

# MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The master of public administration degree (MPA) is the recognized professional degree in public administration, public management, and public service. It is designed principally, but not exclusively, for those who are pursuing careers in public service. Graduates are employed in government agencies at all levels, national associations, public interest groups, research and consulting firms, and in the private sector.

The MPA degree program provides an opportunity to study management and policy issues in an intergovernmental and intersectoral context. The program focuses on developing critical intellectual capacities, sound analytical skills, and a sensitivity to the ethical and value concerns that are central to the traditions of the field of public administration.

Students in the MPA program may wish to explore opportunities to combine the master's with the following graduate certificates:

- Budget and public finance (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/public-policy-administration/mpa-budget-public-finance/>)
- Nonprofit management (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/public-policy-administration/dual-mpa-and-nonprofit-management-gc/>)

Visit the MPA program website (<https://tspppa.gwu.edu/master-public-administration/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

### Admission deadlines:

Fall - April 1 (February 1 for priority fellowship consideration)  
Spring - October 1  
Late applications accepted on a case by case basis for students who do not require an F-1 or J-1 visa

### Standardized test scores:

The GRE general or GMAT is not required. However, if you feel as though submitting scores for the GRE or GMAT will strengthen your application, you are welcome to submit them. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the M.P.A. program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or
- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based.

### Recommendations required:

Two (2) recommendations

### Prior academic records:

Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

**Statement of purpose:**

In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on your application or résumé/curriculum vitae.

**International applicants only:**

Please review International Applicant Information (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences - Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

Contact:

askccas@gwu.edu  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

40 credits, including 25 credits in required courses, at least 9 credits in a selected policy field, and at least 3 credits in elective courses.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
PPPA 6000	Perspectives on Public Values	
PPPA 6001	Introduction to Public Service and Administration	
PPPA 6002	Research Methods and Applied Statistics	
PPPA 6003	Economics for Public Decision Making	
PPPA 6004	Managing Public Organizations	
PPPA 6005	Public Budgeting, Revenue, and Expenditure Analysis	
PPPA 6006	Policy Analysis	
PPPA 6008	MPA/MPP Capstone	
PPPA 6016	Public and Nonprofit Program Evaluation	

**Policy field**

Students complete at least 9 credits in a selected policy field. \*

**Electives**

At least 3 credits are taken in elective courses.

\*Students should consult an advisor concerning policy fields.

\*Students completing their degree program at the end of the fall semester take PPPA 6008 instead of PPPA 6009.

## COMBINED PROGRAMS

### Combined programs

- Dual Master of Public Administration and Graduate Certificate in budget and public finance (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/public-policy-administration/mpa-budget-public-finance/>)
- Dual Master of Public Administration and Graduate Certificate in nonprofit management (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/public-policy-administration/dual-mpa-and-nonprofit-management-gc/>)
- Joint Master of Public Administration and Juris Doctor (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/public-policy-administration/dual-mpa-and-jd/>)