

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

Introduction

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is a professional graduate degree designed to prepare students for leadership and management careers in public service. Established in 1987, the program equips students with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience needed to meet the complex challenges of government and nonprofit organizations in the 21st century.

The MPA program requires the completion of **36 semester credit hours**, including:

- **27 credit hours of Public Administration core courses**, which include the Professional Internship and Capstone Report
- **9 credit hours in a concentration area**

Students may select from the following concentration options:

1. Public Management
2. Health Administration and Policy
3. Human Resources Management
4. Criminal Justice Administration

Three concentrations are offered directly within the MPA program, while the **Criminal Justice Administration** concentration is available through a collaborative partnership with the Department of Criminal Justice.

Program Mission

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

- Provide professional, graduate-level education, skills, and training for students aspiring to leadership and management positions in government, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.
- Provide professional assistance to 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 historically underserved populations through inclusive campus-based and distance learning instruction.

Educational Philosophy

The program is grounded in the core competencies identified by the **Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)**. We believe that effective public managers must develop the ability to:

- Lead and manage within public governance systems
- Participate in and contribute to the public policy process
- Analyze, synthesize, and critically evaluate information to solve problems and make informed decisions
- Apply and uphold the values of public service

- Communicate and collaborate effectively with diverse and evolving communities, organizations, and stakeholders

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).

Program Modalities

At the present time, the MPA program is available through two modalities: hybrid (on campus with some online course work) and fully online.

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 combined score of 286 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE or, a score of 402 (44) on the MAT is required. For provisional admission, a combined score of 281 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE, or 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 a \$20 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.
9. Senior Rams Accelerated Access allows an Albany State University undergraduate student who has earned 90 or more credit hours with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher is eligible to enroll in courses for the Master of Public Administration. An undergraduate student must complete the form – Request for Graduate Credit Registration for Senior Undergraduate Students (<https://www.asurams.edu/docs/graduate-studies/Graduate%20Credit%20Registration%20Form.pdf>) each semester that approval is sought to enroll in a course for the MPA program. A student may not take more than six graduate credit hours per semester and must earn a "B" or better during the first six graduate credit hours for the MPA program. A student is limited to taking nine (9) hours comprised of three (3) three-credit hour courses in the MPA program prior to formal admission as a graduate student (See the eligible courses in the Program of Study tab).

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 listed below.
3. An in-service student may apply with the MPA program's Internship Coordinator for a course waiver. Upon verification of eligible work experience, the student may be allowed to take an additional, concentration elective course as a substitute for PADM 5851 Professional Public Service Internship/Project. The MPA program's accrediting body, NASPAA, defines an in-service student as, "Any applicant to a program, or student admitted to a program, who has at least one year of relevant post-baccalaureate work experience."
4. An eligible student may pursue the non-cohort, Executive track consisting of a minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate course work, at least 24 semester hours of which shall be taken in at Albany State University. Eligibility is determined by a student with five (5) or more current years of relevant leadership and management career experience submitting a Professional Portfolio of relevant content that serves as evidence of prior learning for the PADM 5011 and PADM 5851 courses. Upon program approval of the portfolio, the university process for Prior Learning Credit will be completed for the eligible student.
5. A student participating in Senior Rams Accelerated Access is only eligible to take the following three courses:
 - a. PADM 5011 Public Administration: Scope, Development, and Ethical Environment
 - b. PADM 5126 Organizational Theory and Bureaucratic Behavior
 - c. PADM 5262 Public Human Resources Management

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Core Courses (21 hours)		
PADM 5011	Public Administration: Scope, Development, and Ethical Environment ³	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
Additional Required Public Administration Courses		
PADM 5851	Professional Public Service Internship/Project	3
PADM 5907	Capstone Report	3
Area of Concentration - minimum of 9 hours (See Concentrations tab)		9
Total Semester Hours		36

¹ Prerequisite for PADM 5502

² Prerequisite for PADM 5851

³ Prior learning credit available for eligible students.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: Areas of Concentration

The MPA program concentrations are listed below:

1. Public Management
2. Health Administration and Policy
3. Human Resources Management

In addition, this concentration is offered through a collaborative agreement with the department of criminal justice

1. Criminal Justice Administration

The requirements for each concentration are provided in this section.

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. Students are required to take 9 hours from the following concentration courses, including the two required courses.

Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Choose One from this Group		3
PADM 5823	Program Development, Management & Evaluation	
PADM 5831	Urban and Rural Community Planning	
Choose One from this Group		3
PADM 5300	Administration of Nonprofit Organizations	
PADM 5650	Executive Leadership: Principles of Public Administration	
Select one course from the following		3
PADM 5202	Administrative Law	
PADM 5710	Grantsmanship for Public Administration	
PADM 5810	Intergovernmental Relations	
PADM 5831	Urban and Rural Community Planning	
PADM 5850	Community Development Theory and Practice	

PADM 5860	Economic Development Theory and Practice	
Total Semester Hours		9

Health Administration and Policy

This concentration 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 (Two required courses and one additional course):

Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Required for the concentration		
PADM 5321	Foundations of Health Care Finance	3
PADM 5322	Foundations of Public Health Administration and Management	3
Select one course from the following		3
PADM 5324	Epidemiology	
PADM 5791	Health Policy and Politics	
PADM 5852	Health Care Delivery for Specialized Groups	
Total Semester Hours		9

Human Resources Management

This concentration is designed for students seeking human resources management careers in public, private & non-profit organizations at all administrative levels. Students are required to take 9 hours from the following concentration courses, including the two required courses.

Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Required for the concentration		
PADM 5551	Diversity Management and Public Organization	3
PADM 5600	Issues in Human Resource Management	3
Select one course from the following		3
PADM 5451	Labor-Management Relations	
PADM 5213	Legal Environment of Public Human Resources Management	
PADM 5616	Human Capital Development & Management	
Total Semester Hours		9

Criminal Justice Administration

This concentration represents an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Criminal Justice and the Public Administration Program. It is designed for students pursuing careers in the field of criminal justice administration. Students are required to take 9 hours from the following concentration courses, including the two required courses.

Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Required for the concentration		
CRJU 5100	Foundations of Criminal Justice ⁹	3

CRJU 5110	Theory and Philosophy of Criminal Justice ¹⁰	3
Select one course from the following		3
CRJU 6110	The Social Service Role of Criminal Justice Personnel	
CRJU 6400	Foundations of Corrections	
CRJU 6430	Rehabilitation and Treatment	
Total Semester Hours		9

⁹ CRJU 5100: Required for the concentration and to be completed before any other concentration courses.

¹⁰ CRJU 5110 Required for the concentration and to be taken after CRJU 5100.