Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPP Public Policy (Policy Informatics)

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 capable of leading 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.

The Master of Public Policy program with a concentration in policy informatics provides the knowledge and skills for students who seek careers that will require them to use informatics tools, models and simulations to help individuals and groups deliberate and evaluate policy decisions and explore new governance infrastructures. This concentration emphasizes theories and research concerning decision-making, complexity theory and visualization of quantitative and qualitative information, collective intelligence, behavioral economics and persuasive technologies.
The concentration combines mastery of advanced methods for processing information with domain expertise that will help humans understand complex social phenomena and achieve goals within public and governance applications. The program's design responds to the need for professionals with domain knowledge who can take a problem-driven, system-level, user-oriented perspective in developing and applying informatics systems to address societal and governance needs.

At a Glance

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

Degree Requirements

42 credit hours including the required capstone course (PAF 509/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 573 Applied Econometrics (3)
- PAF 574 Diversity, Ethics and Leading Public Change (3)

**Concentration (9 credit hours)**
- PAF 591 Topic: Complexity in Public Policy and Management (3)
- PAF 591 Topic: e-Public Administration (3)
- PAF 591 Topic: Introduction to Policy Informatics (3)

**Restricted Electives (3 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.

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.

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 undergraduate 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 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
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 provide proof of English proficiency. Additional requirements for international students are at https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate-apply.

At least two of the three letters of recommendation should be from faculty 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 may also submit a resume or other documents.

Application fees increase after deadline; students should see https://admission.asu.edu/graduate/apply.

Students should contact the School of Public Affairs at 602-496-0450 or email spa@asu.edu with any questions about the application process.

Contact Information

School of Public Affairs | UCENT 400
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