The Graduate Policy Scholar Program is a yearlong learning experience that builds a community of policy interested graduate students at Washington University in St. Louis. Scholars-in-Training have the opportunity to supplement their coursework in diverse fields of study with skill-building and networking experiences designed to introduce them to policy scholarship and practice. The “passport to policy” helps scholars map out their own journey, and upon completion of the program requirements, participants are inducted as Graduate Policy Scholars, joining a larger network of policy-minded professionals.

By participating in the program, Scholars-in-Training will:

- Deepen their understanding of social change through policy
- Build knowledge of government processes and how to influence policymaking
- Consider proposed and existing policies through an equity lens
- Develop advocacy and engagement skills
- Engage with policymakers, civic leaders, and change agents
- Cultivate relationships with other scholars and program alum

Candidates must be Washington University students enrolled in a graduate degree program, and demonstrate an interest in: social or public policy, research, community organizing and/or advocacy; and a commitment to understanding and addressing disparities, inequity and oppression.

"I was given the privilege of meeting government and elected officials in private settings so we could have honest conversations with them and talk to them about our concerns directly. I learned a vast amount outside of the classroom during my first year of graduate school, and this program is a part of that learning experience."

Hidaia Salem, BSN, MPH ’19, Graduate Policy Scholar ’18