Public Policy Administration MPPA, Local Government Management Emphasis

Admissions Requirements
Applicants must meet the following program admission requirements in addition to the general requirements of the Graduate School.

By the time of enrollment, prospective students must have obtained a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent from an accredited college or university. A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required to be considered for regular admission. This GPA is higher than the minimum for the Graduate School. An undergraduate GPA below 3.0 will be considered on an individual basis for restricted admission. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in college algebra or the equivalent. Graduate coursework also will be taken into consideration.

Applicants must obtain three letters of recommendation. The letters should be from those who are familiar with your professional and/or academic skills. At least one of the letters must be from a current or former college-level instructor. Written letters of recommendation must accompany the downloadable recommendation forms from the Graduate School. These materials should be sent by the letter writer directly to the MPPA program.

Applicants are required to submit a 2-3 page personal statement to demonstrate competence in writing. The statement should explain how the MPPA program fits in with the applicant’s educational and professional goals. This personal statement should be sent directly to the MPPA program; the statement of purpose in the web-based admission application is not sufficient.

Applicants must submit official transcripts to the graduate admissions office documenting the baccalaureate degree and all other prior college and graduate-level coursework completed.

Degree Requirements
The MPPA degree consists of 40 credit hours, 28 of which are taken as part of the core curriculum and 12 that are electives. Students who complete the degree must demonstrate the following:

- Design, research, write, and defend analyses of substantive public policy problems and/or potential solutions
- Use data and sophisticated analytic tools (qualitative and quantitative) to conduct research in public policy and administration
- Understand the policy and internal/external environments of public and nonprofit organizations
- Develop expertise in a substantive area of public policy administration

Curriculum
All candidates for the MPPA degree must complete 28 hours in the core curriculum sequence composed of the following public policy administration courses:

Policy Analysis and Economics
P P ADM 6000 Introduction to Policy Analysis 3

Public Administration and Budgeting
P P ADM 6400 Proseminar in Public Administration 3
P P ADM 6600 Managing People in Organizations 3
P P ADM 6180 Governmental Budgeting and Financial Control 3

Statistics, Research Methods, and Information Technology
P P ADM 6010 Introduction to Policy Research 3
P P ADM 6750 Introduction to Evaluation Research Methods 3
P P ADM 6850 Information Technology and the Public and Nonprofit Sectors 1

Total Hours 28

A thesis is not required to complete the program. However, writing is an important component of the degree, and students will complete written analyses as part of their coursework and/or internship.

P P ADM 6000 should be taken at the beginning of the program. It is strongly recommended that P P ADM 6101 and P P ADM 6080 be taken early in a student’s course plan. P P ADM 6900 is a capstone course and must be taken toward the end of the program.

Students may select one of four emphasis areas in which to concentrate their advanced studies:

1. Managing Human Resources and Organizations,
2. Policy Research and Analysis,
3. Local Government Management,

Students may also select an individualized emphasis area in consultation with their advisor and with approval of the Director.

Prior to the completion of 15 hours in the MPPA program, students should identify an emphasis area. In each of the emphasis areas students may be able to substitute another course for a specified elective, with the MPPA Director’s approval. Specific requirements for each emphasis area are as follows:

Internships
An internship is required for students without substantial experience in the public or nonprofit sectors. Interns may be placed in planning agencies, city managers’ offices, administrative departments, or nonprofit agencies. Credit is granted after successful completion of the internship and a written paper at the end of the semester.

MPPA students currently employed in public agencies or nonprofit organizations can receive 3 hours of credit for internships with their employer. To do so, students must develop, in consultation with the internship coordinator, special research projects outside the scope of their regular employment duties.

Students who have significant relevant experience in the public or nonprofit sector may request the internship requirement be waived. To request a waiver, students must submit a written request outlining the student’s professional or managerial field experience with appropriate
documentation. Any request for a waiver from the internship requirement must be approved by the program director. Students who receive a waiver must take an additional 3 hours of electives in lieu of the internship.

**Emphasis Area Requirements**

### Required

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6340</td>
<td>Seminar in City Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or P P ADM 6350</td>
<td>Issues in Urban Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6470</td>
<td>Proseminar in Urban Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or P P ADM 6471</td>
<td>Seminar In Urban Politics</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Electives

Select three of the following: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6600</td>
<td>Managing People in Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6300</td>
<td>Leadership and Management in Nonprofit Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6340</td>
<td>Seminar in City Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6350</td>
<td>Issues in Urban Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6470</td>
<td>Proseminar in Urban Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6471</td>
<td>Seminar In Urban Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6510</td>
<td>Urban and Regional Planning and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6800</td>
<td>Management Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P P ADM 6950</td>
<td>Internship (in assignment relevant to emphasis area)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 4160</td>
<td>Geospatial Analysis in the Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
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**Total Hours** 15

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1 For Local Government Management specialization, a course not taken to fulfill the “required six hours” may be taken as an elective.