Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPP Public Policy (Urban 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 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 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 urban policy provides knowledge and skills for students seeking or advancing careers in areas in which urban dynamics and local governance play an integral role in the policy process. This concentration's program emphasizes theories and research concerning urban policy analysis and economics as well as urban management, urban city government, public budgeting and finance in an urban context.

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

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

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)

Concentration (6 credit hours)
- PAF 506 Public Budgeting and Finance (3)
- PAF 544 Urban Policy (3)

Electives or Research (6 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
- PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students choose two courses from ESS 510, PAF 534, PAF 571, PUP 525 or an internship as approved by the academic unit for the electives or research credits. Internship must be 584 course number.
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants 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 social science disciplines, although the department may accept applicants with undergraduate degrees from all educational backgrounds provided they meet the minimum requirements for the degree program.

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. three letters of recommendation
4. GRE scores
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.

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 and describe the applicant's educational and career goals.

The following entry-level competencies are needed for admission to the program: 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 receiving a passing exam score in American Government through the College-Level Examination Program.

Students can complete deficiency classes prior to admission to the program or within their first semester after admission. Courses taken to satisfy entry-level competencies cannot be used toward the completion of the Master of Public Policy degree.
Contact Information

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