

# A NEW ERA OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS EDUCATION AND TRAINING





The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston has experienced remarkable growth and transformation. As the school continues elevating its national rankings and reputation, the next critical step is constructing a new building. This state-of-the-art facility will reflect the school's innovative approach to training the next generation of leaders and cultivating a thriving community. This document outlines the school's progress and milestones.



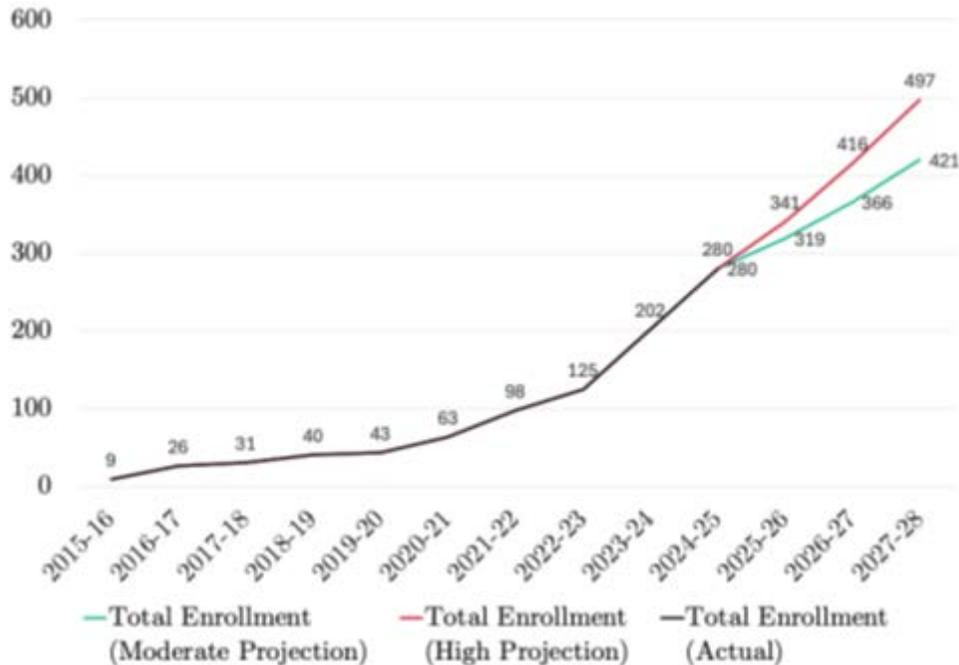
## Enrollment Growth

The Hobby School introduced bachelor’s programs in public policy in the spring of 2022 and a minor in public leadership in the fall of 2022 to complement its graduate degree offerings. The school has experienced a steady increase in graduate program applications and overall student enrollment, highlighting the growing recognition and impact of the school’s curriculum and training.

**Table 1. Total Number of Hobby School Students as of October 18, 2024**

Category	Item	Number of students
Spring 2025 Admitted Graduate Students (so far)	A	16
Fall 2025 Admitted Graduate Students (so far)	B	5
MPP Students (Including 4+1 Students)	C	59
MPP Students (Excluding 4+1 Students)	D	52
MPA Students	E	33
Graduate Cert Students	F	9
4+1 Public Policy/MPP Student	G	3
4+1 Non Public Polic/MPP Students	H	4
BA/BS Students (including Double Major and 4+1)	I	163
Public Policy Minors	J	15
<b>Sub-Total (as of Oct. 18, 2024)</b>		
All Grad Students (MPA and MPP, including GC and 4+1)	D+E+F+G+H	101
All Public Policy Majors (including Double Major and 4+1)	I	163
All Public Policy Minors	J	15
<b>Total (as of Oct. 18, 2024)</b>		
<b>All Hobby School (BA, BS, Minor, 4+1, MPA, MPP)</b>	<b>D+E+F+H+I+J</b>	<b>276</b>

### Enrollment Projections



## Hobby School’s Undergraduate Internship Programs

### Student Enrollment in the Next Generation Leadership Academy and the Certified Public Manager Program, 2020-2024

In keeping with its mission of preparing students for careers in public service, the Hobby School of Public Affairs conducts five programs targeting undergraduates as well as a professional certification program. Open to all majors and to public sector professionals, the number of these students is not necessarily captured through traditional enrollment numbers. Nevertheless, these students are a vital component of the Hobby School. The following information provides an overview of the annual total of students participating in these programs — a number now exceeding well more than 100 students per year.

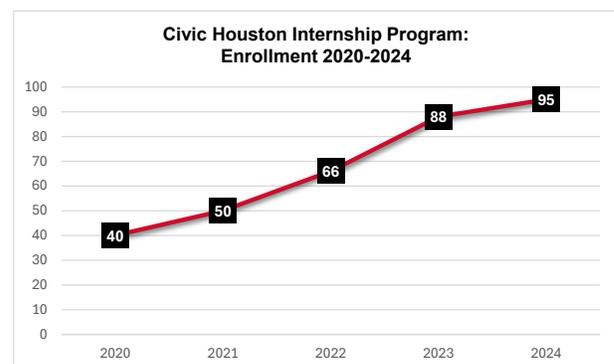
In 2020, 76 students participated in the Civic Houston Internship Program, Leland Fellows and the Certified Public Manager Program. With the addition of new initiatives and increased enrollment in others, the Hobby School has demonstrated steady growth in its student programs. For example, the number of students participating in undergraduate internships, the Next Generation Leadership Academy and the Certified Public Manager Program saw an **increase of 126%** when comparing 76 students in 2020 to 172 students in 2024.

#### Hobby School Undergraduate & Professional Certification Programs: Enrollment 2020-2024

Year	Civic Houston Internship Program	Hobby Fellows	Leland Fellows	Harris Fellows	Certified Public Manager	Next Generation Leadership Academy	Annual Total
2020	40		11		25		76
2021	50	8		6	21		85
2022	66		8	6	20	9	109
2023	88	11		6	25	8	138
2024	95		12	7	47	11	172

Notes: Hobby Fellows is conducted in odd-numbered years only (state legislative session years).  
Leland Fellows is conducted during even-numbered years only.  
Harris Fellows began in 2021.  
The Next Generation Leadership Academy was launched in 2022.

**Civic Houston Internship Program:** From 2020 to 2024, the number of undergraduates participating in the Civic Houston Internship Program during the fall and spring semesters grew from 40 to 95, which is an **increase of 138%**. Students represent numerous majors, who are enrolled in POLC or POLS 4390/4398.





**Hobby Fellows:** The Hobby Fellows program is conducted in Austin during legislative session years only (odd-numbered years). The number of students participating in spring 2023 shows an **increase of 38%** over 2021. Each Hobby Fellows student (of any major) is enrolled in 3-12 4000-level internship course hours in public policy or political science. Note: The growth in the number of students participating in the full-time Hobby Fellows program is limited by the funding available for student stipends.

**Hobby Fellows: Enrollment 2021 & 2023**

Semester/Year	Students
Spring 2021	8
Spring 2023	11

**Leland Fellows:** The Leland Fellows program is conducted in Washington, DC during the spring semester in even-numbered years only. The 2024 cohort of 12 students is a slight **increase of 9%** when compared to the number of students in 2020. Each Leland Fellow (of any major) is enrolled in 3-12 4000-level internship course hours in public policy or political science. Note: The growth of the number of students participating in the full-time Leland Fellows program is limited by the funding available for student stipends.

**Leland Fellows: Enrollment 2020-2022-2024**

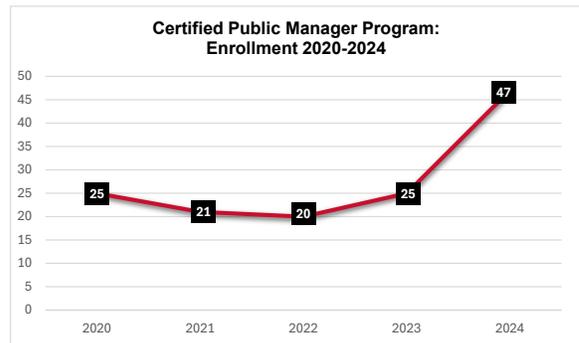
Semester/Year	Students
Spring 2020	11
Spring 2022	8
Spring 2024	12

**Harris Fellows:** Harris Fellows are placed in Harris County government offices during the summer. Harris Fellows was launched in 2021 with 6 students while 7 students were in the 2024 cohort, which is a comparative **increase of 17%**. Each Harris Fellow (of any major) is enrolled in 3-12 4000-level internship course hours in public policy or political science. Note: The growth of the number of students participating in the full-time Harris Fellows program is limited by the funding available for student stipends.

**Harris Fellows: Enrollment 2021-2024**

Semester/Year	Students
Summer 2021	6
Summer 2022	6
Summer 2023	6
Summer 2024	7

**Certified Public Manager Program:** Students in the Certified Public Manager Program participate in a non-credit bearing professional management certification program during a 14-month period. Twenty-five students comprised the 2020 cohort, while the 2024 cohort includes 47 students, which is a comparative **increase of 88%**.



The Next Generation Leadership Academy was launched in fall 2021 with 9 students. The 2023 cohort includes 11 students, an **increase of 22%** since the inaugural year. Next Generation students must declare a major in public policy or a minor in public leadership. Note: The growth of the number of students participating in the Next Generation Leadership Academy is limited by the funding available for student stipends.

### Next Generation Leadership Academy: Enrollment 2022-2024

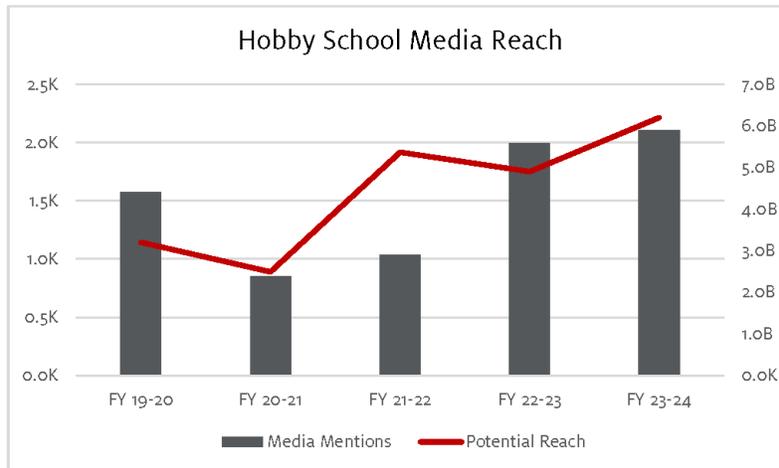
Semester/Year	Students
2021	9
2022	8
2023	11

## Hobby School in the News

Hobby School faculty members and researchers are sought-after experts in their fields. They contribute to conversations on the most pressing topics of the day that affect public policy and address Texans’ opinions on issues of importance to the state and nation. With diverse disciplinary backgrounds, they provide a range of perspectives and expert commentary inside and outside the classroom, whether the focus is on the economy, energy, natural disasters, state trends, political participation or other relevant public policy matters.



Hobby School experts have been cited in many prominent regional and national media outlets, including the Houston Chronicle, Houston Public Media, The Dallas Morning News, Texas Tribune, Texas Standard, AXIOS, Bloomberg News, The New York Times, The Hill and The Wall Street Journal.

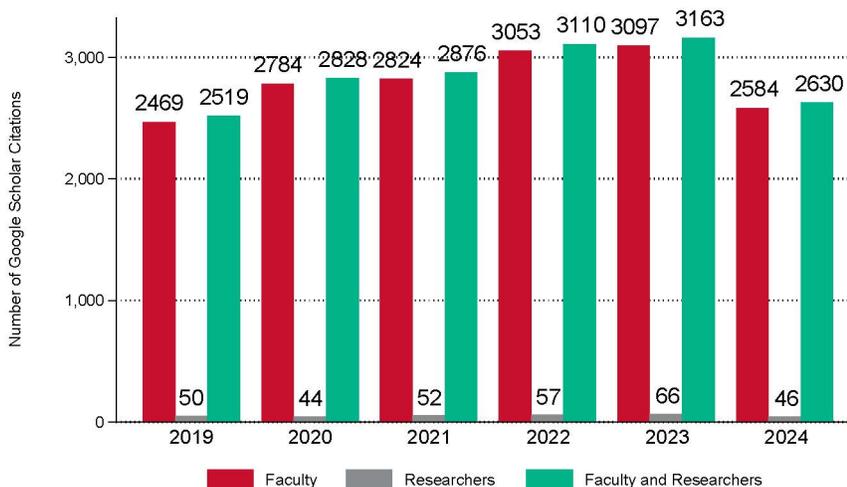


From 2020 to 2024, the Hobby School’s media reach increased 146%, from 855 media citations to 2,104. From 2021 to 2024, the Hobby School’s potential media reach increased by 15%, from 5.37 B to 6.2 B. Potential reach estimates the viewership of news articles based on the number of unique monthly visitors to the source.

## Founded in Research

The Hobby School was established in 2016, building on the extensive educational and research programs of the Center for Public Policy, which was founded at the University of Houston in 1981. The school's centers focus on policy-relevant and collaborative research and issues across a variety of disciplines. As one of its primary endeavors, Hobby School research contributes to an academic landscape while informing the public and policymakers on critical topics such as the impact of natural disasters, infrastructure, energy transition and sustainability, voter opinions and candidates and issues.

Hobby School Scholar Citations, 2019-2024



Note: Number of citations obtained from Google Scholar and the total was calculated by the Hobby School