Master of Public Administration

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is intended for those with career interests in public management, health and human services, government, and other public service and nonprofit organizations. The curriculum blends theoretical and applied concepts and assures “real-world” experiences for the novice administrator. In addition, it requires that students devote attention to general professional development. The MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

Students may begin the program in any semester. Three courses (or 9 credits) per semester are considered a normal course load for full-time students. Part-time students typically take one or two 3-credit courses each semester and one or two courses during the summer session to maintain steady progress toward the degree. As of the fall semester of 2015, there were 56 residential students and 224 taking the program online via Penn State World Campus.

Program Website: [https://harrisburg.psu.edu/mpa](https://harrisburg.psu.edu/mpa)

Contact

Administrative Support Assistant
Autumn Wise
adw5533@psu.edu
+1 717 948 6773

Professor-in-Charge
Bing Ran, Ph.D.
br12@psu.edu
+1 717 948 6057
Curriculum
The MPA degree program requires 36 graduate credits (3 credits per course): 18 in core courses, 15 in electives and 3 for a capstone course. Up to 6 credits of 400-level courses may be taken as electives, with the approval of an advisor. In addition, a 3 credit 300 hour internship is required of students who do not have at least two years of full-time relevant work experience, which consists of supervisory, managerial or professional work. The internship is waived for students with this experience before they enter the program or who gain it by working full-time during their enrollment in the program. If this occurs, students must apply for the waiver.

Transfer Credits and Course Substitutions
A student can transfer up to 15 nondegree PADM credits and up to 10 credits from an external institution. Students should read the Graduate School Policy GCAC-309 on Credit Transfer before submitting request. Credit Transfer request (rationale on why this request satisfies the Policy GCAC-309, transcripts, and corresponding course syllabi) should be submitted to the Administrative Support Assistant, the student's academic advisor, and the Professor-in-Charge. Approval to any credits transfer toward the MPA degree must be granted by the student's academic adviser, the Professor-in-Charge, and the Graduate School.

Grade-Point Average and Time Limit
The program, including an internship in a public agency or nonprofit organization, requires 18 to 24 months of full-time study, or three to five years on a part-time basis. Students must have a 3.00 grade-point average to graduate. All course work and requirements must be completed within an eight-year period from the time of first enrollment in the program.

Courses

Core Courses (18 credits)
- P ADM 500 Public Organization and Management
- P ADM 502 Government Fiscal Decision-Making
- P ADM 503 Research Methods
- P ADM 505 Human Resources in the Public and Nonprofit Sector
- P ADM 507 Introduction to Public Policy Analysis
- P ADM 510 Organizational Behavior

Capstone Course (3 credits)
- P ADM 594 Capstone Course
The capstone course for Master's degree students in the MPA and iMPS in Homeland Security Base Program. The course builds on the knowledge components and skills students have gained in prior courses. The purpose of P ADM 594 is to develop additional competencies in problem identification and problem solving, professional writing and oral presentation, and group research and presentation skills.

Electives (15 credits)
With the faculty adviser's approval, a student selects 15 credits of electives from the courses list. Students also have the option of taking elective courses from one of the following concentrations:
- Human resources
- Nonprofit management
- Policy analysis and evaluation
- Public budgeting and financial management
- State-local government and administration

Program Requirements for Admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>More Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>a successful undergraduate record with a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (either as the cumulative GPA or for the last 60 hours of relevant course work)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supporting Materials
- ✓ a statement of career and educational goals
- ✓ all applicants to provide recommendations from three references
- ✓ a resume
- ✓ satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), or Law School Admission Test (LSAT) are required if the GPA is less than 3.0

Application Deadline
This program has rolling admission, that is, no specific deadline. Note that it may take 4-6 weeks to receive transcripts and process an application.