Public Policy (Policy Informatics), MPP

Learn to understand complex public problems and develop and implement innovative policy solutions. Through coursework and real-world projects, you gain the analytic skills required to address society's most challenging problems.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPP Public Policy (Policy Informatics)
The MPP program equips students with the analytical tools they need to understand and address public policy issues. Students also develop skills in managing the process of policy development, approval, implementation, and evaluation as well as gain policy-specific knowledge on issues such as poverty, education, the environment and public safety.

Through a focused set of electives, the policy informatics concentration provides knowledge and skills to students seeking careers in which they can use informatics tools, models and simulations to help individuals and groups deliberate and evaluate policy decisions as well as explore new governance infrastructures. Emphasis is placed on theories and research concerning decision-making, complexity theory and visualization of quantitative and qualitative information, collective intelligence, behavioral economics and persuasive technologies.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions](#)
- **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 and master's degree with:
Public Service and Public Policy, BS
Public Service and Public Policy (American Indian Studies), 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 (Science and Technology Policy), 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. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments 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 504 Microeconomics of Public Policy I (3)
- PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis (3)
- PAF 540 Advanced Policy Analysis (3)
- PAF 541 Program Evaluation (3)
- PAF 573 Applied Econometrics (3)
- PAF 574 Diversity, Ethics and Leading Public Change (3)

**Concentration (9 credit hours)**
- PAF 591 Topic: Complexity in Public Policy and Management (3)
- PAF 591 Topic: e-Public Administration (3)
- PAF 591 Topic: Introduction to Policy Informatics (3)

**Restricted Electives (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.
Students enrolling in core Master of Public Policy courses must demonstrate minimum competency in statistics and American national government. Courses taken to fulfill competencies do not count toward the 42 credit hour degree program. Completion of prerequisite courses is not a requirement for admission but they must be completed within one semester after starting the program.

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 undergraduate 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 current residency. Additional requirements for international students are at https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate-apply.

The letters of recommendation should be from faculty or other academic staff who can evaluate 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.

Application fees increase after deadline; students should see https://admission.asu.edu/graduate/apply.
Students should contact the School of Public Affairs at 602/496-0450 or email spa@asu.edu with any questions about the application process.

**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 in a local, state or federal agency, nonprofit organization, or private organization that interfaces with the public sector.

The program can also serve as a platform for preparation for doctoral studies in public policy, public administration, urban studies and other related programs.

**Contact Information**

School of Public Affairs | UCENT 400
spa@asu.edu | 602-496-0450