Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPA Public 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 Master of Public Administration degree program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration and is ranked highly nationally by U.S. News & World Report.

Students may elect to specialize in one of the four approved Master of Public Administration concentrations: urban management, nonprofit administration, emergency management or public finance.

The urban management concentration provides knowledge and skills for students seeking careers in local urban government management and enables students to develop the skills and techniques used by city and urban leaders and managers.

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.

The concentration in emergency management prepares graduates for a challenging career as a professional emergency manager. This program allows students to focus on concerns related to emergency management within the larger field of public administration.

The concentration in public finance provides knowledge and skills for students seeking or advancing careers in areas in which financial management plays an integral role in governance. This concentration emphasizes theories and research concerning urban economics and public finance, managing money in the public sector, public budgeting and finance, and capital budgeting and financing.

In addition, the school offers concurrent programs in planning, sustainability, criminology and criminal justice, and social work. For admission and program requirements, students should see https://spa.asu.edu/content/concurrent-degrees.
At a Glance

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

Concurrent Degrees

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

- American Indian Studies (Tribal Leadership and Governance), MS
- Criminology and Criminal Justice, MS
- Social Work - Standard Program, MSW
- Sustainability Solutions, MSUS
- Urban and Environmental Planning, MUEP

Accelerated Degrees

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 (Nonprofit Leadership and Management), 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 will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements
42 credit hours including the required capstone course (PAF 509 or PAF 579)

**Required Core (24 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 507 Public Human Resource Management (3)
- PAF 508 Organization Behavior (3)

**Electives or Research (15 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**
- PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone (3) or
- PAF 579 Public Policy Capstone (3)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved electives. Approved elective credit hours may include courses offered by the school or other academic units in the university.

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**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 degrees, 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 of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of 3.00 cumulative GPA (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 (regardless of current residency) must submit proof of English proficiency. Additional requirements for international students are available at https://students.asu.edu/graduate/proficiency.

At least two of the three letters of recommendation should be from faculty members or other academic staff who can evaluate 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 also may submit a resume or other documents.

Fees increase after the deadline.

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

Application Deadlines

Fall
Spring

Contact Information

School of Public Affairs | UCENT 400
spa@asu.edu | 602-496-0450