

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, M.P.A.

Community and Economic Development, Local Government Management, and Nonprofit Management Concentrations

The Master of Public Affairs requires 40 semester hours and is intended for persons interested in public service careers in local, state, and federal agencies; private, nonprofit agencies and voluntary organizations; public affairs offices in private businesses; and legislative staff positions. It provides professional training designed to meet current demands in public service positions and build the foundation for long-term development and advancement in a public service career. The MPA program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

The program provides a foundation in the major substantive areas of public affairs: policy-making and policy analysis; administration, management and organizational behavior; quantitative analysis and evaluation; and the political context of public administration. Beyond these areas, students can declare a concentration or take a mix of electives in the department and up to 9 hours in other departments (e.g., geography, conflict and peace studies, public health education).

Students with no work experience in public or nonprofit agencies must complete an additional 3 hour supervised internship, along with a field research project.

The MPA degree is linked to the Bachelor of Arts in economics and the Bachelor of Arts in political science so that a student may earn both degrees in approximately five years. Undergraduates must be formally admitted to one of these programs. Please see the appropriate departmental listing in the Undergraduate Bulletin for the details of these accelerated programs of study.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see the Guide to Graduate Admissions.

In addition to the application materials required by The Graduate School, applicants must submit a personal statement. See www.uncg.edu/psc/mpa/ (<http://www.uncg.edu/psc/mpa/>) for the form.

GRE required, though the MAT may be substituted if the applicant has been out of college 3 or more years. The test requirement is waived for applicants with a 3.5 or better overall undergraduate GPA from a regionally accredited university.

Degree Program Requirements

Required: 40-43 credit hours

Prerequisite

The program requires students to have completed an undergraduate course in American government, politics, or public policy.

Core Courses

The eight required courses are to be taken in approximately the following order, when possible. Consult an advisor for specific sections of 511.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		23
PSC 600	Public Administration and Management	
PSC 601	Politics of Public Policy	

PSC 602	Quantitative Analysis and Program Evaluation	
PSC 603 & 603L	Budgeting and Fiscal Administration and Budget Analysis Laboratory	
PSC 604	Public Personnel Management	
PSC 612	Organizational Behavior and Leadership	
PSC 511J	Topics in Public Affairs: Legal Issues in Public Administration	
<i>Select one of the following applied research tools courses:</i>		3
PSC 503	Survey Methods for Policy Research	
PSC 504	Public Management Information Systems	
PSC 610	Public Policy Analysis	
PSC 611	Program and Policy Evaluation	
Electives		17
<i>Select 17 hours of the following: *</i>		
PSC 504	Public Management Information Systems	
PSC 510	Topics in Public Policy	
PSC 511	Topics in Public Affairs	
PSC 512	Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	
PSC 516	Administrative Law	
PSC 520	Urban Political System	
PSC 530	Administrative and Elected Leadership	
PSC 540	Nonprofit Management and Leadership	
PSC 560	Special Topics in Public Administration	
PSC 613	Local Government Administration	
PSC 615	Human Resource Development and Performance Management	
PSC 620	Urban and Regional Development Policy	
PSC 630	Community and Economic Development Theory and Practice	
PSC 645	Nonprofit Financial Management and Budgeting	
PSC 650	Philanthropy and Resource Development	

* *Students may take up to 9 hours from approved graduate courses in other departments.*

Experiential Component

Students not having approved prior work experience will complete a supervised internship (PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship) in a public or nonprofit agency for 3-6 hours credit, depending on the duration of the placement, together with a directed field study (PSC 696 Directed Field Research). Students with prior work who desire experience in a new area of public affairs may choose to complete an internship as well.

Comprehensive Examination (Capstone Experience)

The required exam consists of two parts:

1. A written essay examination (based on core courses) when halfway through the graduate program, and
2. A summary of learning paper completed near the end of graduate work.

Community and Economic Development Concentration

This concentration combines the MPA core requirements with courses emphasizing the knowledge and skills to prepare students to work in organizations focusing on community and economic development

activities. The prerequisite, comprehensive exam, and the experiential component are the same as for the MPA.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses *		
PSC 511J	Topics in Public Affairs: Legal Issues in Public Administration	1
PSC 520	Urban Political System	3
PSC 620	Urban and Regional Development Policy	3
PSC 630	Community and Economic Development Theory and Practice	3
GEO 502 or GEO 533		3
Electives		
With the approval of the Director of Graduate Study, students may select additional course work from political science or other departments, such as geography, sociology, business administration, or economics.		5
Internship		
PSC 695	Public Affairs Internship **	3-6
Total Credit Hours		21-24

* Students must complete all of the MPA core courses including the required research tools course. Students will need to consult with an advisor for specific section of 511. They must also complete 15 hours of course work related to community and economic development skills and knowledge.

** An internship (PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship) is required for students who have no prior experience in a professional or management position in community and economic development.

Local Government Management Concentration

This concentration combines the MPA core requirements with courses emphasizing the knowledge and skills to prepare students to work as local government managers. The prerequisite, comprehensive exam, and experiential component are the same as for the MPA.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses *		
PSC 520	Urban Political System	3
PSC 613	Local Government Administration	3
Electives		
Students complete an additional 11 hours of elective course work. Nine of these elective hours together with the 6 hours of required concentration courses listed above complete a 15 hour concentration in local government management.		11
Internship		
PSC 695	Public Affairs Internship **	3

* Students must complete all of the MPA core courses including the required research tools course (23). For the concentration, they must complete 6 hours of required course work related to local government management skills and knowledge.

** An internship (PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship) is required for students who have no prior experience in a professional or management position in a government agency.

Electives

Recommended courses include:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
PSC 510K	Topics in Public Policy: Ethics in Public Policy	3
PSC 511	Topics in Public Affairs	1
PSC 560	Special Topics in Public Administration	1-3
PSC 512	Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	3
PSC 530	Administrative and Elected Leadership	3
PSC 630	Community and Economic Development Theory and Practice	3
GEO 502		3

With the approval of the Director of Graduate Study, students may select additional course work from political science or other departments, such as geography, sociology, business administration, or economics. Students will need to consult with an advisor on specific sections of 510, 511 and 560.

Nonprofit Management Concentration

This concentration combines the MPA core requirements with courses emphasizing the knowledge and skills to prepare students to work in or with the nonprofit sector. The prerequisite, comprehensive exam, and the experiential component are the same as for the MPA.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses *		
PSC 540	Nonprofit Management and Leadership	3
PSC 650	Philanthropy and Resource Development	3
<i>Select three of the following:</i>		
PSC 511B	Topics in Public Affairs: Marketing for Public and Nonprofit Agencies	1
PSC 511D	Topics in Public Affairs: Strategic Planning	1
PSC 511G	Topics in Public Affairs: Grant Writing	1
PSC 511V	Topics in Public Affairs: Volunteer Management	1
Electives		
With the approval of the Director of Graduate Study, students may select courses from political science or up to 9 hours in other departments, such as social work; gerontology; or sociology.		9
Internship		
PSC 695	Public Affairs Internship **	3

* Students must complete all but one of the MPA core courses. The research tools requirement in the MPA core will be met by PSC 611 Program and Policy Evaluation . They must also complete 15 hours of course work related to nonprofit management skills and knowledge.

** An internship (PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship) is required for students who have no prior experience in a professional or management position in a nonprofit agency.

MPA with Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Gerontology

Students with an interest in public service work related to the elderly and meeting the needs of an aging society may complete elective course

work in the MPA degree by jointly completing the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Gerontology.