

# Public Administration (Nonprofit Administration), MPA

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This top-ranked concentration within our MPA program (No. 4 in Nonprofit Management, U.S. News & World Report, 2023) will help you turn your desire for public service into a rewarding career as a nonprofit leader. The program can be completed full time or part time.

## Program description

### **Degree awarded: MPA Public Administration (Nonprofit Administration)**

The MPA is a professional degree program designed to prepare students for public service at all levels of government as well as in the nonprofit and private sectors. The program consists of a core curriculum emphasizing managerial and analytic skills required for work in a large range of careers that serve the public good.

The nonprofit administration concentration builds on the core program through the application of administrative and leadership principles to train students as professionals who choose careers in the nonprofit sector. Students focus on the managerial aspects of running nonprofit organizations that solve specific challenges in communities around the world and that provide necessary services not available through traditional markets or government providers. Students gain important skills they need in order to succeed, including financial management, volunteer management, fundraising, strategic planning and experience working with boards of directors.

## At a glance

- **College/School:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#)

## Accelerated program options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an **accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree** with:

[Emergency Management and Homeland Security, BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy, BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(American Indian Studies\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Business\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Criminology\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Emergency Management and Homeland Security\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Health Policy\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Law and Policy\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Nonprofit Leadership and Management\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Parks and Recreation Management\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Social Services Delivery\), BS](#)

[Public Service and Public Policy \(Sustainability\), BS](#)

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

## Degree requirements

42 credit hours including the required capstone course (PAF 509)

### **Required Core (24 credit hours)**

PAF 501 Public Service Research I (3)

PAF 502 Public Service Research II (3)

PAF 503 Public Affairs (3)

PAF 504 Microeconomics of Public Policy I (3)

PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis (3)

PAF 506 Public Budgeting and Finance (3)

PAF 508 Organization Behavior (3)

PAF 574 Diversity, Ethics and Leading Public Change (3)

### **Concentration (12 credit hours)**

NLM 510 The Nonprofit Sector (3)

NLM 520 Financial and Resource Management (3)

NLM 540 Strategic Human Resources Management (3)

other approved course (3)

## **Electives or Research (3 credit hours)**

## **Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**

PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone (3)

## **Additional Curriculum Information**

Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved electives as well as the list of courses that may fulfill the concentration requirement. Approved elective credit hours may include courses offered by the school or other academic units in the university.

# **Admission requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution in a related field. Related fields include social science disciplines, although the department may accept applicants with degrees from all educational backgrounds provided the minimum requirements for the degree program are met.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. two letters of recommendation
4. written statement
5. proof of English proficiency

## **Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency. Additional requirements for international students are available at the [Admission Services website](#).

The letters of recommendation should be from faculty or other academic staff who can evaluate the applicant's academic performance.

The written statement should be one to two pages in length and describe the applicant's educational and career goals. This statement is also used as a sample of the applicant's writing abilities.

Applicants may also submit a resume or other documents.

Fees increase after the deadline.

Students enrolling in Master of Public Administration core courses must demonstrate minimum competency in statistics and American government, typically through the completion of an undergraduate social statistics course such as PAF 301 Applied Statistics and undergraduate coursework in American national government such as POS 310 American National Government. Completion of prerequisite courses is not a requirement for admission but they must be completed within one semester after starting the program. Students may also satisfy the American national government competency by successfully completing a noncredit online course offered to incoming students by the School of Public Affairs.

Applicants should email [spa@asu.edu](mailto:spa@asu.edu) if there are questions about the application process.

## **Tuition information**

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

## **Career opportunities**

Graduates are prepared to pursue a career in a field related to public administration or public policy. This may include opportunities as either a manager or policy analyst whose work in a local, state or federal agency; nonprofit organization; or private organization that interfaces with the public sector.

## **Contact information**

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