4cw.org/registry/)

# Monthly Presentations Begin January 2026

Would you like to be a presenter? Fill out this form by December 4: <https://z.umn.edu/epps>

Meeting times: Tuesdays 11am to Noon (Zoom)

Info contacts: [alexeven@umn.edu](mailto:alexeven@umn.edu),  
[benenson@umn.edu](mailto:benenson@umn.edu), [ajr@umn.edu](mailto:ajr@umn.edu)

# Evaluation Studies Program Area

Programs, Core Faculty, Course Offerings

**EPPS Seminar Series**  
**November 18, 2025**



Organizational Leadership,  
Policy, and Development

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

# Evaluation Studies Overview

- We teach, study, and apply evaluation methods, theory, and practice to inform the decision-making process for all kinds of organizations in a variety of fields.
- We value inclusive, culturally-responsive, and diverse evaluation perspectives.
- We share our most advanced practices and theories in order to support more effective and innovative organizations and policy solutions.

# Evaluation Studies Programs

## Program Application Deadlines

- Evaluation Studies PhD: December 1, 2025
- Evaluation Studies MA, February 1, 2026
- Program Evaluation Certificate (rolling admission)
- Program evaluation graduate minor (discuss with an advisor)

### Program evaluation graduate minor

An area of inquiry that uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to address questions of concern to policy makers, administrators, managers, and, in some cases, program participants.

[Learn More](#)

### Program evaluation certificate

Our certificate in program evaluation prepares you to lead program evaluation efforts. You will learn applied methods, techniques, and processes, and how evaluation fits into larger economic, social, and political contexts.

[Learn More](#)

### Evaluation studies MA

You will be able to provide specialized knowledge and skills to all kinds of professional settings, including education, governance, health care, industry, non-profits, and NGOs.

[Learn More](#)

### Evaluation studies PhD

This track program equips you with the knowledge, experience, and resourcefulness needed to be a professional evaluator, evaluation researcher, or educator in a variety of settings.

[Learn More](#)

# Upcoming Course Offerings

## Spring 2026

- OLPD 5501: Principles and Methods of Evaluation
- OLPD 5502: Comparative Evaluation Theory for Practice
- OLPD 8812: Quantitative Research in Education

## Fall 2026

- OLPD 5501: Principles and Methods of Evaluation
- OLPD 5528: Focus Groups
- OLPD 8596: Evaluation Internship

## Future Offerings

- OLPD 8502: Theories and Models of Evaluation
- OLPD 5080: Applied Research and Evaluation Methods

... and more electives in more modalities!

# Evaluation Studies Core Faculty



**Stuart Yeh**  
Professor, Evaluation  
Studies Program  
Coordinator  
[yehxx008@umn.edu](mailto:yehxx008@umn.edu)



**John Hitchcock**  
Professor  
[hitch141@umn.edu](mailto:hitch141@umn.edu)



**Jodi Benenson**  
Associate Professor  
[benenson@umn.edu](mailto:benenson@umn.edu)

**Please reach out!**  
**Thank you.**



Department of  
Organizational Leadership,  
Policy, and Development

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover®

# PREVENTION SCIENCE DOCTORAL MINOR

Coordinators: Tim Piehler and Arthur Reynolds

Administered by Dept. of Family Social Science

## WHAT IS PREVENTION SCIENCE?

- A multi-disciplinary science focused on the development and evaluation of evidence-based strategies that are designed to:
  - Reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors
  - Improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities

## WHY STUDY PREVENTION SCIENCE?

- Mission-driven: promoting well-being; preventing problems before they occur
- Integrates insights from psychology, child development, public health, education, social work, and family science
- Bridges research, practice, and policy to create real-world impact
- A focus on implementation, cost savings, and scaling

## PROGRAMS COMMONLY EVALUATED

- Home visiting, parenting, and family support
- Early childhood education
- Children's mental health & socio-emotional learning
- School-based programs
- Mentoring
- Substance abuse prevention
- Crime prevention

## DOCTORAL MINOR REQUIRED COURSES

- 3 required core courses:
  - **PREV 8001- Principles and Practices in Prevention Science** (3 credits; Upcoming Fall 2026)
  - **PREV 8002- Prevention Science Research Methodology** (3 credits; In progress Fall 2025)
  - **PREV 8003- Implementation and Dissemination** (3 credits; Upcoming Fall 2027)
- Plus 3 additional credits of elective courses from the student's selected area of concentration.

## MINOR CONCENTRATION AREAS

- Mental health and well-being across the lifespan
- Interventions in education, health, and social services
- Social policy
- Family and community studies
- Methodology
- Individualized concentration

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Faculty Contacts

Tim Piehler – [tpiehler@umn.edu](mailto:tpiehler@umn.edu); Arthur Reynolds – [ajr@umn.edu](mailto:ajr@umn.edu)

Steering Committee: Richard Lee, Mimi Choy-Brown, Jeff Waid, Judy Temple, Lindsey Weiler, Faith Miller, Tim and Arthur

- Administrative Contact:

Sumitra Ramachandran - [ramac024@umn.edu](mailto:ramac024@umn.edu)

- Webpage:

<https://fsos.umn.edu/academics/graduate-minors/phd-minor-prevention-science>





HUMPHREY SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## Opportunities for studies in evaluation and policy at the Humphrey School

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Judy Temple, Professor of Public Affairs  
Director of PhD program

# Humphrey School of Public Affairs mission

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs educates, engages, and equips leaders and communities to discover solutions that advance the common good in our diverse world.

We offer 6 master's degree programs

*Master of Public Policy*

Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Master of Science, Technology and Environmental Policy

*Master of Development Practice*

*Master of Public Affairs* (mid-career degree)

Master of Human Rights

We offer the PhD in Public Affairs (approximately 6 fully-funded students per year)

Tracks in Public Policy; Management and Governance; Urban Planning; and Science, Technology & Environmental Policy



*Robert H. Humphrey*

# Evaluation/Prevention topics of interest at the Humphrey School

**The Humphrey School offers multiple courses related in evaluation and evidenced-based decision making.**

**Social policy topics specializations including early education, housing, immigration, criminal justice policy as well as many topics related to international development and climate change.**

**Strong faculty expertise in impact evaluation and social impact funding.**

*Robert H. Humphrey*

## Program Evaluation Course Series

HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SPRING 2026

### Cost-Benefit Analysis for Program Evaluation (PA 5312)

2 cr. Judy Temple

This class introduces students to cost-benefit analysis, the leading evidenced-based method for determining whether a government program or policy improves the well-being of society. Starting with the foundations of welfare economics, students learn how to monetize important benefits and costs associated with government activities. Topics include discounting future benefits and costs, the roles of standing and risk, ways of valuing human lives and other benefits that may be hard to value in dollar terms. Students will acquire skills needed to perform relevant calculations needed for the economic assessment of benefits relative to costs and the ability to critique the use of these methods regarding how they may advantage or disadvantage some members of society or particular types of policies. Policy areas include preventive interventions in social, health and education as well as applications in transportation and environmental policy.

*Robert H. Humphrey*

## Evidence-Based Decision-Making & Evaluation for Policy & Programs (PA 5390-001)

3 cr. Andrew Goodman-Bacon

This course focuses on the principles of evidence-based practice (EBP) and the range of impact evaluation methods available to social scientists for designing, implementing, and adapting interventions (programs and policies) across the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. EBP has become a leading systematic, problem-solving approach and it integrates three key elements for informed decision-making: (1) the best available evidence, (2) clinical or provider expertise, and (3) client or patient preferences and values. Impact evaluations assess the changes in outcomes attributable to specific interventions. They address the counterfactual by employing experimental or quasi-experimental designs, typically involving treatment and comparison groups. This course focuses on the gold standard of impact evaluations—randomized controlled trials (RCTs)—while also exploring the utility of non-experimental methods.

New partnership with two local philanthropies (Constellation Fund and CoLab). Co-taught by Aaron Sojourner.

## Program Evaluation (PA 5311)

3 cr. John LaVelle

This course covers the core principles, methods, and implementation of evaluation research. The course is designed for both students interested in a potential career in evaluation and those that want to be better consumers of research. Past programmatic/policy areas included health and human services, education, environment science, economic development, transportation, and evidence-based policymaking.

*Humphrey*

# Opportunities for obtaining graduate minors in public policy

We offer a Graduate Minor in Public Policy where students can choose which PA 5000-level or 8000-level courses to take (no specific course requirements).

Master's minor (9 credits)

PhD minor (12 credits)

*Robert H. Humphrey*