This course provides an orientation to the use of data for decision-making in the public sector. The emphasis in the course is how to use data in context – when organizations require the analysis of sophisticated data in order to achieve goals or priorities. Topics in the class include:
1. Data use and decision making in the public sector;
2. Legal and ethical framework for data use in the public sector;
3. Use of data sciences in evaluation, planning, and performance reporting;
4. Visualization techniques in public policy analysis;
5. Geographic analysis; and
6. Statistical tools to improve the use of data in decision-making.

This course is an introduction for students interested in big data and public affairs, and focuses on data science methods in the public sector. This teaches both an understanding of the technical and methodological challenges of working with government data, but also the ethical and legal restrictions government places on data utilization.

PA 4040: Public Sector Data Sciences and Management (Class ID: 32703)

John Glenn College of Public Affairs
Spring Semester
(M/W – 2:20-3:40)
Instructor: Josh Hawley, Associate Professor
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