Do you aspire to influence public policy analysis? You can align your degree with your goals, through electives or by choosing a focused concentration, preparing you to make policy decisions using analytics. This degree program is currently ranked No. 9 by U.S. News & World Report.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPP Public Policy

The MPP program allows students to approach the study of public policy with a focus on public policy in the urban setting. The master's degree program in public policy prepares students for professional careers as policy analysts and leaders in public service involved in the formulation, approval, implementation and evaluation of public policy at all levels of government and in the private and nonprofit sectors. The program can also serve as a platform for preparation for doctoral studies in public policy, public administration, urban studies and other related programs. Students learn analytical techniques and conceptual frameworks for understanding policy issues and identifying potential solutions, and about applying these skills to real-world issues --- especially to the needs of cities in the region. Students also gain an understanding of policies addressing issues such as poverty, education, the environment and public safety.

The program trains people to lead by making positive policy decisions, addressing the difficult questions associated with public policy and managing the process of policy creation, approval, implementation and evaluation. At the conclusion of the master's degree program, students will be able to identify, analyze and interpret the challenges and dilemmas of public policies, especially those of urban areas. Students will also be able to approach policy analysis with a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods and be prepared to develop innovative processes and tools to deal with changing realities of public policy and address issues on a global, regional and local scale.

At a Glance
Concurrent Program Options

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

- Criminology and Criminal Justice, MS
- Sustainability Solutions, MSUS
- Urban and Environmental Planning, MUEP

Degree Requirements

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

Required Core (27 credit hours)
- PAF 501 Public Service Research I (3)
- PAF 502 Public Service Research II (3)
- PAF 504 Microeconomics of Public Policy I (3)
- PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis (3)
- PAF 540 Advanced Policy Analysis (3)
- PAF 541 Program Evaluation (3)
- PAF 570 Microeconomics of Public Policy II (3)
- PAF 573 Applied Econometrics (3)
- PAF 574 Diversity, Ethics and Leading Public Change (3)

Electives (12 credit hours)

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

Additional Curriculum Information

Students enrolling in core Master of Public Policy courses must demonstrate minimum competency in statistics and American national government. Courses taken to fulfill competencies do not count toward the 42 credit hour degree program. Completion of prerequisite courses is not a requirement for admission but must be completed within one semester after starting the program.

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 any related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 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 of all undergraduate and graduate coursework
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 also submit proof of English proficiency. Additional requirements for international students are available at https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate-apply.

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

The one to two page written statement should state the applicant's educational and career goals and will also be used as a sample of the applicant's writing abilities.

Applicants may also submit a resume or other documents.

Fees increase after deadline.

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

Contact Information