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 (Community and Economic Development; Local Government Management; or Nonprofit Management) 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-credit supervised internship, along with a field research project.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see the Guide to Graduate Admissions (https://grs.uncg.edu/prospective/guide/).

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 an institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), or the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 511</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Legal Issues in Public Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 600</td>
<td>Public Administration and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 601</td>
<td>Politics of Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 602</td>
<td>Quantitative Analysis and Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 603</td>
<td>Budgeting and Fiscal Administration &amp; Budget Analysis Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 604</td>
<td>Public Personnel Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 612</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 611</td>
<td>Program and Policy Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives (17 credits)**

Select 17 credits from the following:

- PSC 510 Topics in Public Policy
- PSC 511 Topics in Public Affairs
- 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.
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives (11 credits)

Select 11 credits of electives

Internship (3 credits)

PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship

Total Credit Hours 20

1 Students must complete all of the M.P.A. core courses (23 credits), including the required research tools course. For the concentration, they must complete 6 credits of required course work related to local government management skills and knowledge.

2 9 of the elective credits together with the 6 credits of required concentration courses listed above complete a 15-credit concentration in local government management.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 510K</td>
<td>Topics in Public Policy: Ethics in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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 630</td>
<td>Community and Economic Development Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GES 602</td>
<td>Sustainable Urban Planning in an Entrepreneurial Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENT 610</td>
<td>Sustainable Urban Planning in an Entrepreneurial Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the approval of the Graduate Program Director, 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.

Electives

Recommended courses include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 540</td>
<td>Nonprofit Management and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 650</td>
<td>Philanthropy and Resource Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select three courses (3 credits) from the following:

- PSC 511B Topics in Public Affairs: Marketing for Public and Nonprofit Agencies
- PSC 511D Topics in Public Affairs: Strategic Planning
- PSC 511G Topics in Public Affairs: Grant Writing
- PSC 511V Topics in Public Affairs: Volunteer Management

Electives (9 credits)

Select 9 credits of electives

Internship

PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship

Total Credit Hours 21

1 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 course work related to nonprofit management skills and knowledge.

2 With the approval of the Graduate Program Director, students may select courses from political science or in other departments, such as social work, gerontology, or sociology.

3 An internship is required for students who have no prior experience in a professional or management position in a nonprofit agency.
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.