

Master of Public Administration

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) provides students with the knowledge and skills needed for professional careers in public service. MPA students learn analytical techniques and add to their expertise in organizational and program management, policy analysis, and related areas. The program emphasizes public policy, management, and administrative issues.

Admission Requirements

Students enter the MPA program with bachelor's degrees from a variety of educational backgrounds. Accordingly, the program meets the needs of students with a wide mix of professional and educational backgrounds and interests.

To apply for admission, applicants must meet the UAA Admission Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate/>) and must:

- Submit a 300-500 word statement on their career goals and how the MPA degree relates to them.
- Submit a professional resume or vita.
- Meet one of the following criteria:
 - Have a combined undergraduate GPA plus GRE Analytic score totaling 7.0 or higher. The GRE test is not required for students having already earned a graduate degree from an institutionally accredited institution in the United States or a foreign equivalent, provided they have an undergraduate GPA of 3.00.
 - Have an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 and have taken an introductory course in government (or demonstrate knowledge by taking an approved UAA college-level achievement examination)
 - Complete two PADM core courses with a grade of B or better and complete all PADM core course prerequisites (ECON A227, ECON A101 and ECON A102 or ECON A602, and PS A101) or their equivalents.

Detailed admission standards are available on the department website (<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/cbpp/academics/publicadministrationmpa.cfm>).

Contact the CBPP Graduate Office for full program information, including application forms and procedures.

Graduate Office
UAA College of Business and Public Policy
3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508 U.S.A.
Telephone: (907) 786-4171
Fax: (907) 786-4115

Academic Requirements

To maintain satisfactory progress toward the degree, a student in the MPA program is expected to complete a minimum of 6 semester credits

each calendar year, starting with the first term of enrollment. The 6 semester credits may consist of either undergraduate prerequisite courses or graduate program courses. Failure to comply with the 6 credit minimum each calendar year may result in a student being dropped from the program.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degree requirements/>).
- Complete the program requirements below.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
ECON A625	Economics and Public Policy	3
PADM A601	Introduction to Public Administration and Policy	3
PADM A602	Seminar in Public Management	3
PADM A604	Research Methods in Public Administration	3
PADM A606	The Policymaking Process	3
PADM A608	Organizational Theory, Design and Development	3
or BA A634	Organizational Design and Development	
Electives		
6 credits of advisor-approved graduate electives, relevant for the chosen emphasis area (see below)		6
Capstone Project		
PADM A659	Public Administration Capstone	3
Total		27

Candidates for the MPA who do not have public administration work experience must also complete 3 credits of PADM A620.

Students must take the core comprehensive examination after completing the core courses. This examination must be passed before the student may enroll in the capstone course.

Students must also complete one of the following emphasis areas: public management, public policy analysis, health administration, criminal justice, or dual emphasis: public management and public policy analysis.

Code	Title	Credits
Public Management Emphasis		
PADM A603	Management Analysis	3
PADM A610	Public and Non-Profit Organizational Behavior	3
PADM A624	Human Resources Administration and Labor Relations	3
Total		9

Code	Title	Credits
Public Policy Analysis Emphasis		
PADM A628	Public Financial Management	3
PADM A632	Public Policy Analysis	3
PADM A688	Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement	3
Total		9

Code	Title	Credits
Health Administration Emphasis		
HS A605	Public Health and Society	3
HS A615	Health Services Administration	3
HS A626	Principles of Epidemiology	3
Total		9

Code	Title	Credits
Criminal Justice Emphasis		
9 credits of advisor-approved criminal justice electives ¹		9
Total		9

¹ No more than 6 credits at the 400 level. See advisor for approved justice emphasis courses.

A total of 36-39 credits is required for the degree; dual emphasis areas may be taken for additional credits, e.g. public management and public policy analysis.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with a Master of Public Administration will be able to demonstrate:

- Leadership and decision making
- Communications
- Awareness of the values and tradeoffs in public service, including sustainability, citizen engagement, democratic values and transparency
- Role of financial, human, information, technology and other resources
- Knowledge of the policy process, including assessment
- Problem-solving, including the use of evidence
- Information processing and technology for effective administration