Public Administration (Emergency Management), MPA

Consistently ranked a top 20 program by U.S. News & World Report, this completely online program provides the real-world experience emergency managers need to meet today's challenges. You will be prepared to reinvent how policy shapes community resilience and disaster management.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPA Public Administration (Emergency Management)
The MPA program with a concentration in emergency management provides students with the skills and knowledge to manage and assume positions of leadership within the field of emergency management.

An all-hazards and all-threats orientation provides the student with a generalist perspective, which is critically important for the disaster managers of today and tomorrow. In addition, this program examines community resilience from a systems perspective, embracing government, private, nonprofit and civic roles. The program provides an understanding of how community members respond to the need to prepare for, endure and recover from disasters and provides the ability to utilize multiple communication methods to help community members before, during and after these emergencies.

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 (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 are advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Degree Requirements**

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

**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)

**Required Concentration (9 credit hours)**

- PAF 520 Public Management (3)
- PAF 552 Integrated Emergency Management (3)
- PAF 555 Information Technology in Emergency Management (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.

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 political science, criminology, planning, business, urban and metropolitan studies, and other social science fields. Although most students for the graduate concentration would likely come from the aforementioned degree fields, the department may accept applicants with undergraduate 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. GRE scores
4. statement of career and educational goals
5. three letters of recommendation (two of which should be academic recommendations)
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.

The following entry-level competencies are needed for admission the program: Students should have an undergraduate social statistics course such as PAF 301 Applied Statistics and undergraduate coursework in American national government such as POS 310 American National Government. Students may also satisfy the American national government competency by taking the College-Level Examination Program in American Government and receiving a passing score.

GRE verbal, quantitative and analytical scores are used as one of the indicators to see how competitive an applicant is within the applicant pool.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.
Career Opportunities

Graduates are prepared to pursue a career in a field related to public administration or public policy. This may include opportunities as a manager or policy analyst in local, state or federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; and private organizations that interface with the public sector.

Contact Information

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