Preparing Committed Leaders for Public Service

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

Career Opportunities
The mission of the MPA graduate program is career preparation and development for policy & decision-making, managerial, and administrative positions in the public and nonprofit sectors. The program is especially responsive to regional government and nonprofit sector needs, preparing graduates for state and local managerial and public service leadership. MPA graduates go on to management and leadership roles in:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Professional associations
- Local government
- State government
- Federal government
- Legislative services
- Colleges and universities
- Consulting firms
- Healthcare facilities
- Public Action Committees
- Public interest groups
- Private Industry

Department of Public Policy & Administration Faculty and Staff
- R. Steven Daniels, Ph.D.  Professor, Department Chair and Undergraduate Advisor
- Chandra Commuri, Ph.D.  Professor, Minor Advisor
- Thomas Martinez, Ph.D.  Professor, MPA Advisor
- B.J. Moore, Ph.D.  Assistant Professor, MSA-HCM Advisor
- Jinping Sun, Ph.D.  Associate Professor, Internship Coordinator
- Sonia Morentin  Administrative Coordinator
- Cindy Zuniga-Prado  M.P.A. Student Records Information/Advisor
- Maria Wright  M.A. Education Administration, Advising Center Coordinator
Master of Public Administration (MPA)

Degree Requirements

The MPA degree program requires 40 units of approved coursework and 5 units of a master’s paper. Students must complete an additional 20 credit hours of foundation courses in Public Administration and must satisfy an internship requirement.

Students may take these foundation courses as an undergraduate fast-track minor or as an incoming graduate student. Students may also substitute prior coursework at CSUB or other universities as approved by the MPA advisor or the PPA faculty.

MPA Foundation Courses (20 units)
(may be taken as an undergraduate)
1. PPA 401
2. PPA 491
3. PPA 492
4. PPA 493

MPA Core Requirements (25 units)
1. PPA 610
2. PPA 611
3. PPA 671
4. PPA 680
5. PPA 691

MPA Electives (15 units)
Students in the MPA program must complete three additional approved 400- or 600-level courses offered by the Department of Public Policy and Administration.
Electives presented by other departments may be taken upon approval of a petition to the MPA Graduate Coordinator. Graduate students may take 300 or 400-level courses if augmented to reflect graduate credit.

Master’s Paper (PPA 698; 5 units)
Candidates for the MPA degree must complete a culminating activity to demonstrate competency acquired in the graduate program. This includes mastery of knowledge in the discipline and in the ability to use theory and method in the preparation of an applied research project.
Research for the master’s paper that involves data from or about human subjects are required to be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research (IRB/HSR).

Internship (1-5 units)
Graduate students who do not have two years of supervisory experience in the public or nonprofit sector will be required to take a public or nonprofit sector internship. See the Internship Coordinator for more information.

Specialization in Nonprofit Management
Students interested in pursuing a career in nonprofit management may complete a specialization of at least three elective courses and an internship at the graduate level.
Complete the following:
• PPA 519
• PPA 696
And at least two of the following courses:
• PPA 520
• PPA 545
• PPA 550
• PPA 685
• Or other electives as approved by the Program Coordinator.

Specialization in Health Care Management
Students interested in pursuing a career in health care management may complete an MPA specialization of at least three courses and an internship at the graduate level.
Complete three of the following courses:
• PPA 494
• PPA 505
• PPA 685
• PPA 689
And at least one of the following courses:
• ANTH 465*
• PPA 419*
• PPA 515
• PPA 536
• PPA 573
• Or other courses as approved by the graduate program coordinator.
* Must be augmented for graduate credit.

Certificate in Nonprofit Management (Graduate Level)
Students who desire to begin post-baccalaureate study in nonprofit management may apply for a certificate.
Complete the following:
• PPA 519
• PPA 696
And at least two of the following:
• PPA 520
• PPA 545
• PPA 550
• PPA 685