

POLICY DESIGN SUMMER STUDIO



PROGRAM

S Syracuse University
Maxwell School of
Citizenship & Public Affairs
Center for Policy Design & Governance
Maxwell X Lab

DAY 1 | SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

Welcome

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM EDT

This session will introduce the instructors and the goals and objectives of the policy design summer studio.

Session 1: Policy Design Under Political, Economic, and Organizational Constraints

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM EDT

This session will cover key political, economic, and environmental factors that influence the process of policy formulation and policy content.

Break

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM EDT

Session 2: Policy Design in Dynamic, Complex, and Uncertain Conditions

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM EDT

This session will focus on opportunities and challenges associated with designing policies that can be modified and adapted to changing environments. It will cover mechanisms that can embed within policy formulation processes and policy content to make them more adaptive.

Break

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM EDT

POLICY DESIGN SUMMER STUDIO



PROGRAM

S Syracuse University
Maxwell School of
Citizenship & Public Affairs
Center for Policy Design & Governance
Maxwell X Lab

Session 3: Behavioral Science for Policymaking

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM EDT

This session will provide an overview of principles of behavioral science and their use in policy design. Topics covered include biases, heuristics, prospect theory, frames, nudges, and assessment. These ideas are explored through examples in research literature as well as projects managed by the Maxwell School's X Lab.

Break

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM EDT

Optional: Conducting Policy Research in a Rapidly Changing World

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EDT

This session is designed to generate a discussion on research frontiers in the policy design space. The project leads will discuss gaps in the literature from their perspective and welcome dialogue on potential research areas and methods to advance scholarship on policy design.

POLICY DESIGN SUMMER STUDIO



PROGRAM

S Syracuse University
Maxwell School of
Citizenship & Public Affairs
Center for Policy Design & Governance
Maxwell X Lab

DAY 2 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

Session 4: Collaborative Policy Design

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM EDT

This session will cover fundamentals of collaborative policymaking as one governance tool that policymakers can utilize in policy design.

Break

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM EDT

Session 5: Use and Evaluation of AI for Policy Design

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM EDT

This session will cover opportunities and challenges regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for policy design. It will discuss the use of generative AI in policy construction and assessment to aid in understanding the kinds of tools and techniques being used.

Conclusion

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM EDT

This session reviews the major ideas discussed during the Policy Design Summer Studio and includes a Q&A session from participants.

Optional: Teaching Policy Design in a Rapidly Changing World

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM EDT

This final session discusses how to translate topics covered during the Studio into learning opportunities for students at the undergraduate and graduate level. One can expand all of the sessions into quarter- or semester-long classes.