

Public Administration (Urban Management), MPA

PPPAFUMPA

This top-ranked concentration within our MPA program (No. 3 in Local Government Management, U.S. News & World Report, 2023) will help you turn your desire for public service into a rewarding career in local and city management. The program can be completed full time or part time.

Program description

Degree awarded: MPA Public Administration (Urban Management)

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 urban management concentration prepares students to be leaders in local government, where most services and programs to residents are managed. Through a focused set of electives and interactions with experienced city managers, students gain knowledge and develop the skills they will need in order to contribute to the operations of local government and help communities better serve the people who live there.

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)

select three of the following:

PAF 523 The City and County Manager (3)

PAF 525 Public Entrepreneurship (3)
PAF 530 Management of Urban Government (3)
PAF 534 Urban Services Infrastructure (3)

Elective (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.

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 in a related field from a regionally accredited institution. Related fields include political science, planning, business, urban and metropolitan studies, as well as other 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 located at the [international admission page](#).

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 also may submit a resume or other documents.

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