PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MPA

Banner Code: PP-MPA-PUAD

Academic Advising

560 Van Metre Hall
Mason Square Campus

336 Aquia Building
Fairfax Campus

Website: schar.gmu.edu

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is designed for people who hold or aspire to hold leadership positions in organizations that participate in the development and implementation of public policy. The mission of the MPA program is to give graduate students the opportunity to build their knowledge of politics, public policy and management and to enhance their analytic, problem solving, and communication skills.

MPA students at Mason have the research and cultural resources of the Washington, D.C. area at their disposal. Government agencies representing all levels in the U.S. federal system are located close to the campus, as are the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution. Another benefit is the wide range of internship opportunities available in governmental and nonprofit organizations. The MPA Program regularly has internship invitations from national, state, and local government organizations, as well as from nonprofit organizations whose principal work is at the local, state, national, or international levels. Many of these internships are paid positions.

MPA courses are held at the Fairfax and the Arlington campuses during the week and on the weekend in an accelerated format.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Requirements

See Graduate Admission Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/) for general information on graduate admission to George Mason University. Specific information on application requirements and deadlines may be found with Schar Admissions (http://schar.gmu.edu/admissions/).

Completed applications for fall and spring semesters are reviewed on a rolling basis, with late applications considered on a space-available basis. Students may be admitted for nondegree study and apply a limited number of credits toward the master's degree should they choose to apply to the degree program later, in accordance with university and school policy.

Policies

Termination from Program

Students admitted to a Schar program will be terminated from Schar upon receiving one grade of F and are no longer eligible to take courses in Schar. Per university regulation, students are terminated from the university after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades in graduate courses. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see Graduate Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/).

Program Requirements

The MPA curriculum is arranged in a sequential manner. PUAD 500-level courses are foundation courses, 600-level courses are intermediate courses, and the 700-level courses are advanced courses. Students must take PUAD 500-level, or foundation courses, during the first two semesters, followed by 600-level classes. The PUAD 700-level courses should be taken during the last semester or two of enrollment in the MPA program.

For example, a full-time student should enroll in PUAD 502 Administration in Public and Nonprofit Organizations and two other 500-level courses, such as POGO 511 Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government and PUAD 520 Organization Theory and Management Behavior, during the first semester. In the second semester the student should enroll in PUAD 540 Public Policy Process and two intermediate courses such as PUAD 662 National Budgeting and a 600-level elective course.

Part-time students taking two courses a semester should take PUAD 502 Administration in Public and Nonprofit Organizations and either POGO 511 Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government or PUAD 520 Organization Theory and Management Behavior during the first semester, followed by either POGO 511 Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government or PUAD 520 Organization Theory and Management Behavior and PUAD 540 Public Policy Process in the second semester.

Requests for taking a course out of sequence must be made in writing to the student's advisor and must be approved by the advisor before enrollment.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 36-39

The required courses emphasize the development of knowledge about public policy and management, as well as analytical problem-solving and communication skills, and third-party governance. Through these courses, students develop a shared knowledge base and skill set. The elective courses can be used by students to focus their knowledge and skill development within one concentration. Alternatively, the electives can be used to extend the breadth of study with courses drawn from a variety of concentrations or from other departments and schools across the university.

Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
POGO 511	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government	3
PUAD 502	Administration in Public and Nonprofit Organizations	3
PUAD 520	Organization Theory and Management Behavior	3

PUAD 540	Public Policy Process	3
PUAD 700	Ethics and Public Administration	3
PUAD 703	Collaborative Public Management	3
Total Credits		18

Additional Methods Course

Code	Title	Credits
Select one course from the following:		3
GOVT 500	The Scientific Method and Research Design	
POGO 611	Advanced Data Analysis for Policy and Government	
POGO 646	Policy and Program Evaluation	
Total Credits		3

Accounting, Budgeting, and Financial Management

Code	Title	Credits
Select one course from the following:		3
PUAD 660	Public and Nonprofit Accounting and Finance	
PUAD 662	National Budgeting	
PUAD 663	State and Local Budgeting	
PUAD 664	Nonprofit Financial Management	
Total Credits		3

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select four electives [1]		12
Total Credits		12

[1]

Students may take their electives within one of the concentrations which follow. As an alternative, with the approval of their advisor, students may select their electives from several concentrations or fields. Students not pursuing a concentration may select electives from Schar course offerings.

Concentrations

Students may declare only one concentration. POGO 796 Directed Readings and Research may be applied to a concentration where content is appropriate and with prior written approval of the student's advisor. Other courses may also be applied to a concentration with prior written approval of the advisor.

Concentrations

- Concentration in Administration of Justice (ADJ)
- Concentration in Emergency Management and Homeland Security (EMHS)
- Concentration in Environmental Science and Public Policy (EVPP)
- Concentration in Human Resources Management (HRM)
- Concentration in International Management (IM)
- Concentration in Nonprofit Management (NPMG)
- Concentration in Policy Studies (PS)
- Concentration in Public Management (PMG)
- Concentration in Public and Nonprofit Finance (PNF)
- Concentration in State and Local Government (SLG)
- Concentration in Managing Across Sectors (MAS)

Concentration in Administration of Justice (ADJ)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses from the following:		12
CONF 501	Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution	
CRIM 509	Justice Organizations and Processes	
CRIM 510	Policing	
CRIM 740	Justice Organizations	
CRIM 741	Street Level Criminal Justice	
CRIM 781	Justice Program Evaluation	
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
PUAD 730	Professional Development Workshop	
PUAD 781	Information Management: Technology and Policy	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in Emergency Management and Homeland Security (EMHS)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses from the following:		12
BIOD 723	Legal Dimensions of Homeland Security	
COMM 637	Risk Communication	
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
PUAD 630	Emergency Planning and Preparedness	
PUAD 631	Disaster Response Operations and Recovery	
PUAD 632	Terrorism: Theory and Practice	
PUAD 633	Hazard Mitigation Policy	
PUAD 634	Management of International Security	
PUAD 635	Emergency Preparedness: Interagency Communication and Coordination	
PUAD 637	Managing Homeland Security	
PUAD 727	Seminar in Risk Assessment and Decision Making	
PUAD 731	Homeland/Transportation Security Administration	
PUAD 738	Issues in International Security	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
PUBP 742	Transportation Safety and Security	
PUBP 754	Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for Public Policy	

PUBP 758	Global Threats and Medical Policies	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in Environmental Science and Public Policy (EVPP)

CONF 695 Selected Topics and COMM 590 Seminar in Communication when topic is the environment, may be used to fulfill this requirement with the prior written approval of the student's advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
PUAD 642	Environmental Policy	3
Select three courses from the following:		9
COMM 590	Seminar in Communication	
CONF 695	Selected Topics	
EVPP 524	Introduction to Environmental and Resource Economics	
EVPP 607	Fundamentals of Ecology	
EVPP 638	Corporate Environmental Management and Policy	
EVPP 641	Environmental Science and Public Policy	
EVPP 670	Environmental Law	
GCP 701	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy	
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
POGO 646	Policy and Program Evaluation [1]	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
PUAD 645	Policy Analysis	
PUAD 649	Advocacy and Lobbying	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
Total Credits		12

[1]

If not already taken to meet core requirements.

Concentration in Human Resources Management (HRM)

Code	Title	Credits
PUAD 670	Human Resources Management in the Public Sector	3
Select three courses from the following:		9
PUAD 623	Managing Government Contracting	
PUAD 652	Leading in the Nonprofit Sector	
PUAD 671	Public Employee Labor Relations	
PUAD 672	Human Resources Reforms for Public Administration	
PUAD 729	Issues in Public Management	
PUAD 730	Professional Development Workshop	
PSYC 631	Industrial and Personnel Testing and Evaluation	
PSYC 636	Survey of Industrial-Organizational Psychology	
PSYC 638	Training: Psychological Contributions to Theory, Design, and Evaluation	
PSYC 639	Survey of Organizational Processes	
PSYC 667	Behavior in Small Groups and Teams	

Code	Title	Credits
PSYC 739	Seminar in Industrial/Organizational Psychology	
ODKM 605	Group Dynamics and Team Learning	3
ODKM 715	Creating Learning Organizations	
ODKM 731	Consulting Skills for Organizational Change	
ODKM 735	Organizational Development Practices	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
MBA 713	Managing Human Capital	
Total Credits		15

Concentration in International Management (IM)

Code	Title	Credits
PUAD 504	Managing in the International Arena: Theory and Practice	3
Select three courses from the following:		9
CONF courses (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/conf/) [1]		
GCP courses (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/gcp/) [1]		
PUAD 634	Management of International Security	
PUAD 636	The NGO: Policy and Management	
PUAD 730	Professional Development Workshop	
PUAD 738	Issues in International Security	
PUAD 739	Issues in International Management	
GOVT 540	International Relations	
GOVT 631	Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
GCP 701	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
Total Credits		12

[1]

With written prior approval of the director.

Concentration in Nonprofit Management (NPMG)

Students in the nonprofit concentration may take PUAD 505 Introduction to Management of Nonprofits as one of their first four courses and may take PUAD 505 Introduction to Management of Nonprofits simultaneously with PUAD 502 Administration in Public and Nonprofit Organizations. Likewise, students in the international concentration may take PUAD 504 Managing in the International Arena: Theory and Practice as one of their first four courses.

Code	Title	Credits
PUAD 505	Introduction to Management of Nonprofits	3

PUAD 659	Nonprofit Law, Governance, and Ethics	3
Select two courses from the following:		6
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
PUAD 636	The NGO: Policy and Management	
PUAD 649	Advocacy and Lobbying	
PUAD 652	Leading in the Nonprofit Sector	
PUAD 654	The Community, Marketing, and Public Relations	
PUAD 655	Nonprofit Fund Raising and Resource Development	
PUAD 657	Association Management	
PUAD 658	Social Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise	
PUAD 660	Public and Nonprofit Accounting and Finance	
PUAD 664	Nonprofit Financial Management	
PUAD 680	Public Technology Management	
PUAD 720	Performance Measurement	
PUAD 730	Professional Development Workshop	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in Policy Studies (PS)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses from the following:		12
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
GOVT 520	Political Theory	
GOVT 605	Seminar on the Presidency	
PUAD 615	Administrative Law	
PUAD 622	Program Planning and Implementation	
PUAD 645	Policy Analysis	
PUAD 649	Advocacy and Lobbying	
PUAD 658	Social Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise	
PUAD 661	Public Budgeting Systems	
PUAD 662	National Budgeting	
PUAD 663	State and Local Budgeting	
PUAD 680	Public Technology Management	
PUAD 727	Seminar in Risk Assessment and Decision Making	
PUAD 730	Professional Development Workshop	
PUAD 749	Issues in Public Policy	
PUAD 781	Information Management: Technology and Policy	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
POGO 646	Policy and Program Evaluation	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	

POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in Public Management (PMG)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses from the following:		12
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
PUAD 615	Administrative Law	
PUAD 622	Program Planning and Implementation	
PUAD 623	Managing Government Contracting	
PUAD 658	Social Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise	
PUAD 660	Public and Nonprofit Accounting and Finance	
PUAD 661	Public Budgeting Systems	
PUAD 662	National Budgeting	
PUAD 663	State and Local Budgeting	
PUAD 664	Nonprofit Financial Management	
PUAD 670	Human Resources Management in the Public Sector	
PUAD 672	Human Resources Reforms for Public Administration	
PUAD 679	Leadership Skills for the 21st Century	
PUAD 680	Public Technology Management	
PUAD 720	Performance Measurement	
PUAD 729	Issues in Public Management	
PUAD 730	Professional Development Workshop	
PUAD 731	Homeland/Transportation Security Administration	
PUAD 781	Information Management: Technology and Policy	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
POGO 646	Policy and Program Evaluation	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in Public and Nonprofit Finance (PNF)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses from the following:		12
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
PUAD 658	Social Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise	
PUAD 660	Public and Nonprofit Accounting and Finance	
PUAD 661	Public Budgeting Systems	
PUAD 662	National Budgeting	
PUAD 663	State and Local Budgeting	
PUAD 664	Nonprofit Financial Management	
PUAD 729	Issues in Public Management	
PUAD 730	Professional Development Workshop	
PUAD 769	Issues in Public Financial Management	

PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in State and Local Government (SLG)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses from the following:		12
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
PUAD 505	Introduction to Management of Nonprofits	
PUAD 615	Administrative Law	
PUAD 623	Managing Government Contracting	
PUAD 630	Emergency Planning and Preparedness	
PUAD 651	Virginia Politics, Policy, and Administration	
PUAD 660	Public and Nonprofit Accounting and Finance	
PUAD 661	Public Budgeting Systems	
PUAD 662	National Budgeting	
PUAD 663	State and Local Budgeting	
PUAD 680	Public Technology Management	
PUAD 729	Issues in Public Management	
PUAD 730	Professional Development Workshop	
PUAD 759	Issues in Local Government Administration	
PUAD 781	Information Management: Technology and Policy	
PUAD 679	Leadership Skills for the 21st Century	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in Managing Across Sectors (MAS)

Code	Title	Credits
Select four courses from the following:		12
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
PUAD 613	Economic Analysis in Public Administration	
PUAD 622	Program Planning and Implementation	
PUAD 623	Managing Government Contracting	
PUAD 635	Emergency Preparedness: Interagency Communication and Coordination	
PUAD 636	The NGO: Policy and Management	
PUAD 658	Social Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise	
PUAD 659	Nonprofit Law, Governance, and Ethics	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 794	Internship	

POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
Total Credits		12

Professional Experience Requirement

Certification that the student has experience in public administration outside the classroom and is ready to take leadership responsibilities must be exhibited by one of two ways:

- relevant professional experience, approved by the program director
- completion of PUAD 792 Advanced Seminar in Applied Public Administration Research

Code	Title	Credits
PUAD 792	Advanced Seminar in Applied Public Administration Research	3
Total Credits		3

Accelerated Master's

Bachelor's Degree (any)/Public Administration, Accelerated MPA

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates in any major may apply to the accelerated master's degree in public administration. If accepted, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in their current undergraduate major and a Schar School master's degree within a reduced timeframe. See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7).

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/).

Admission

Please see the Graduate Admissions Policies for general information on graduate admissions to George Mason University. Information specific to the accelerated master's program may be found on the Schar School BAM website.

To be considered for this accelerated master's program, applicants must have completed a minimum of 60 credits, including 12 GOVT credits, and have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in all coursework applied to the degree.

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students may complete up to eighteen graduate credits of which twelve may be counted toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees. Remaining credits may be held as reserve graduate credit and count only toward the master's degree. The courses include PUAD 502 Administration in Public and Nonprofit Organizations, POGO 511 Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government, PUAD 520 Organization Theory and Management Behavior and PUAD 540 Public Policy Process. Additionally, students can take one of the methods core courses (PUAD 613 Economic Analysis in Public Administration, PUAD 645 Policy Analysis, POGO 611 Advanced Data Analysis for Policy and Government or POGO 646 Policy and Program Evaluation) and one of the finance/budgeting/accounting core courses (PUAD 660 Public and Nonprofit Accounting and Finance, PUAD 662 National Budgeting,

PUAD 663 State and Local Budgeting or PUAD 664 Nonprofit Financial Management). Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in these courses and in coursework applied to their major.

Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, students must submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form to apply credits to the master's degree. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree (excluding summer).