

Public Administration (Public Finance), MPA

PPPAFMPA

This highly ranked concentration within our MPA program (No. 12 in Public Finance and Budgeting, U.S. News and World Report, 2023) can help you turn your desire for public service into a rewarding career in public finance and budgeting. The program can be completed full time or part time.

Program description

Degree awarded: MPA Public Administration (Public Finance)

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 needed in a large range of careers that serve the public good. Through a focused set of electives, the concentration in public finance provides knowledge and skills for students to excel in areas in which financial management plays an integral role in governance. The concentration deepens knowledge of urban economics, managing money in the public sector, public budgeting, and capital budgeting and financing.

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 (27 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 507 Public Human Resource Management (3)

PAF 508 Organization Behavior (3)

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

Concentration (9 credit hours)

PAF 521 Managing Public Money (3)

PAF 522 Advanced Governmental Financial Management: Capital Budgeting and Infrastructure Financing (3)

PAF 570 Microeconomics of Public Policy II (3)

Electives or Research (3 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)

PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone (3)

Additional Curriculum Information

To meet the Electives or Research requirement, students choose one course from NLM 520, PAF 590 and PAF 584 for three credit hours.

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 degrees, 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.

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.

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 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 if they have 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 a manager or policy analyst in local, state or federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; and private organizations that interface with the public sector.

Contact information

[School of Public Affairs](#) | UCENT 400

spa@asu.edu | 602-496-0450