PUBLIC AFFAIRS, M.P.A.

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

The Master of Public Affairs requires 40 credit 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 M.P.A. 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 credits 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 M.P.A. 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/ 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 511J</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Legal Issues in Public Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
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Electives (17 credits)

Select 17 credits from the following:
- PSC 600 Public Administration and Management
- PSC 601 Politics of Public Policy
- PSC 602 Quantitative Analysis and Program Evaluation
- PSC 603 Budgeting and Fiscal Administration & 603L and Budget Analysis Laboratory
- PSC 604 Public Personnel Management
- PSC 612 Organizational Behavior and Leadership

Select one of the following applied research tools courses (3 credits): [specify courses]

Experiential Component

Students not having approved prior work experience will complete a supervised internship (PSC 695) in a public or nonprofit agency for 3-6 credits, depending on the duration of the placement, together with a directed field study (PSC 696). 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 M.P.A. 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 M.P.A.
Local Government Management Concentration

This concentration combines the M.P.A. 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 M.P.A.

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<tr>
<td>PSC 511J</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Legal Issues in Public Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 520</td>
<td>Urban Political System</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 620</td>
<td>Urban and Regional Development Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 630</td>
<td>Community and Economic Development Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GES 602</td>
<td>Entrepreneurial Urban Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
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Electives (5 credits)

With the approval of the Director of Graduate Study, students may select additional coursework from political science or other departments, such as geography, sociology, business administration, or economics.

Internship (3-6 credits)

PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship ** 3-6

Total Credit Hours 21-24

* Students must complete all of the M.P.A. 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 credits of coursework 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.

Nonprofit Management Concentration

This concentration combines the M.P.A. 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 M.P.A.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 510K</td>
<td>Topics in Public Policy: Ethics in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 511</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 560</td>
<td>Special Topics in Public Administration</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 512</td>
<td>Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 630</td>
<td>Community and Economic Development Theory and Practice</td>
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</tr>
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Electives (9 credits)

With the approval of the Director of Graduate Study, students may select additional coursework 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.

M.P.A. 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 M.P.A. degree by jointly completing the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Gerontology.