Colleen Heflin is Full Professor in the Public Administration and International Affairs Department in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. She is a sociologist who studies social policy, food and nutrition policy, and economic well-being, with a special emphasis on food insecurity. Her work traces the role that public programs play in the lives of vulnerable populations in supporting (or creating barriers to) economic stability and self-sufficiency. She is a Senior Research Associate in the Center for Policy Research, and an affiliate at the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion, and the Center for Aging and Policy Studies at Syracuse University.

Heflin graduated with honors from the University of Michigan with a BA in Social Sciences, received her Master's in Public Policy from the University of Michigan, and her PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 2002. She is a research affiliate at the University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty and the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research.