

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

(MPA)

2005-2007 Catalog

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) and Master of Science in Administration Health Care Management (MSA-HCM) offer broad programs appropriate for the individual aspiring to management positions in the public, private nonprofit, and volunteer sectors, or to the rapidly growing private, public, and nonprofit health services field. The programs are designed to develop or enhance expertise in administration, supervision, and practice. The National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) accredits the MPA program.

California State University, Bakersfield offers a Master of Public Administration degree for individuals who wish to enter a management career in the public, human services or non-profit sectors, as well as those in mid-career who wish to enhance their professional knowledge and skills. This degree program is accredited with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

GENERAL INFORMATION

In pursuit of academic excellence and diversity, high quality student experiences, and community engagement, this graduate program prepares individuals aspiring to managerial and administrative position in the public and nonprofit sectors and is geared to career preparation, enrichment, and advancement.

GRADUATE PROGRAM ADMISSION

To be eligible for admission to the program, a student must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and must show promise of academic success at the graduate level. Standards for determining promise of academic success include:

1. possession of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university;
2. a grade point average of not less than 3.00 in all undergraduate course work;
3. the quality of previous educational and professional experiences measured by:
 - a) biographical and career data (resumes, examples of reports, letters of recommendation, etc.)

b) professional training in fields such as budgeting, management, and supervision in the public, health, and/or non-profit sectors.

4. For applicants whose preparatory education is principally in a language other than English, a TOEFL score of 550 or higher (or 213 on the new conversation scale for the computer-based TOEFL exam).

APPLICATION and ADMISSION

Admission to either of the programs is a two-step process. Interested students must first apply to the University. To receive application materials, prospective students should contact:

Office of Admission and Records
California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099

Students may also apply online at the following website: www.csumentor.edu.

Students must indicate on their CSU Application for Graduate Admission that they are interested in the MPA program (Code 21021) or the MSA in Health Care Management (Code 12021). Admission to the University does not constitute admission to the MPA or MSA-HCM programs. Once admitted to the University, the Program Coordinator will contact the student. If contact is not made soon after receiving notification of being admitted to the University, the student should immediately contact the Program Coordinator. The Programs accept applications continuously for each quarter.

All application materials, including transcripts, must be received by August 1st for the Fall quarter; November 1st for the Winter quarter and March 1st for the Spring quarter.

GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS

The normal credit hour requirement is at least 60 units of approved coursework and five (5) units of a culminating activity. However, with completion of the undergraduate fast-track minor in public administration (20 units) or substitution of prior coursework, a minimum of 45 units of approved coursework and culminating activity at CSUB are required for the MPA and MSA degree programs.

All graduate and post-baccalaureate credential students must meet the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR). If the student earned his/her baccalaureate from CSUB or any CSU campus in the last two decades, then the student will have already met the GWAR requirement. All other

students must fulfill the GVAR through an approved course or passing the writing exam.

Master of Public Administration

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MPA Graduate Core (45 quarter units)

- PPA 500 Survey of Public Administration*
- PPA 501 Analytical Methods in Administration
- PPA 502 Program Evaluation
- PPA 503 The Public Policy-Making Process
- PPA 610 Public Human Resources Administration and Labor Relations
- PPA 611 Finance and Budgeting
- PPA 671 Graduate Survey of Public Policy and Administration
- PPA 680 Public Management and Organizational Change
- PPA 691 Policy Analysis

MPA Electives (15 approved quarter hours)

Students in the MPA program must complete three additional approved courses at the 500- or 600-level, 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 400-level courses if augmented to reflect graduate credit.

Students with no experience in the public or nonprofit sector are required to take an internship or similar experience. The internship program is designed to give the student the opportunity to gain experience in a public or nonprofit sector setting while completing work on their degree. Significant work experience in the public or nonprofit sector may substitute for the internship. Contact the Internship Coordinator for further information.

Culminating Activity (5 credit hours)

PPA 698 Masters Project. Candidates for the MPA degree must complete a culminating activity in accordance with Title V of the California Administrative Code. The purpose of this activity is 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 thesis or project that involves data from/about human subjects may be required to be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research (IRB/HSR).

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