Public Administration (Urban Management), MPA

Consistently ranked a top 20 program by U.S. News & World Report, this program prepares you to be an agile results-driven leader serving the public good through real-world experience in urban management. It also prepares you to rethink and reimagine how policy shapes city managerial decisions.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPA Public Administration (Urban Management)
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 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.

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 (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)

Concentration (12 credit hours)
PAF 523 The City and County Manager (3)
PAF 525 Public Entrepreneurship (3)
PAF 530 Management of Urban Government (3)
PAF 534 Urban Services Infrastructure (3)

Elective (3 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 in a related field from a regionally accredited institution. Related fields include political science, planning, business, urban and metropolitan studies, as well as other 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 located 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 also may submit a resume or other documents.

Students should contact the School of Public Affairs at 602-496-0450 or email spa@asu.edu with any 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 a manager or policy analyst in local, state or federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; and private organizations that interface with the public sector.

Contact Information

School of Public Affairs | UCENT 400
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