

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MPA

Introduction

The Master of Public Administration degree program (MPA) is a graduate professional degree program that helps students prepare for careers in public service in the 21st Century. The program requires a total of 36 semester hours, with a minimum of 27 hours of Public Administration core courses and 9 hours of concentration courses in order to earn the Master of Public Administration Degree. There are presently five 9-hour concentrations offered in the MPA program and two concentrations (Water Resources Management & Criminal Justice Administration) offered in collaboration with other departments.

1. Community and Economic Development
2. Public Policy
3. Public Management
4. Health Administration and Policy
5. Human Resources Management

The Water Resources Management and Policy concentration which consists of 15 semester hours beyond the core courses, is offered through a collaborative agreement with the Department of Natural Sciences and the Criminal Justice Administration concentration is offered in collaboration with the Criminal Justice Program.

The goal of the MPA program is to provide quality education that helps prepare people to work in government and nonprofit management at the community, state and federal levels. The program also conducts research and renders assistance to community groups and agencies as a means of providing a vital link between the institution, the program and the community.

Education Philosophy

We believe that in order to become effective managers' students should understand the five domain competencies outlined by the National Association of Schools of Public Administration and Affairs (NASPAA). These include abilities

- to lead and manage in public governance;
- to participate in and contribute to the public policy process;
- to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions;
- to articulate and apply a public service perspective; and
- to communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.

In order to help students, achieve these competencies, the program incorporates both practice and theory.

Mission

The mission statement of Albany State University's MPA program is to:

- Provide a professional Master's level education for students aspiring to management positions in government, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.
- Provide professional assistance to the public, government, and nonprofit organizations in Southwest Georgia, Dougherty County, and

the surrounding communities through public service of the faculty and students.

- Increase the number of qualified graduates from underrepresented groups with professional public administration skills, training, and education for leadership positions.

Accreditation

The MPA degree program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs & Administration (NASPAA). Albany State University including the MPA program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Off-Campus Programs

At the present time all courses are taught in Albany, Georgia on the ASU campus.

Admission Requirements

An applicant for the Master of Public Administration degree must meet the requirements for admission to the Albany State University Graduate Programs in addition to those listed below.

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. A minimum 3.0 cumulative grade-point average (on a 4.0-point scale) for course work completed at the undergraduate level is required for regular admission. A cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 is required for provisional admission. (required for admission to the MPA program only)
3. A satisfactory score on either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). For regular admission, a Verbal score of 146 or better and Quantitative score of 140 on the GRE, a score of 402 (44) on the MAT is required. For provisional admission, a Verbal score of 143 and Quantitative of 138 on the GRE, 27 on the MAT is required.
4. Two official transcripts sent from all colleges and universities attended.
5. Two current letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's ability to successfully complete the graduate program.
6. Submission of a completed graduate admissions application with processing fee.
7. Applicants for admission to the MPA program are also required to submit a written statement of career goals.
8. International students must take the TOEFL and meet other criteria established by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

All documents, including test scores, must be received in the Graduate Admissions Office at least 45 days prior to the desired semester of enrollment. Prospective applicants should contact the graduate recruitment and admissions officer in the Graduate Admissions Office for more information.

Other Program Requirements

Admission to Candidacy - Students enrolling in MPA courses who intend to pursue the MPA degree must file for, and be admitted to candidacy, upon completion of 18 semester hours. Only 9 semester hours of graduate course work in which the student earned "B" or better in provisional status may be counted toward candidacy for the degree.

MPA Professional Portfolio - Each student is expected to complete a professional portfolio. The professional MPA portfolio consists of materials representative of one's academic work accomplishments, and demonstration of abilities and skills.

¹ Scores on the Graduate Management Admission Test or GMAT are not required for admission to the MPA program.

The Curriculum

The requirements for the Master of Public Administration degree are:

1. A minimum of 36 semester hours of graduate course work, at least 27 semester hours of which shall be taken in residence at Albany State University.
2. A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 in courses distributed as follows:

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Core Courses		21
Courses in Concentration		9
PADM 5851	Professional Public Service internship Project	3
PADM 5907	Capstone Report	3
Total Semester Hours		36

Core Courses

The Public Administration Core consists of seven required courses (21 semester hours) as follows:

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PADM 5011	Public Administration: Scope, Development, and Ethical Environment	3
PADM 5126	Organizational Theory and Bureaucratic Behavior	3
PADM 5262	Public Human Resources Management	3
PADM 5302	Public Budgeting & Financial Management	3
PADM 5781	Introduction to Public Policy	3
PADM 5501	Management Information Systems (MIS) for Public Management ¹	3
PADM 5502	Research Design and Data Analysis ²	3
Total Semester Hours		21

¹ Prerequisite for PADM 5502

² Prerequisite for PADM 5851

Additional Required Public Administration Courses

(or equivalent), 6 credits

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PADM 5851	Professional Public Service internship Project	3
PADM 5907	Capstone Report	3
Total Semester Hours		6

(see Public Administration Areas of Concentration)

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: Areas of Concentration

The MPA program concentrations are listed below:

1. Community and Economic Development
2. Public Policy
3. Public Management
4. Health Administration and Policy
5. Human Resources Management

In addition, there are two concentrations offered through a collaborative agreement with the Department of Natural Sciences and the Criminal Justice Program

6. Criminal Justice Administration
7. Water Resources Management and Policy

The requirements for each concentration are provided in this section.

Community and Economic Development

The specialization is designed for persons pursuing careers in the field of community and economic development. This concentration requires 9 semester hours to be selected as shown below:

Concentration Requirements

Community and Economic Development Courses

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PADM 5300	Administration of Nonprofit Organizations	3
PADM 5635	Introduction to Community & Economic Development ¹	3
PADM 5831	Urban and Rural Community Planning ²	3
PADM 5850	Community Development Theory and Practice	3
PADM 5860	Economic Development Theory and Practice	3

¹ Required for concentration and to be completed before any other concentration courses.

² Required for concentration and to be taken after PADM 5635

And one course from the following Community and Economic Development courses:

Public Policy

This concentration prepares students for various positions in public policy making, advocacy and analysis.

Concentration Requirements

Public Policy Courses

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PADM 5511	Directed Independent Policy Studies	3
PADM 5802	Public Policy Analysis ¹	3
PADM 5810	Intergovernmental Relations ¹	3
PADM 5872	Executive Policy-Making	3

¹ Required

Public Management

This concentration involves a study of management and supervision procedures used by organizations to motivate and maintain the internal labor force. Topics for discussion include wage and salary administration, training and development, safety management, performance control and internal communication. This concentration requires 9 semester hours to be selected from the courses shown below:

Concentration Requirements

Public Management Courses

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PADM 5200	The Administrative State	3
PADM 5202	Administrative Law	3
PADM 5650	Executive Leadership: Principles of Public Administration ¹	3
PADM 5810	Intergovernmental Relations	3
PADM 5823	Program Development, Management & Evaluation ¹	3

¹ Required

Health Administration and Policy

This specialization is designed for students seeking management careers in the health field. In-service students seeking career advancement also benefit greatly from this specialization. This concentration requires 9 semester hours to be selected from the courses shown below:

Concentration Requirements

Health Administration and Policy Courses

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PADM 5321	Foundations of Health Care Finance ¹	3
PADM 5322	Foundations of Public Health Administration and Management ¹	3
PADM 5324	Epidemiology	3
PADM 5791	Health Policy and Politics	3
PADM 5852	Health Care Delivery for Specialized Groups	3

¹ Required

Human Resources Management

This specialization is structured for students seeking management careers in public organizations at all administrative levels. This concentration requires 9 semester hours to be selected from the list of courses below:

Concentration Requirements

Human Resources Management Courses

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PADM 5551	Diversity Management and Public Organization ¹	3
PADM 5600	Issues in Human Resource Management ¹	3
PADM 5451	Labor-Management Relations	3

PADM 5213	Legal Environment of Public Human Resources Management	3
-----------	--	---

¹ Required

Criminal Justice Administration

This concentration represents an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Criminal Justice and the Public Administration Program. This concentration requires 9 semester hours to be selected from the courses shown below:

Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Hours
CRJU 5100	Foundations of Criminal Justice ¹	3
CRJU 5110	Theory and Philosophy of Criminal Justice ¹	3
CRJU 6110	The Social Service Role of Criminal Justice Personnel	3
CRJU 6400	Foundations of Corrections	3
CRJU 6430	Rehabilitation and Treatment	3

¹ Required

Water Resources Management and Policy

The Water Resources Management and Policy concentration is a collaboration between the Department of Natural Sciences and the Public Administration program.

This concentration requires 15 semester hours beyond the core as shown below:

Concentration Requirements

Water Resources Management and Policy Courses

Code	Title	Semester Hours
WRMP 6400	Hydrology and Irrigation Fundamentals	3
WRMP 6405	Environmental and Natural Resource Policy	3
WRMP 6410	Natural Resource Management and Planning	3
WRMP 6415	Water and Law Legislation	3
WRMP 6420	Water Resources Policy Field Project ¹	3
WRMP 6421	Water Resources/Policy Prof (Students must take either WRMP 6420 or 6421) ¹	3