Master of Public Administration

Admission Requirements

The student must apply to and meet all criteria for admission to the Graduate School. In addition to the general requirements of the Graduate School, the student must comply with departmental requirements. Students may enroll in the MPA program by applying to one of the participating universities. Acceptance by any one of the three universities admits a student into the MPA program. A matriculated student should complete graduate studies at the institution that offers the area of specialization that she/he wishes to emphasize. Each student's program will be established by an advisory committee consisting of three faculty members. It is anticipated that students will come from widely differing academic preparations, since no specific undergraduate program is required in preparation for the MPA program. However, some course work in humanities and social sciences is essential to the foundation of the MPA program for all students.

In addition to the general requirements of the Graduate School, students seeking admission must have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, demonstrate satisfactory academic competency by attaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in upper-division undergraduate course work, or a 3.5 GPA in previous graduate courses, submit three letters of recommendation from individuals who are qualified to evaluate the applicant's academic potential, and submit a statement of the student's personal goals. The letters and statement of goals will be weighted equally with the applicant's GPA. Please contact the Department for specific guidelines for letters of recommendation and statement of goals.

The program employs an admission scoring system that awards MPA applicants points based on the evaluation and scoring of four components:

1. upper-division undergraduate GPA or GPA in an M.A. program;
2. the quality of letters of recommendation; and
3. the quality of the applicant's goal statement.

General Requirements

The MPA degree may be achieved through the completion of at least 36 semester credit hours of approved course work with an additional 3 credits of public service internship for students who are not mid-career. The internship requirement may be waived for students who have substantial professional work experience in public service or the not-for-profit sector. The MPA director will determine if a student's experience is substantial, and if so, can approve waiver of the internship requirement. Twenty-four credit hours must be completed in courses selected from prescribed "core areas" with 12 additional credit hours completed in designated optional areas of emphasis. Students may follow a thesis or non-thesis option in pursuing the MPA. Students choosing to write a thesis (POLS 6650 (http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=POLS%206650) - 6 credits) do so in addition to normal MPA course work and internship requirements. Students must have completed 21 credit hours of core course work before taking the Capstone in Public Administration course. Those following the thesis option will complete an oral examination covering the thesis and program course work. The academic program of each student must satisfy the general requirements of an integrated program designed to meet career objectives of the student in public administration.

Core and Optional Area Requirements

The specific course requirements of the MPA program are set forth in a list of courses that has been approved by the inter-university committee.

This list is available through each of the cooperating universities. Courses are available at each institution in the "core areas." The optional "areas of emphasis"

may vary among the universities according to the resources and competence that exist in the respective departments. A description of those areas of emphasis that are presently operational at each institution and admission forms to the MPA program are available through the Political Science Department at Idaho State University or the Departments of Political Science at Boise State University or the University of Idaho.

Interdisciplinary Specialized Area in Criminal Justice

For the specialized area in Criminal Justice, students need to take the 9 core courses (27 credits) and three credits of internship (for students without career experience) required for the MPA program and take an additional 12 credits from the courses listed below to fulfill the elective requirements. The specialized area is an interdisciplinary curriculum shared between the Dearptment of Political Science and the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice. Other courses appropriate to the Criminal Justice emphasis may be offered by both departments and can be taken by the student with permission of the MPA advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 5531	Criminology	3
SOC 5592	Topics in Criminology	3
SOC 5536	Elite Deviance and Crime	3
SOC 5538	Sexual Crimes	3
POLS 5542	Constitutional Law	3
POLS 5543	Civil Rights and Liberties	3

Other courses with variable topics such as SOC 6601, SOC 6621, SOC 6613, or SOC 6605 may be taken if these courses are offering a Criminal Justice theme.

I. Core Area Requirements

All students must take 24 credit hours of core area courses. Students must choose courses in each of the following categories, including POLS 6680 (http://coursecat.isu.edu/search/?P=POLS%206680) Capstone in Public Administration.

Methods/Assessment (take 1 course for 3 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 6622	Advanced Topics in Research	3
POLS 5519	Political Research Methods	3
POLS 6623	Program Assessment	3

Organizations, Management, and Analysis (take 2 courses for 6 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5551	Public Organizational Theory	3
POLS 5553	Public Policy Analysis	3
POLS 5554	Public Personnel Management	3

Public Finance, Budgeting, and Planning (take 2 courses for 6 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5552	Public Budgeting and Finance	3
POLS 5509	Community and Regional Planning	3

Administrative Overview (take 2 courses for 6 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5505	Introduction to Public Administration	3
POLS 5558	Public Administration Ethics	3

Capstone (take 1 class for 3 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 6680	Capstone in Public Administration	3
Total Hours		**24**

II. Specialized Areas

All students must take 12 credit hours from the list below. Courses used to fulfill a core requirement cannot also be counted here.

Code	Title	Credits
Specialized Area #1: State, Local, and Non-Profit Administration (Take 4 courses)		
POLS 5567	State and Local Administration	
POLS 5505	Introduction to Public Administration	
POLS 5506	Intergovernmental Relations	
POLS 5508	Urban Spaces	
POLS 5509	Community and Regional Planning	
POLS 5541	Administrative Law	
POLS 5552	Public Budgeting and Finance	
POLS 5553	Public Policy Analysis	
POLS 5554	Public Personnel Management	
POLS 5558	Public Administration Ethics	
POLS 5561	Nonprofit Management	
POLS 5562	International Sustainable Development	
POLS 5563	Public-Private Partnerships	
POLS 5564	Disaster Policy and Administration	
POLS 5566	Public Lands Policy	
POLS 5578	Federal Indian Law	
POLS 5579	Tribal Government	
POLS 6612	Seminar State and Local Politics	
POLS 6616	Seminar Public Administration and Public Policy	
POLS 6623	Program Assessment	
POLS 5557	Grantwriting	
CMP 5522	Conflict Management	
ECON 5533	Economic Development	
ECON 5539	State and Local Finance	

Code	Title	Credits
Specialized Area #2: Environmental Administration (Take 4 courses)		
POLS 5555	Environmental Politics and Policy	
POLS 6606	Environmental Law and Regulation	
POLS 5505	Introduction to Public Administration	
POLS 5506	Intergovernmental Relations	
POLS 5508	Urban Spaces	
POLS 5509	Community and Regional Planning	
POLS 5553	Public Policy Analysis	
POLS 5558	Public Administration Ethics	
POLS 5561	Nonprofit Management	
POLS 5562	International Sustainable Development	
POLS 5563	Public-Private Partnerships	
POLS 5564	Disaster Policy and Administration	
POLS 5566	Public Lands Policy	
POLS 6623	Program Assessment	
POLS 5557	Grantwriting	
CMP 5522	Conflict Management	

Code	Title	Credits
Specialized Area #3: Public Health Administration (Take 4 courses)		
MPH 6609	Seminar in Public and Community Health	
PHIL 6600	Ethics in Health Care	
POLS 5505	Introduction to Public Administration	
POLS 5506	Intergovernmental Relations	
POLS 5509	Community and Regional Planning	
POLS 5553	Public Policy Analysis	
POLS 5557	Grantwriting	
POLS 5558	Public Administration Ethics	
POLS 5561	Nonprofit Management	
POLS 5562	International Sustainable Development	
POLS 5563	Public-Private Partnerships	
POLS 5564	Disaster Policy and Administration	
POLS 6623	Program Assessment	

Code	Title	Credits
Specialized Area #4: Criminology (Take 4 courses)		
SOC 5531	Criminology	
SOC 5592	Topics in Criminology	
SOC 5536	Elite Deviance and Crime	
SOC 5538	Sexual Crimes	
POLS 5542	Constitutional Law	
POLS 5543	Civil Rights and Liberties	
POLS 5557	Grantwriting	

Code	Title	Credits
Specialized Area #5: Business Concepts (Take 4 courses)		
MBA 6610	Applied Economics	
MBA 6611	Financial Reporting and Managerial Accounting	
MBA 6612	Human Behavior in Organizations	
MBA 6613	Marketing	
MBA 6614	Operations Management	
MBA 6615	Finance	

Note: MPA students (who are also in the DA program or plan to be in the DA program) and who take the Business Concepts option should know that MBA courses do not count in the Doctor of Arts program.

Code	Title	Credits
Internship (3 Credits - waived for mid-career)		

Public Administration Internship - Each student must complete at least 3 and no more than 9 credit hours of an approved internship. Three credit hours of internship are equal to 200 hours of work as an intern. The MPA director may waive the internship requirement for students with substantial professional work experience in public service of the not-for-profit sector.

Appropriate courses in the Master of Public Health program may be substituted with the consent of the Master of Public Administration program director.