

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES

The School of Business and Public Administration offers a master's degree in Public Administration. The Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree is an interdisciplinary program that provides students with a high caliber professional education in public administration and prepares aspirants for careers in public service at the territorial, regional, federal, and international levels. This professional degree, while flexible enough to apply in the private sector, gives graduates a competitive advantage in the pursuit of specific careers in government agencies, nonprofit, or philanthropic institutions. The program offers valuable opportunities for individuals to enhance and improve critical public administration skills, learn new concepts and theories of public administration and management, and explore the most current and relevant techniques regarding the implementation of policies, projects, and programs within the organization and in society. The University of Guam's Master of Public Administration is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) through Aug. 31, 2029.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following will serve as the seven domains of the MPA Core Competencies. These domains relate to mission, public service values and functions as the basis for the program's curriculum. Upon completing the requirements of the MPA degree, students will demonstrate the following abilities:

1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of leading and managing in public governance;
2. Demonstrate an ability to relevantly apply a real-world understanding, participate in, and contribute to the policy process;

3. Demonstrate a practical competency to analyze, synthesize, think critically, quantitatively/ qualitatively reason, solve problems and make decisions;
4. Demonstrate an advanced proficiency to articulate and apply a public service perspective grounded in professional, ethical and socially responsible behavior;
5. Demonstrate a dynamic ability to be innovative, to communicate, and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry;
6. Demonstrate an advanced proficiency in utilizing technology toward the betterment and advancement of the profession; and
7. Demonstrate a comprehensive mindset that fosters an advanced understanding and appreciation of territorial, regional, federal, and international environments, with consideration of indigenous and global impact perspectives, and their relation to Public Administration.

PUBLIC SERVICE VALUES

The following public service values are fundamental ideals and principles of the MPA program that are shared by its faculty, students, and stakeholders alike. The program's mission, governance, and curriculum are structured to uphold the following public service values, which distinguishes this program from other degree programs:

1. **Professionals Committed to Accountability, Transparency, and Ethics:** Our mission will be met by competent professionals, committed to pursuing the public interest with accountability, transparency, and the highest standard of ethical consideration.
2. **Public Servants Worthy of Public Trust:** As Public Servants, with every thought, word, and deed, we must strive every day, and at every instance, to prove ourselves worthy of the public's trust. We must be humble and consider ourselves privileged to be charged with the welfare of others.

3. **Keepers of Respect, Equity, and Fairness Rooted in the Principles of Democracy:**

The Principles of Democracy must be at the heart of everything we do. We must also always strive to demonstrate respect, equity, and fairness in dealing with all people and fellow public servants. Further, it should be our pledge to be guided by Constitutional principles of the United States, the Organic Act of Guam, and be exemplars of law-abiding citizens in our respective roles within public service.

ADMISSION

In order to apply for admission to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program, applicant packets must include:

1. Satisfaction of Graduate Admission Standards, according to the current UOG Graduate Bulletin;
2. Earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university (a prospective candidate for the MPA program may hold a bachelor's degree in any field. It is not necessary that the bachelor's degree be in public administration.);
3. Official transcripts of all undergraduate work;
4. An overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4-point scale) in the last two years (62hrs.)
5. Completion of Common Professional Component (CPC) – Based Comprehensive Exam for Master's Degree Programs in Public Administration (administration can be requested through the SBPA Dean's Office);
6. Two letters of recommendation;
7. Resume;
8. Statement of intent. The statement of intent should include, at the least, why the prospective candidate is choosing to pursue an MPA degree, what the applicant intends to do with the degree, and other pertinent information;
9. After completion of Steps 1-8, applicants must schedule an interview with MPA Chair;
10. Essay/Writing Sample (to be administered on the spot during the interview with MPA Program Chair).

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Any courses which are seven years old or more must be retaken unless, permission is granted by the MPA Admissions and Appeals Committee.
- Any courses in which a student receives a C+ or below must be retaken, unless permission is granted by the MPA Admissions and Appeals Committee.
- Students may not receive more than one grade of a C+ or below. A second grade of a C+ or below, regardless of GPA, will result in automatic academic suspension. A review of the student by the MPA Admissions and Appeals Committee will commence. Upon review, the student may serve a suspension or be dismissed from the program.
- Students who receive a grade of an F will result in automatic academic suspension. A review of the student by the MPA Admissions and Appeals Committee will commence. Upon review, the student may serve a suspension or be dismissed from the program.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (36 CREDIT HOURS)

Core Courses (21 credit hours)

Students must complete all seven core courses to satisfy the core requirements:

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
PA501	APPLIED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA510	ADMINISTRATIVE THOUGHT	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
PA525	PUBLIC BUDGETING	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
PA530	PUBLIC PERSONNEL, DISCIPLINARY, AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
PA535	INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
PA540	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
PA560	LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ORGANIZATIONS	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS

Elective Courses (9-12 credit hours)

Students may choose any of the following courses to satisfy the elective requirements:

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
PA545A	PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA545B	PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA545C	COMPARATIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA545D	PUBLIC PLANNING	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA545E	PUBLIC CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA570A	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION - POLICY	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA570B	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION-CURRENT RELEVANT ISSUES	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA570C	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION - EMPLOYMENT LAW	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA570D	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
-	ORGANIZATIONS		
PA570E	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION - SYSTEMS	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

Required of all pre-service students:

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
PA598	INTERNSHIP: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

May be taken multiple times only with the expressed written consent of the MPA Chair:

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
PA590	SPECIAL PROJECTS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	3	FALL ONLY/ FALL ONLY

Capstone Experience (3–6 credit hours)

Students must choose one of the following two courses to satisfy the capstone experience requirement:

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
PA692	PRACTICUM	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
PA695	THESIS	6	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

Either PA-692 Practicum or PA-695 Thesis could serve as a capstone experience. The MPA Qualifying Exam will be distributed as part of the capstone experience and may only be taken in the student's graduating semester. Instructor's consent is required for admittance into a Capstone course.

FACULTY

PROGRAM CHAIR

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