Public Administration (Nonprofit Administration), MPA

As an aspiring leader, you will value the real-world experience gained through this concentration of the MPA, which is consistently ranked a top 20 program by U.S. News & World Report. Focusing on nonprofit management, you will be prepared to redefine how policy shapes the nonprofit sector.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPA Public Administration (Nonprofit Administration)
The MPA is a transdisciplinary, professional degree program designed to prepare students for public service, public management and policy analysis at the local, state and national levels of government.

The concentration in nonprofit administration is intended for professionals who work in or desire to work in the nonprofit sector and who wish to explore research, theory and the practice of management and leadership in the nonprofit sector.

At a Glance

- College/School: Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- Location: Downtown Phoenix campus

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

Public Service and Public Policy, BS
Public Service and Public Policy (American Indian Studies), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Business), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Criminology), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Emergency Management and Homeland Security), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Health Policy), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Law and Policy), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Parks and Recreation Management), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Science and Technology Policy), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Social Services Delivery), BS
Public Service and Public Policy (Sustainability), BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

42 credit hours including the required capstone course (PAF 509)

Required Core (21 credit hours)
PAF 501 Public Service Research I (3)
PAF 502 Public Service Research II (3)
PAF 503 Public Affairs (3)
PAF 504 Microeconomics of Public Policy I (3)
PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis (3)
PAF 506 Public Budgeting and Finance (3)
PAF 508 Organization Behavior (3)

Concentration (12 credit hours)
NLM 510 The Nonprofit Sector (3)
NLM 520 Financial and Resource Management (3)
NLM 540 Strategic Human Resources Management (3)
other approved course (3)

Electives or Research (6 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved electives as well as the list of courses that may fulfill the concentration requirement. Approved elective credit hours may include courses offered by the school or other academic units in the university.
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution in a related field. Related fields include social science disciplines, although the department may accept applicants with degrees from all educational backgrounds provided the minimum requirements for the degree program are met.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. verbal, quantitative and analytical scores on the GRE (institution code: 4007) or GMAT scores
4. three letters of recommendation
5. written statement
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. Additional requirements for international students are available at https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency.

At least two of the three letters of recommendation should be from faculty or other academic staff who can evaluate the applicant's academic performance.

The written statement should be one to two pages in length and describe the applicant's educational and career goals. This statement is also used as a sample of the applicant's writing abilities.

Applicants may also submit a resume or other documents.

Fees increase after the deadline.

Applicants should contact the School of Public Affairs at 602/496-0450 or email spa@asu.edu if they have questions about the application process.

Career Opportunities
Graduates are prepared to pursue a career in a field related to public administration or public policy. This may include opportunities as either a manager or policy analyst in local, state or federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private organizations whose work interfaces with public sector.

Contact Information

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