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 the following order, when possible. Consult an advisor for specific sections of 511.

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

Electives (17 credits)

Select 17 credits from the following:

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 credits)

Select 17 credits from the following:

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 520 Urban Political System
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

Total Credit Hours 40

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Courses (6 credits)</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 520</td>
<td>Urban Political System</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 613</td>
<td>Local Government Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Electives (11 credits)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Students complete an additional 11 hours of elective coursework. 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.</td>
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**Internship (3 credits)**

PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship ** 3

Total Credit Hours 20

* Students must complete all of the M.P.A. core courses including the required research tools course. For the concentration, they must complete 6 credits of required coursework 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.

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### 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...

### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Courses (9 credits)</strong>*</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 540</td>
<td>Nonprofit Management and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 650</td>
<td>Philanthropy and Resource Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select three of the following (3 credits):</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 511B</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Marketing for Public and Nonprofit Agencies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 511D</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Strategic Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 511G</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Grant Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 511V</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Volunteer Management</td>
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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 social work, gerontology, or sociology. Students will need to consult with an advisor on specific sections of 510, 511 and 560.

Total Credit Hours 21

* Students must complete all but one of the M.P.A. core courses. The research tools requirement in the M.P.A. core will be met by PSC 611 Program and Policy Evaluation. They must also complete 15 credits of coursework 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.
work in the M.P.A. degree by jointly completing the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Gerontology.