Lane Bowman: Welcome!

Ruth Winecoff: Hello everyone!

Andrew Hyder: Thank you for the invitation!

TaKasha Smith: Good evening, everyone!

Sean Hadorn: Yes, thank you for hosting this.

Megan Siehl: Welcome! We are excited to chat with you this evening and share about what we enjoy most about SPEA and Bloomington!

Kristen H: Hello! Thank you for hosting this and the invitation as well.

Billy Fagan: Happy to be here! I've been looking forward to this

Sean Hadorn: Should we just open up with questions now?

Lane Bowman: Sure, Sean!

Sean Hadorn: Okay, what is your favorite thing about living in Bloomington?

Roy Fillyaw: Sean:

Buddha Dhakal: What are we actually talking about tonight?

Lane Bowman: Buddha--

Buddha Dhakal: Thank you for invitation

Lane Bowman: Tonight's chat is meant for applicants to find out more about SPEA's culture and what it's like to live in Bloomington.

Lane Bowman: Of course, we'll answer any other questions that you have as well.

Kristen H: In regards to SPEA, specifically the MPA program, what are the typical class sizes? Also, how would you describe the level of student-faculty engagement?

Song: Thank you for hosting this.

Gilbert: Thank you for the invitation to be a part of this session.

Sam Lovison: Sean: I love the college town atmosphere. Bloomington is built for college students, and has the amenities, bars, restaurants, and facilities of a much larger town, while still retaining a small town vibe and character. As a student you don't feel like you're in the minority, you feel like you belong here and everyone is happy to have you

Kelly Dumais: How would you describe the culture of SPEA? Could you expand on that in regards to both student life as well as classroom experience.

Sam Lovison: Kelly: SPEA

Grace: How many years of professional experience does the average incoming MPA student have?

James B: Are there many opportunities to work/intern/volunteer with conservation groups around the Bloomington area?

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen, I'm a first year MPA, and so far most of my classes have been about 25 - 35 people. The core curriculum classes tend to be relatively large, but as you get deeper into your concentration, sometimes the classes get smaller.
Roy Fillyaw: For a small town, Bloomington always has wonderful events or activities when I get any down time from school. There is usually live music, art, nature, or a festival to enjoy.

Ruth Winecoff: One of my classes this semester is only about ten people.

Gilbert: Moving to Bloomington will be huge transition for someone like me from Texas. So I really need this

Sam Lovison: SPEA’s culture is one driven by service and learning. Student life is vibrant and varied, as masters students are generally motivated to engage inside and outside of the classroom

Roy Fillyaw: Gilbert:

Lane Bowman: Grace-

TaKasha Smith: Can you talk about your experiences interning or gaining hands-on field experience while in the program?

Grace: How much opportunity is there to initiate research independently from required classes? What support does SPEA offer its students to perform independent research?

Sam Lovison: TaKasha -

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen: As for student-faculty engagement, I think it’s quite high. Certainly higher than I experience in undergrad. Most faculty members make themselves very available to you... In general, SPEA is an open-door kind of place.

Lane Bowman: The average age of incoming SPEA students is 26, so typically a few years. Of course, many students arrive at SPEA immediately after completing their undergraduate studies.

Lauren Travis: How much geographic diversity is there among the student population?

Andrew Hyder: How available are the advisors to discuss the academic track of the student?

Roy Fillyaw: I am from Texas! You will find several other classmates in SPEA from Texas too. The transition has been easy. Also, you will be able to make it from the airport in Indy to any Texas airport as fast as you could drive anywhere in Texas.

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen: We also are advised by faculty rather than staff, so that increases the level of engagement with faculty.

Sean Hadorn: How easy and affordable is it to find housing that isn't surrounded by undergrads?

Sam Lovison: Everyone’s internship experiences vary a lot depending on degree program, concentration and general interest. I interned as a Policy Advisor for the Mayor of Nashville, TN and got to see a lot of policy in action at the local government level

Gilbert: First, what would you say about housing, that is, finding a place closer to campus?

Lane Bowman: Lauren-

Gilbert: Thank you Roy. What about housing?

Sam Lovison: Gilbert & Sean:

Ruth Winecoff: Andrew - advisors are very available to discuss academic track... We have a list of faculty advisors for each concentration. You can also speak to other faculty members. In general, I would say that SPEA’s faculty has nearly an open-door policy.
Buddha Dhakal: Given admission, I am thinking of some particular and a brand new idea of sustainable development practice claimed by Bhutan, my country of origin. How can I develop a research on this concept?

Lauren Shaman: Do incoming students have the opportunity to connect before the program begins-- in terms of potentially finding roommates to live with in the program?

Andrew Hyder: That is great! thank you, Ruth.

Ruth Winecoff: You’re welcome!

Buddha Dhakal: It is what they called as Gross National Happiness-for holistic approach to development.

TaKasha Smith: That is encouraging to hear, Sam. Any experience/advice about internships as a Non-Profit Management focus?

Roy Fillyaw: James B: There are opportunities to volunteer with conservation groups. The Sycamore Land Trust is a conservation group you might be interested in looking into!

Sam Beres: Expanding off of the question about internships, what's the general breakdown of where people end up interning? Is it mostly in the same broad vicinity as the school, or is it more or less all over the place?

Billy Fagan: Does SPEA help students discover internship opportunities?

Kristen H: Thank you, Ruth.

Lane Bowman: Over 17% of our students are from a foreign country, and another large portion are from throughout the U.S.

Sam Lovison: Housing varies depending on location and neighborhood just like anywhere else. Being a college town, there are endless rental possibilities. Generally speaking, the closer to campus and downtown you want to live, the more expensive the rent. Bloomington is one of the most affordable cities I have ever lived in. Sean you will find undergrads everywhere, but generally the further out you go the less there will be. Certain communities are targeted to grad students.

Sam Lovison: Sam:

Ruth Winecoff: Lauren - once people have enrolled, we create a group forum for people to introduce themselves and to potentially coordinate living situations.

Lane Bowman: Buddha-

Roy Fillyaw: Billy:

Ruth Winecoff: Lauren - Experience Day is also a great time to connect with other incoming students as well as current students!

Gilbert: Thank you Sam.

Ryan Clemens: Perfect, Sam, that answer was just what I was looking for!

Sam Lovison: I would say the majority of internships are away from bloomington, although many people choose to continue local work placements over the summer months. We place a large number of people for internships in D.C, Chicago and Indianapolis, but you can find SPEA students serving in internships all over the state, country and world.

Lauren Shaman: Great to know and keep in mind, thanks Ruth!

Ruth Winecoff: Sure, Lauren!

Sean Hadorn: Thanks, what percentage of first years in the MPA program have assistantships?
Lane Bowman: SPEA faculty advise students as they make academic progress. They have a wide range of experiences and can help develop your skills and interests in a particular area.

Sam Lovison: You’re welcome

James B: Thank you Roy! I have looked into Sycamore already and it seemed to me that the available space for internship/work there was very limited so are there volunteer positions pretty open?

Gilbert: what has been the greatest challenge you all have faced as grad students?

TaKasha Smith: And what is the percentage of assistantships in research vs teaching or other?

Sam Beres: Thanks, Sam. That's great to hear.

Kristen H: Is Experience Day only offered in the Spring?

Roy Fillyaw: As a student at SPEA, you will have access to information regarding many internship opportunities throughout the country. You will learn of these opportunities through our Career Development Office, and sometimes opportunities are passed along by faculty and other students who hear of them.

Sam Lovison: Gilbert:

Ruth Winecoff: Sean - 40% of our incoming classes receive merit aid awards, and many dozens of others receive other types of assistantships coming.... We manage to place most people in hourly positions who are interested.

Billy Fagan: Thank you Roy! It seems like a great resource.

Andrew Hyder: what type of diversity is there in terms of age? does SPEA try to pull from non-traditional professionals as well as traditional college age grads?

Roy Fillyaw: James B:

Sam Lovison: The challenges of grad school are varied, but for me it was adjusting to a new environment and a hectic work/study schedule. You find yourself in a classroom with people who were all the top of their classes which is a great thing but quite an adjustment

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen H - We host an Experience Day each fall and spring.

Lane Bowman: Takasha-

Sam Lovison: Andrew:

Lane Bowman: Assistantships are faculty driven, and thus vary from semester to semester based on need.

Gilbert: Thanks Sam.

Lauren Travis: What was something that surprised you about Bloomington that you hadn't imagined before moving there?

Roy Fillyaw: I would encourage you to reach out to them if you are interested. They will be able to give you the specific information and opportunities they have available.

Kristen H: If someone is unable to come to Experience Day, what alternative would be available for them to still get exposure to the campus and the program?

Sam Lovison: There's a large range of age groups in SPEA's classes. SPEA does not target any age range in particular, and people come to our program from all backgrounds, both straight out of undergrad to 2, 5, and 10 years worth of experience behind them.
David Michael: My main area of interest is in energy. What level of involvement is the grad program/university involved with policy research or participation with utilities or regulators for energy policy? Is the involvement national, regional, local? Is SPEA involved in research in battery storage?

Gilbert: Any ideas on how on campus employment works for grad students?

Roy Fillyaw: Lauren:

James B: Sounds great. Thank you

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen H - we frequently set up individual visits for those who can't attend Experience Day! My colleague Taylor sets up a visit to a class relevant to your interests, lunch with a current student, and a meeting with our Director of Graduate Services, among other things...

Sam Lovison: Gilbert: could you clarify what you mean by campus employment? Do you mean outside of SPEA's available assistantships?

Vanessa Snyder: Hi! Thanks for hosting this session! Do grad students have free access to campus exercise facilities?

Andrew Hyder: That's good to know. I have been looking forward to working with a diverse group. Thanks, Sam.

Kristen H: Awesome. Thanks, Ruth.

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen H - if you're interested in an individual visit, email speainfo@indiana.edu, and we'll get to work setting something up!

James B: Is there much availability of On-Campus Graduate Housing? I know there is some but I don't know how limited it is.

Amanda Ball: Are there limitations on on-campus weekly work hours, or how many positions can you have? Both with assistantships and other opportunities?

Roy Fillyaw: I was pleasantly surprised by how much culture Bloomington offers for a small Midwest town. Fourth street offers a wide variety of international restaurants, and as I mentioned earlier, the art scene is great for a small town.

Michele Sassano: Vanessa: yes, graduate students do have free access to campus exercise facilities. All students pay a fee at the beginning of the semester to be able to use the facilities.

Buddha Dhakal: If likely do not have option to move to Bloomington from Louisville. How does that affect my grad class and other activities?

Vanessa Snyder: Excellent. Thanks, Michele!

Gilbert: Yes, Sam. I mean being able to work in other offices on campus. For example, student activities or campus programs.

Sam Lovison: David. Unfortunately none of us here are currently focusing on Energy policy. I would advise you to browse our faculty directory by research area and look at Dr. Graham and Dr. Atarri in particular. https://spea.indiana.edu/faculty-research/research/areas/index.html

Lane Bowman: Buddha-

Kelly Dumais: What are the things that stood out and originally interested you in SPEA?

Vanessa Snyder: How early should accepted students start looking in to health care through the school?

Andrew Hyder: I have been told by other MPA schools and grads that the degree maybe hard to market outside of the geographical area. For example, students should look at the area they want to settle in when picking a school. Has anyone found this to be true?
Roy Fillyaw: Kelly:

Robin: Do most students find they need a car in Bloomington, or is the public transit very good?

Lauren Travis: Why did you choose SPEA over the other programs you were considering?

Sam Lovison: Gilbert: You're free to apply to whatever positions you are interested in. You will not be able to hold both a positon in SPEA and outside though so you would need to pick one. Campus opportunities are advertised regularly through our Masters Program Office and other campus departments

Sam Lovison: Robin:

Sean Hadorn: When do you think the best time to move to Bloomington in preparation for the Fall semester would be? Is there a general Bloomington move-in/move-out day?

Michele Sassano: Vanessa: similar to the fee to use the exercise facilities, students also pay a fee to receive services at a discount at the health center

Ruth Winecoff: Amanda - there are very, very few exceptions for people to have multiple assistantships. If you’re able to find outside funding, we try to re-direct our funding to those who don’t have something else.

Lane Bowman: If you plan to pursue coursework full-time, it may be difficult as classes are spread throughout the week.

Vanessa Snyder: Thanks, Michele!

Gilbert: Thanks, Sam.

Lane Bowman: Sean-

Amanda Ball: Thank you Ruth! I appreciate your response!

Sam Lovison: I have never had a car here. And have rarely needed one. The bus system is excellent. As an IU student you ride both city transit and the campus bus service for free. I would advise you to take a look at the map online before choosing your accomodation to make it as easy as possible for you to get around. Bloomington is also very walkable, I rarely take the bus and walk everywhere including to class and home each day

Ruth Winecoff: Andrew - we place our graduates all over the country and the world. I was actually working with someone today on a map of alumni and they're all over the place!

Buddha Dhakal: Can I plan to be a part-time at first one or two semesters and go full time?

Kristen H: How much campus involvement can grad students have as far as extra-curriculars and clubs/organizations? Or is that more of an undergrad thing?

Vanessa Snyder: Is there any way to switch to the accelerated program if my application did not initially indicate interest in the accelerated track for and MPA-MSES?

Lane Bowman: As someone who has lived in Bloomington for over 12 years, I would avoid the major move-in/move-out days such as July 31/ Aug 1 and Freshman move-in on Aug 19.

Roy Fillyaw: One thing that interested me in SPEA was how well SPEA prepares their students for careers in many different fields. I had interests in policy, sustainable development, water issues, and other environmental issues during the application process. I knew SPEA was a program that would prepare me in all of those areas.

Ruth Winecoff: Andrew - Our Career Development Office facilitaties networking trips to Chicago, DC, and Denver as well. And, importantly, our faculty is well-connected outside of the region, and can be your best asset for placement!

Kelly Dumais: Thanks Roy!
Roy Fillyaw: You’re welcome!

Sam Lovison: Kristen:

Lane Bowman: Many students come early to attend Math Camp and begin to meet their peers.

Andrew Hyder: That is great news! Thanks, Ruth

Sean Hadorn: Thanks Lane!

Michele Sassano: Vanessa: if you are looking for health insurance to supplement the fee you pay at the health center, you can also purchase student health insurance. Most typical services are very inexpensive using the health center fee, but more information can be found here on health insurance http://www.indiana.edu/~uhrs/benefits/students.html

Roy Fillyaw: Vanessa:

Sam Lovison: Your involvement on campus and in clubs and orgs is limited only by your own time and interest! I’m president of SPEA

Sam Lovison: SPEA’s graduate student association

Sam Lovison: I would recommend giving yourself some time to work out how much time you have to get involved. There will be plenty of opportunity fairs and sign up days

TaKasha Smith: Can you talk about the on-campus and IU owned grad housing options?

Kristen H: Thank you, Sam.

Lane Bowman: Buddha-

TaKasha Smith: How easy is it to rent an apartment owned by the university?

Billy Fagan: When is an appropriate time to start looking for housing?

Andrew Hyder: What is Pickle ball?

Lane Bowman: Most SPEA students are full-time, taking 12 credits a semester. However, students are welcome to pursue the program at their own pace, though the degree must be completed within 5 years.

Roy Fillyaw: The Accelerated Program is for current SPEA undergraduate students who wish to pursue a master’s degree.

Sean Hadorn: What’s the average rent for, say, a two bedroom apartment in a good location in Bloomington?

Ryan Clemens: Hello! Thanks so much for hosting this event! I’m learning a lot from everyone! I am very interested in the Service Corps opportunity with SPEA. About how many students work with the Service Corps at any given time? Also, would being involved with Service Corps limit my opportunities for an internship? Thanks!

Buddha Dhakal: OK thanks Lane for the info.

Vanessa Snyder: Okay, thanks Roy!

Ruth Winecoff: Andrew - Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. (Wikipedia)

Andrew Hyder: Thanks

Roy Fillyaw: Sean:

Kristen H: Math Camp? Is that for Grad Students?
Sam Lovison: TaKasha: IU real estate have a lot of different options for apartments. Information is available on their website. They also have many options available through their on campus residence halls. I would advise you to look them up online.

Gilbert: What would be one solid advice you will give an incoming first year student based on your experiences at SPEA and in Bloomington?

Andrew Hyder: I just noticed it was a popular sport in Indiana.

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen H - Yes, Math Camp is for grad students! We offer a week-long intensive review/introduction to the quantitative skills that the program will demand.

Caitlyn King: According the the website, some SPEA students work part-time jobs. Is this realistic for most students with the amount of coursework required for the program?

Lauren Travis: What was your greatest challenge adjusting to SPEA?

Kristen H: Ok, great. When does that normally take place?

Justin B: Math camp question: It says required, which is fine, but I'm not going to be available that week. Is there any way to make that up?

Luke Menard: What's the best way to determine whether math camp versus "advanced" math camp is a better fit for you?

Roy Fillyaw: There are resources on our Admitted Students website regarding housing options in Bloomington. You can research those options to get an idea of the price of rent options you will have in Bloomington. You can find many different prices for apartments, but overall rent in Bloomington is reasonably priced.

Sean Hadorn: Thanks!

Roy Fillyaw: Gilbert:

Ruth Winecoff: Billy - We are in a college town, so most leases start at the start of the school year. Just start looking once you enroll. Late spring, early summer!

Sam Lovison: Ryan:

Billy Fagan: Thank you Ruth!

Sam Lovison: We typically have around 24 Service Corps students at any one time. Being involved in service corps would definitely not inhibit you in finding an internship and may even help you by giving you references and experiences.

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen H - Math camp is the week before orientation, so early August. More information will be provided in admissions letters...

Michele Sassano: Caitlyn: Yes, some SPEA students do work part time jobs. Everyone is different and some students may want to ease their way into grad school and take a job at a later time, but it is very possible!

Andrew Hyder: of all the classes or events students have attended, what have been their favorite?

Caitlyn King: Thank you Michele!

Grace: How does SPEA support student research outside of internships or classes?

Sam Lovison: Lauren:

Roy Fillyaw: As a first year student, fight the urge to be nervous or stressed about the new program. You will find many classmates you can relate to who are all in the same situation. You will all struggle and succeed together.
Ryan Clemens: Thanks for the answer, Sam! Sounds wonderful!

Sam Lovison: The challenges of grad school are varied, but for me it was adjusting to a new environment and a hectic work/study schedule. You find yourself in a classroom with people who were all the top of their classes which is a great thing but quite an adjustment

Sam Lovison: Luke:

Roy Fillyaw: Andrew:

Ruth Winecoff: Justin B - There's no way to make up the week of Math Camp. Email speaapps@indiana.edu and let us know of the conflict.

Billy Fagan: Will these minutes be posted anywhere for future reference?

Sam Lovison: As a general rule, advanced math camp requires more of a background and comfort level in math and is targeted towards our Masters of Environmental Science and Dual students

Sam Lovison: Billy:

Kristen H: Are there currently any students pursuing the MPA-MIS dual degree?

Luke Menard: Thanks a lot, Sam — really helpful

Emma W.: Where can I learn more about Service Corps? A few pages that I've found give me 404 error messages.

Kristen H: Ok, thanks, Ruth.

Sam Lovison: Yes. The transcript from this chat will be posted here - https://spea.indiana.edu/masters/visit/online-chat.html

Gilbert: Thank you Roy.

Justin B: Right, thanks Ruth.

Ruth Winecoff: Kristen H - Send us an email at speainfo@indiana.edu for more information on the MPA-MIS dual!

Billy Fagan: Awesome! Thanks, Sam

Roy Fillyaw: I am in Environmental Law this semester, and I consider it a great opportunity to study under Dr. Jim Barnes. He was there during the foundations of the EPA, and the knowledge he brings to the course regarding the formation of the laws is incredible.

Roy Fillyaw: You're welcome, Gilbert!

Sam Lovison: Emma: We've just upgraded our website. You can still access all the information if you go to spea.indiana.edu and click around. New pages aren't appearing in google just yet

Emma W.: Thank you, Sam!

Sam Lovison: Grace:

Lauren Shaman: Are there opportunities to take classes in some of the other graduate programs as electives?

Andrew Hyder: Thanks Roy, that sounds incredible.

Sam Lovison: SPEA is a professional masters program which means generally our classes are not geared toward extensive thesis-type research. Depending on your interest areas you may have the opportunity to work with faculty on a research project as part of an assistantship, but those opportunities are rare
Roy Fillyaw: Lauren:


Lauren Travis: When will students be notified about their estimated cost of attendance? Merit and need based aid

Billy Fagan: Can a MPA/MSES student move on to the Environmental Sciences PhD program?

Andrew Hyder: Do most of the staff have experience within their field? outside of the university environment?

Sam Lovison: Lauren:

Grace: Thanks, Sam. I work in a research capacity now at an academic institution in Indianapolis and am hoping to continue my Indianapolis-based study while at SPEA. I understand it is a professional program, but is there any funding for research, perhaps from IU as a whole?

Emma W.: I appreciate it, Lane.

Kristen H: Are there students currently in the program with undergraduate science majors? If so, do they tend to have a hard time adjusting to a new course of study?

Ruth Winecoff: Billy - There have been students that have transitioned into a PhD program from the Masters, but because an MPA/MSES is a professional degree, it's not expected. The focus is quite different.

Lane Bowman: Andrew, do you mean faculty?

Sam Lovison: Tuition rates are available on our website. Need based aid is all administrated outside of SPEA by the Office of Student Financial Assistance. As for Merit Aid, we distribute our offers in mid-March.

Roy Fillyaw: There are options to take courses outside of SPEA, if it relates to your degree interests. Most people do not take classes outside of SPEA, unless they are pursuing a dual degree with an outside program. If the course is not for an outside dual degree option, you would have to be approved to take those courses.

Andrew Hyder: Yes, sorry

Sam Lovison: Grace:

david michael: Ruth how is the focus different? I have the same question as Billy

Roy Fillyaw: Kristen:

Lane Bowman: For more information about tuition, you can visit IU's special calculator here: https://bursar.indiana.edu/tuition-fees/index.html

Sam Lovison: I'm not familiar with the research funding process. You would be best to take a look at IU's website and send us an email tomorrow at speainfo@indiana.edu and I can look into it further for you.

Lauren Shaman: Good to know, thank you Roy!

Ruth Winecoff: David Michael - Professional programs emphasize a different kind of training than PhD programs. We're not being trained to do academic research within the university system and peer-reviewed journal system, nor to to plan and teach classes.

Ruth Winecoff: David Michael - we do learn some of the research methods that PhD students do, but with a different emphasis, as well as a lot of material oriented to the professions.
Roy Fillyaw: There are many current students in SPEA with a Bachelor of Science. I am one of them. The transition to the MPA courses has been smooth, and I do not think I was at a disadvantage. I am also getting a MSES, and having a BS has been helpful.

Lane Bowman: Our faculty have a wide variety of experiences and expertise, both in the academic environment and the field. For more information about particular faculty members, check out our directory here: https://spea.indiana.edu/faculty-research/directory/index.html

Roy Fillyaw: You're welcome, Lauren!

Andrew Hyder: Thank you, Lane

Lane Bowman: You're welcome, Andrew.

Robin: Do most students find jobs quickly after graduation?

Emily Wall: how many students are enrolled just in the MSES program?

david michael: Ok thank you Ruth. I'll need to follow this up further. The PhD route is something I'm quite interested in.

Kristen H: Thank you, Roy. Because of your B.S., did you kinda feel obligated to do the MSES program as well or was it of personal interest?

Sam Lovison: Robin:

Roy Fillyaw: Kristen:

Lane Bowman: Emily-

Sam Lovison: We have statistics on Graduate Student employment from 2012-2013 available here https://spea.indiana.edu/doc/career/graduate-employment-2012-2013.pdf

Sam Lovison: Updated information is coming soon

Robin: Ok, thanks!

Lane Bowman: The typical MSES class is between 25-30 students. The MPA-MSES class is about the same size, maybe larger.

Ruth Winecoff: Sure, David Michael!

Andrew Hyder: Did anyone come from a social science background? And if so, what challenges did you have?

Lauren Travis: What is the average graduating class size for the program?

Sam Lovison: Lauren: to which program are you referring?

Lauren Travis: MPA program

Sam Lovison: Last year's MPA program graduated 98 candidates

Ruth Winecoff: Andrew - My bachelor's degree is in economics, and I took a good deal of political science as well. I've found a social science background to be a fantastic preparation for the MPA. A good number of MPAs are poli sci people!

Roy Fillyaw: I did not feel obligated to do the MSES program. I saw it as necessary for my interests, but some students with a B.S. choose not to. I am interested in both science and policy, so the option to study both has been what I need.

Alexis Cureton: has anyone in the MPA program applied for the Washington semester program?
Sam Lovison: Alexis:

Sam Lovison: The Washington Leadership Program is for SPEA Undergraduate students, not graduate students

Andrew Hyder: Oh good! Thanks Ruth!

Alexis Cureton: thank you!

Kristen H: Great insight! Thanks, Roy.

Roy Fillyaw: You're welcome, Kristen!

Alexis Cureton: any sociology majors in the MPA program currently?

Sam Lovison: Alexis:

James B: What is the veteran community like at IUB?

Andrew Hyder: Thanks Alexis, I was just going to ask that.

Sam Lovison: I imagine there are but unfortunately we don't keep close tabs on that kind of thing!

Roy Fillyaw: James:

Grace: Thank you so much!

Alexis Cureton: what was your biggest challenge coming into your first semester of graduate studies?

Kristen H: What advice do you wish you were given prior to starting the grad programs at SPEA?

Sam Lovison: Alexis: The challenges of grad school are varied, but for me it was adjusting to a new environment and a hectic work/study schedule. You find yourself in a classroom with people who were all the top of their classes which is a great thing but quite an adjustment

Sam Lovison: Kristen:

Alexis Cureton: good question. Kristen

Kristen H: Thanks, Alexis.

Roy Fillyaw: There are several veterans within SPEA, and there are organizations for SPEA graduate students and IUB students in general who are veterans.

Sam Lovison: I wish I had spent a little more time brushing up on my math and quantitative skills, as the Econ, Stats and Finance courses in the first Semester of the MPA were quite challenging for me. But all in all, just be open to learning new things, and be ready to change your mind about concentrations, why you're here and who you are!

Alexis Cureton: did anyone take advantage of the math camp?

James B: Thank you Roy.

Alexis Cureton: since you mentioned brushing up on your math skill set

TaKasha Smith: Very good advice, Sam. Math has never been my strong suit... I'll start working on that LOL

Ruth Winecoff: I did! In fact, Roy and I made friends in Math Camp. He was my first SPEA friend. It was also a great preparation for the rigors that were ahead.

Sam Lovison: Alexis: I went to math camp. It was a great way to meet class members before orientation began and made Econ and stats a little less scary
Lauren Shaman: Does math camp cost extra, or is the cost included in tuition?

Kristen H: That was going to be my next question, lol. I see that the math skills are being constantly brought up, are there are any other background subjects and skills we should refresh??

Alexis Cureton: I will definitely be taking advantage of that if I'm ever so fortunate 😊

Alexis Cureton: thank you

Sam Lovison: Lauren:

Sam Lovison: More information about math camp will be distributed in the Summer! We are still working on the details

Sam Lovison: Kristen:

Sam Beres: I apologize if this question has already been touched on, but it seems like it is possible, and perhaps even encouraged, to take two concentrations. Do most students take advantage of that possibility? (assuming it is possible).

Lauren Shaman: Okay, thanks!

Sam Lovison: Keep in touch with current events and slowly work yourself back into a study state of mind. It's hard to pick any one thing to brush up on and whatever skills you need to learn you'll have plenty of opportunity to work hard on mastering them once you're here!

Andrew Hyder: Are there any students who are focusing on city management? What has been the most useful course you have taken so far?

Ruth Winecoff: Sam - most people take two concentrations. With few exceptions, it's quite possible to overlap courses in order to complete two. I'm not sure I know of anyone only doing one.

Sam Beres: Ok, thats terrific. I was wondering how it was possible since it looks like the core is 18 credits and each concentration is 18. I imagine that it is not overly difficult to overlap 2 courses then.

Sam Lovison: Andrew: My focus is on city and local government management. Policy analysis classes like program evaluation, management classes like strategic planning, and some of the urban studies and management of urban problems and solutions courses have been extremely helpful. No matter what your interest, there is a way to tailor your coursework and in-class projects to your specific interest. it is all what you make it

Sam Beres: to get to 48 credits

Ruth Winecoff: Sam - Yes, quite a few courses count for more than one concentration and may be double-counted

Sam Beres: Great, thanks

Kristen H: For the Southerners, how well did you adjust to the drastic change in weather? It may not be academic, but you certainly can't overlook the snow on your way to class.!

Kerri Metz: Do you think students would be at a disadvantage if they don't attend math camp?

Sam Lovison: Kristen:

Alexis Cureton: how do you find time to breath? With speaking with miss Law, a SPEA graduate. She spoke about the program be extensive and calling for students to be engaging. Did you guys ever feel overwhelmed?

Alexis Cureton: *being

Sam Lovison: I'm from Australia, so you don't need to tell me about being a southerner! Bloomington is used to dealing with snow, so its usually not too big a deal. Unfortunately there isn't much SPEA can do about the weather, but we all adjust to the cold eventually!Andrew Hyder: That sounds incredible, thanks Sam.
Roy Fillyaw: Alexis:

Ruth Winecoff: Kerri - it all depends on your background, your comfort level, and what you intend to study here! Before it's time to register, we provide some materials that will help you gauge whether Math Camp is a good choice for you.

Ryan Clemens: I understand that there are certain pre-requisite courses one must have before entering the MSES/MPA programs. What are they again? And would those topics be touched upon in Math Camp or should I plan on having those taken care of before enrolling?

Kristen H: Ooh wayyy down under! Thanks, Sam.

Lane Bowman: Ryan-

Roy Fillyaw: SPEA coursework is demanding and the amount of free time is minimal. I think all graduate students feel overwhelmed from time to time. That being said, the information and work load we have while in SPEA will prepare us to be successful in our various careers.

Ryan Clemens: That is if I don't have them taken care of already!

Alexis Cureton: thank you

Lane Bowman: They are calculus and chemistry with a lab. These are not covered in Math Camp. As they are prereqs., they are required before beginning the MSES portion of the program.

Sean Hadorn: How are you all coping with the series finale of Parks and Recreation?

Kerri Metz: For someone interested in environmental policy, how easy do you think it will be to take on two concentrations? Is there a way to semi-specialize in climate change or energy?

James B: Someone mentioned earlier about networking opportunities through SPEA. Can anyone talk a little more about networking opportunities outside of the local Bloomington area? Is this through conference presentations and participation at things like GSA and ACS conferences? What other avenues of networking are used?

Sam Lovison: Joanna: How do you make a specialized concentration? In what circumstances what you do it and is it popular to do?

Roy Fillyaw: Kerri:

Ryan Clemens: Lane, that is great to know! Thanks!

Lane Bowman: We’re really excited--we were all cast as extras!!

Sam Lovison: Our Career Development Office organizes Career Networking and Exploration trips each year to Denver, Chicago, D.C and Indianapolis to meet with SPEA employers, alumni and recent graduates. There are many opportunities to engage with conferences throught the various Student professional organizations and with IU being so large, there is always something going on

Sean Hadorn: That's awesome.

Lane Bowman: And yes, I'm just kidding.

Sean Hadorn: awwwwwwwww

TaKasha Smith: Bahahaha!

Sam Lovison: Joanna

Sam Lovison: Joanna
James B: Thank you Sam.

Roy Fillyaw: Two concentrations are definitely manageable. EPNRM and Energy would be a pairing of concentrations that would probably benefit someone with those interests.

Sam Lovison: A specialized concentration is worked out in conference with an academic advisor generally at the end of your first semester. It's not particularly popular, but students generally look for it when they can't quite find what they're looking for in our diverse range of concentrations. I know some people have created concentrations around International NGO Management and Human Rights Policy among others.

Kristen H: What is SPEA looking for incoming students to bring to the program? Not like school supplies, but in terms of personal contributions, ideas, insight, etc.

Sam Lovison: Kristen:

Joanna: Great feedback. Thanks Sam

Sam Lovison: What we are really looking for is people who are willing to learn, open minded and driven to succeed and serve. We come from diverse motivations and backgrounds, so the best thing you can do is be open minded and ready to meet new people and put yourself out there.

Kristen H: Awesome! Thanks, Sam.

Alexis Cureton: how have students paid for SPEA outside of assistance-ships and scholarships

Lauren Shaman: How well connected do the students stay during out-of-class time?

Sam Lovison: Alexis: the ways people pay for grad school are widespread. Personal savings, student loans, it all varies based on the person, their personal situation and work experience.

Alexis Cureton: thank you

Lauren Travis: Do you have any international themed housing?

Ruth Winecoff: Lauren - We spend a lot of time together outside of class. There are tons of organized events, like graduate student association tailgates, etc. We’re also all at SPEA working and studying together, and do lots of hanging out informally and socially outside the school.

Billy Fagan: For the current students, what are your current career aspirations? Are they still maturing, or do you have a specific goal?

Roy Fillyaw: Billy:

Lauren Shaman: Great to know, thanks Ruth!

Emma W.: Do masters students at SPEA have offices?

Sam Lovison: Lauren: I’m not aware of any but check out visitbloomington.com to see of any international themed housing!

Kristen H: If a student isn’t a strong writer, are there resources to help similar to things like Math Camp?

Ruth Winecoff: Emma W. - For the most part, no. Some of us who work in administrative offices have an area in an office pool, but an office is not granted - there are about 350-400 of us at any given time.

Sam Lovison: Kristen:

Ryan Clemens: This may have already been touched upon, but how long in advance would you recommend someone to move to Bloomington before classes begin in the Fall?
Emma W.: That is a lot. Thank you, Ruth.

Ruth Winecoff: Emma W. - we do have opportunities to register for study carrels and quiet space through the libraries!

Sam Lovison: There are multiple opportunities on campus to improve your writing skills. Nothing specifically provided by us here at SPEA. For university writing services, check out this link http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/

Roy Fillyaw: I have not decided a specific career that I would like to pursue. There are many options within the public, private, and nonprofit sector where I could see myself working. The fluidity between the sectors allows most SPEA students to be open to many different types of jobs after graduation.

Kristen H: Thanks, Sam.

Emma W.: Good to know.

Ruth Winecoff: Ryan - it's really up to you. The week before classes begin is a required orientation week. The week before that is Math Camp. Bloomington is really great in the summer, and if you arrive early, there are ways for you to meet current students or others who've also moved in early!

Kristen H: Thank you for all of the information and insight. I appreciate you hosting this and entertaining our questions! Very informative and insightful.

Roy Fillyaw: You're welcome, Kristen!

david michael: Yes thank you all!

Emma W.: Thank you all for your time. I've learned a lot tonight!

Ryan Clemens: Thank you Ruth, that is definitely something I will consider then!

James B: Thank you all very much for the information today.

Andrew Hyder: Thank you! I have enjoyed reading all the questions and appreciate everyone answering mine.

Sam Lovison: Thank you all! Good luck and please don't hesitate to email us at speainfo@indiana.edu for further questions.

Ruth Winecoff: Have a great evening! Thanks for your questions!

Billy Fagan: Thank you for your time!

Sean Hadorn: Thanks all!

Sam Lovison: Check out our brand new website at spea.indiana.edu to find further information!

Lauren Shaman: Thank you for hosting!

Song: Thank you for sharing all these with us! Have a great evening!

Roy Fillyaw: I look forward to meeting any of you who will be with us for Experience Day or here in the fall!

Lauren Travis: Thank you!

Ryan Clemens: I really appreciate all of the insight you all have offered - very informative session!

TaKasha Smith: Thank you!

Alexis Cureton: thank you for the advice everyone!

Vanessa Snyder: Thank you for your time and patience answering questions!
Vanessa Snyder: Goodnight!

rick 2: Thank you