

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, M.P.A.

Degree Requirements (39 Hours)

The M.P.A. degree requires 39-48 semester hours of credit, depending on the prior preparation of the student. The program curriculum can be broken down into five components.

Prerequisites

Students must possess a basic proficiency in statistics and a basic understanding of American government. Students who lack such skills/expertise are required to take prerequisite courses in one or both of these areas, preferably at the beginning of their program of study.

Core Courses

All students must take classes in organizational theory and practice, human resource management, public finance, public policy-making, public data analysis, and public ethics and accountability. Taken together, these courses give students a comprehensive overview of the major elements of public administration and public policy-making.

Electives

All students must take a set of elective courses that will further their knowledge of, and administrative competency in, a particular area. The electives must constitute a coherent set of courses. But this component of the curriculum is left flexible so that students can pursue more specialized interests in a variety of relevant fields of study.

Internship

An internship in a public organization or nonprofit agency is required of all students who lack significant administrative experience. The internship is an integral part of the curriculum, as it gives students an opportunity to experience the real world of public service.

Capstone Seminar

The capstone seminar is taken by all students, preferably during their last semester in the program. In the capstone seminar, students complete a project in which they integrate the material from other M.P.A. courses in their analyses of contemporary public problems. The M.P.A. program participates in two dual-degree programs with other academic units at the University of South Carolina, and two joint degree programs with other institutions in the state.

Information on dual degree opportunities can be found at Graduate Dual Degree Programs (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/graduate/dual-degree-programs/>).

Concentration

Students have the option of declaring a concentration in Emergency Management and Planning. Courses taken as part of the concentration count toward program elective requirements.

Emergency Management and Planning Concentration Requirements (9 Hours)

Course	Title	Credits
GEOG 530	Environmental Hazards	3
GEOG 535	Hazards Analysis and Planning	3

GEOG 563	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	3
Total Credit Hours		9

Dual Degrees

The M.P.A. program participates in three dual-degree programs with other academic units at the University of South Carolina, and two joint degree programs with other institutions in the state.

- Health Services Policy and Management/Public Administration, M.P.H./M.P.A
- Public Administration/Social Work, M.P.A./M.S.W
- Public Administration/Law, M.P.A./J.D.