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.

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.

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 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>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select 17 hours of the following: *

- PSC 503 Survey Methods for Policy Research
- PSC 504
- PSC 510 Topics in Public Policy
- PSC 511 Topics in Public Affairs
- PSC 512 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations
- PSC 516
- PSC 520 Urban Political System
- PSC 530
- 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.
activities. The prerequisite, comprehensive exam, and the experiential component are the same as for the MPA.

** Required Courses **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 511J</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Legal Issues in Public Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 630</td>
<td>Community and Economic Development Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEO 502</td>
<td>Entrepreneurial Urban Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GEO 533</td>
<td>Regional Economic Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** 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.

** Internship **

PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship **

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.

** Required Courses **

<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 **

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.

** Internship **

PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship **

* 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.

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.

** Required Courses **

<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 of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 511B</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Marketing for Public and Nonprofit Agencies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 511D</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Strategic Planning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 511G</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Grant Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 511V</td>
<td>Topics in Public Affairs: Volunteer Management</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** 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.

** Internship **

PSC 695 Public Affairs Internship **

* 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.