

Department of Public Policy and Administration

School of Business and Public Administration

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Values, Mission, and Goal

Public Service Values

Accountability (Ethical and democratic values)

Effectiveness (Professional value)

Honesty (Ethical value)

Lawfulness (Democratic value)

Social justice (Human value)

PPA Mission Statement

The Department of Public Policy and Administration at CSU Bakersfield will foster and improve critical thinking, communication, leadership, management, and ethical reasoning for present and future managers in government, nonprofit, and health care organizations within the San Joaquin Valley. The critical skills learned from this curriculum will ensure that managers in the government, nonprofit, and health care sectors exercise governance in an inclusive and socially responsible manner.

Strategic Goal

The purpose of the PPA graduate programs is to prepare competent, ethical and effective public, nonprofit, and health care managers and leaders to advance the public service.

Accreditation

National Accreditation by NASPAA

The department enjoys accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for its Master of Public Administration program. This means that the educational experience and course content you receive from us will be comparable to that offered at other NASPAA -accredited programs. Such national acknowledgment provides “an edge” for our students in both the local and national job markets.

Professional and Academic Standards

The purpose of the PPA programs is to prepare competent, ethical and effective public, nonprofit, and health care managers and leaders to advance the public service. Consistent with established university academic and professional standards, students must develop and demonstrate integrity in all activities to inspire public confidence and trust in public service. Students and applicants found by formal review of the department, to be lacking in academic integrity or in

professional ethical standards of behavior may be denied admission, placed on probation, suspension or dismissed from the programs. Such departmental actions are, of course, subject to university review and appeal.

Admission Criteria

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;
1. For all applicants, the program requires a written statement of interest, two letters of recommendation (at least one academic), a professional resume, and other relevant material about professional qualifications and experience.
2. Students with GPAs of 2.75-2.99 may be accepted on a conditional basis if the applicant has an MPA-relevant employment history. Decisions will be made by the Degree Program Director and the program will monitor the percentage of conditional admissions by semester.
5. For applicants whose preparatory education is principally in a language other than English, a minimum TOEFL score of 550 on paper, 213 on computer-based, or 79 on Internet based exam, or minimum IELTS score of 7.

Application, Admission, and Classification

Admission to 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

Students must indicate on their CSU Application for Graduate Admission that they are interested in the MPA program (Code 21021). Admission to the University does not constitute admission to the MPA program. The Program Director will contact the student after being notified that the student has applied to the program. The Programs accept applications continuously for each semester.

Classification of Graduate Students

The admission standards recognize the need for different measures to establish the standard of quality between pre-service and in-service students. Final judgment on admission will be made by the department based on a combination of several of the above eligibility factors. Students who meet all criteria can be admitted as Classified graduate students. Students who do not meet the GPA requirements can be admitted as Conditionally Classified graduate students, but will be required to sign a contract to successfully complete the MPA Foundation requirements with a grade of “B” (3.0) in each course (“B-” does not qualify).

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

Graduation Requirements

Generally, the MPA degree program consists of 33 units of approved coursework, 3 units of a culminating activity, and 3 units of an internship. The internship requirement may be satisfied by experience. Students may take the foundation courses as undergraduate electives 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. In addition, graduate students must satisfy an internship requirement. 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 35 years; completed the GMAT, CBEST, or GRE; published an academic article as first author; or completed an MS or MA in another discipline, then the student may have already met the GWAR requirement. The article or thesis must be certified by the GWAR committee. PPA 4038, The Public Policy Making Process, is certified as a GWAR course and will meet the requirement for all MPA students. The Learning Goals and Objectives for the MPA program can be found at https://bpa.csub.edu/departments/Department-of-Public-Policy-and-Administration/page/learning-goals-and-objectives_8.html.

Requirements for the Master of Public Administration

In pursuit of academic excellence and diversity, high quality student experiences, and community engagement, the mission of this 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 Course Prerequisites

- PPA 5020: PPA 4010 with a grade of B or higher;
- PPA 6980: Advance to candidacy and approval by the MPA Director;
- PPA 6990: Advance to candidacy and approval by the MPA Director;
- All PPA 6000-level courses require Classified Standing.

Requirements for the MPA Program

1. **MPA Foundation** (may be taken as an undergraduate) (6 units)
PPA 4010, 4038
2. **MPA Core Requirements** (18 units)
PPA 5000, 5020, 6100, 6110, 6520, 6530
3. **MPA Electives** (9 units)
Students in the MPA program must complete three additional approved courses at the 5000- or 6000-level in the Department of Public Policy and Administration. Electives presented by other departments may be taken

upon approval of the MPA Graduate Coordinator. Graduate students may take 3000- or 4000-level courses if augmented to reflect graduate credit.

4. **Internship** (1-3 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 MPA Program Director for more information.
5. **Master's Paper** (3 units)
PPA 6980 Master's Paper - 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 paper that involves data from human subjects must be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research (IRB/HSR). For additional details, see their website <http://www.csub.edu/grasp/ResearchCompliance/IRB/index.html>.

Requirements for Specialization in Health Care Management

Students interested in pursuing a career in health care management may take the MSHCA degree or may elect to complete Health Care Management specialization of at least three courses.

1. **Select three of the following six courses:**

HCA 5050, 5140, 5360, 6180, 6610, 6620

Or other courses as approved by the graduate program coordinator.

Requirements for Certificate in Nonprofit Management (Graduate Level)

An individual who desires to begin post-baccalaureate study in nonprofit management may apply for a certificate.

Five courses are required for the graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management:

1. PPA 5190, 5200, 5500
2. And at least two of the following:
PPA 4038, 5020, 6110, 6860, HCA 6610