Public Policy, MPP

Learn to understand complex public problems and develop and implement innovative policy solutions. Through coursework and real-world projects, you can gain the analytic skills required to address society's most challenging problems.

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 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. Students also gain an understanding of policies addressing issues such as poverty, education, the environment and public safety. At the conclusion of the master's degree program, students are able to identify, analyze and interpret the challenges and dilemmas of public policies, especially those of urban areas. Students also are able to approach policy analysis with a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods and are 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

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

Concurrent Program Options

Students can choose to create their own concurrent degree combination to match their interests by working with their academic advisor during or after their first semester of study. Some concurrent
combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum; students should speak with their academic advisor for more details.

This degree is also offered as a concurrent program with an integrated major map with the following:

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

**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:

- Political Science, BA
- Political Science, BS
- Public Service and Public Policy, 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 (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)
Electives (12 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
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 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 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 must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. 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 it also is 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.

**Career Opportunities**

Graduates of this degree program are prepared 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. This may include opportunities as either a manager or policy analyst in local, state, or federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; and private organizations that interface with public 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.

**Contact Information**

[School of Public Affairs](mailto:spa@asu.edu) | UCENT 400
spa@asu.edu | 602-496-0450