The University of Georgia
Department of Public Administration and Policy
2013-14 Alumni Survey

1. To what extent did The University of Georgia Master of Public Administration program help you develop the following competencies:

#	Question	Very Poorly	Poorly	Fair	Well	Very Well	Total Responses	Mean
1	Work effectively in a team	0	4	21	52	61	138	4.23
2	Awareness of unique public sector demands and challenges	0	2	8	47	83	140	4.51
3	Decision-making and problem solving	0	1	17	64	52	134	4.25
4	Ability to manage financial resources	2	13	36	61	22	134	3.66
5	Understanding of the policy process	0	5	14	69	49	137	4.18
6	Ability to communicate information orally or through presentations	1	5	22	50	60	138	4.18
7	Ability to write effectively (e.g., memos, articles, research briefs)	0	1	20	39	78	138	4.41
8	Ability to complete tasks effectively	0	1	19	69	46	135	4.19
9	Ability to gather, analyze, and interpret data quantitatively	0	12	29	51	46	138	3.95
10	Understanding of public personnel system rules	0	5	20	55	56	136	4.19

11	Ability to gather, analyze, and interpret data qualitatively	3	6	27	57	45	138	3.98
12	Knowledge of professional ethics and expectations	0	4	15	49	70	138	4.34
14	Ability to consider and respect differing view points	2	3	13	43	75	136	4.37
16	Understanding of public administration's theoretical underpinnings	0	1	11	42	85	139	4.52
17	Understanding of intergovernmental or inter-organizational challenges	0	2	20	61	56	139	4.23
18	Appreciation for the complex legal/political environment of public administration	0	2	13	45	80	140	4.45
19	Appreciate equity, diversity, and representativeness in an organization	0	4	14	46	71	135	4.36

Statistic	Work effectively in a team	Awareness of unique public sector demands and challenges	Decision-making and problem solving	Ability to manage financial resources	Understanding of the policy process	Ability to communicate information orally or through presentations	Ability to write effectively (e.g., memos, articles, research briefs)	Ability to complete tasks effectively	Ability to gather, analyze, and interpret data quantitatively	Understanding of public personnel system rules	Ability to gather, analyze, and interpret data qualitatively	Knowledge of professional ethics and expectations	Ability to consider and respect differing view points	Understanding of public administration's theoretical underpinnings	Understanding of intergovernmental or inter-organizational challenges	Appreciation for the complex legal/political environment of public administration	Appreciate equity, diversity, and representativeness in an organization
Min Value	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
Max Value	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Mean	4.23	4.51	4.25	3.66	4.18	4.18	4.41	4.19	3.95	4.19	3.98	4.34	4.37	4.52	4.23	4.45	4.36
Variance	0.66	0.45	0.49	0.84	0.58	0.78	0.58	0.48	0.90	0.67	0.90	0.62	0.74	0.45	0.56	0.52	0.62
Standard Deviation	0.81	0.67	0.70	0.92	0.76	0.88	0.76	0.69	0.95	0.82	0.95	0.79	0.86	0.67	0.75	0.72	0.79
Total Responses	138	140	134	134	137	138	138	135	138	136	138	138	136	139	139	140	135

2. In order to meet the educational needs of students of public and non-profit management, the Master of Public Administration program at UGA strives continually to adjust its instructional format. The next two sections attempt to measure how useful the following skills and competencies are in your job, given the demands your organization currently faces. Please rate each skill on a scale from 0 to 5 where 0 means less useful and 5 means more useful to successfully executing your post-graduation occupation(s):

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
2	Use of technology	1.00	5.00	3.96	1.09	141
3	Decision-making/problem solving	2.00	5.00	4.40	0.75	142
6	Statistical analysis	0.00	5.00	3.20	1.29	137
16	Ethics and accountability	1.00	5.00	3.99	1.12	140
24	Leadership	1.00	5.00	4.08	0.95	137
25	Oral communication	1.00	5.00	4.25	0.96	142
26	Written communication	2.00	5.00	4.55	0.68	142
30	Diversity sensitivity and awareness	0.00	5.00	3.37	1.24	138
33	Project management	0.00	5.00	3.99	1.07	140
34	Bargaining and negotiation	0.00	5.00	3.07	1.36	137
36	Balancing competing interests	1.00	5.00	4.00	1.08	140

3. How well did The University of Georgia Master of Public Administration program prepare you for your professional or academic career post--graduation?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Very Well		67	48%
2	Well		54	39%
3	Fair		18	13%
4	Poorly		0	0%
5	Very Poorly		1	1%
	Total		140	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	1.67
Variance	0.57
Standard Deviation	0.75
Total Responses	140

4. Are there any other skills or competencies you would like to see taught in the MPA program that would have been helpful for your job and your career prospects?

Text Response

A core class on management information systems including MS Access and SharePoint would be very beneficial.

There needs to be a thousand fold improvement in actual skills. Way too much theory and B.S. I interview UGA grads now and they can quote professors, but can't balance a budget. As a graduate, I find it sad.

Data Analytics, Federal Budget Process (especially politics), Contracting, Conflict Resolution

Nonprofit management, ethics, etc.

More Stata, SPSS, Excel, etc.

Leadership

Skills for managing people in public sector, Bond financing, Public budgeting,

I think that students would benefit from a course that teaches politics. Not just the political process, but also how to manage competing concerns and interests and come to a solution that works for everyone. Perhaps a negotiation/bargaining course?

admin law was not required when I was in the program

Project Management, written communication (other than memos), Navigating political environments

Teach some principles to project management software. Needs to be more math heavy.

financial compliance in regard to grants and contracts - both as the 'giver' and 'receiver'

More skills in different types of writing - policy briefs vs. memos vs. extended research projects

While I graduated from UGA in 1988, I think a greater focus on local government and direct services provided citizenry is necessary and shift focus away from Fed. Government and its one size fits all approach. I don't remember many if any case studies that blended the politics, policy and process issues necessary to resolving an issue, rather than a statistical analysis. Our jobs may involve data analysis, but without understanding the interconnection of the 3P's, then analysis in a vacuum is not as useful.

No

More application, less theory

Accounting stuff?

project management, change management

job networking skills, tougher classes, and meaner professors :)

More financial classes revolving around state government careers

I learned the most from my classes or projects that had a practical application (for example practicum with Dr. Whorton, projects with Archway Partnership, etc.). I was already adept at giving oral presentations, but I feel like this was a skill that many of my classmates could have used more guidance. A true project management class or seminar would have been helpful, as well as some preparation for the impact that the political environment has on policy development and implementation. Also, some sort of "business" interpersonal communications class/seminar. More information on public/private partnerships/contracts/relationships would have

been fantastic.

Technical training for data methods (i.e. using computer programs) is more helpful than relearning statistics; Continuing Education seminars would be nice

Learning Excel (I think there are extra classes for this now?); learning data analysis software like R or STATA.

Oral and written communication skills are a necessity in the PA field. Understanding effective communication in a political environment would be good for students entering the workforce.

More applicable data software skills

better statistical modeling skills and more advanced research methods. The current methods class is simplistic and BA level at best.

More leadership training.

supervisory skills

I can't overstate the need for competency with Excel in the work I do. Dr. Hou's classes...all of them...prepared me for the work I do better than all my other classes combined. Granted, I do work with budget offices, but I'd still highly emphasize the need for Excel skills. Familiarity with ERPs are high on my list too, but I recognize the limits on practicality in the classroom setting.

public relations

Building professional relationships

more tangible information about working in a political environment

More real-world problem solving, perhaps through local organizations, would have been very helpful.

Project Management

A separate course on use of a certain statistical package (STATA, for example)

Public finance (=Public economics) in order to identify and analyze public provision provided to the public.

Corruption in the public and private sectors and the economic impact on society.

project management

More seminars or bringing in past alumni to talk about how they actually use their degrees

Government relations

Make sure that Excel is emphasized as well as governmental structures like NIMS

Monitoring and Evaluation

practical skills

I was able to publish a paper with my professor in a law journal. This has been a great advantage in the workplace.

use of Excel

Grant management (not just grant-writing)

I course offered in project management would be very helpful to graduates, especially if it gave them the credit they needed to take the PMP exam.

More EXCEL instruction in relation to Public Financial Administration, more strategic planning activity and performance measurement development attention

Grant Writing, Contracting, GIS and other tech tools needs to be an emphasis to be ahead in job market

Project management

public relations, dealing with external constituencies (media, fundraising, etc.)

n/a

Longer externships - 6 mos.

More help with career search, networking, and interviewing

Use of statistical application programs

Contract management

building professional relationships and managing office politics

More focus on quantitative research skills

Regarding data applications, I believe too much emphasis is placed on using Microsoft Access, and not enough other programs, especially Microsoft Excel.

Maybe interactions with the legislative branch (in terms of implementing/complying with mandates or reporting requirements, making/negotiating budget requests, etc.)

Project management skills, business process improvement skills

More advertisement of high-ranking of UGA's MPA program. Not enough employers are aware of this.

More use of computer software with the data applications course

More financial management and economics - I did not need this immediately after graduating, but finance and economics dominate senior positions.

Use of IT systems (excel, outlook, PowerPoint, access)

more training on conducting health policy analyses and expertise on how policy impacts health (particularly prevention efforts)

More statistical analysis would have been helpful. I think there should be a requirement to take a class in STATA.

qualitative data analysis; negotiations; bids and contracting; media relations; less focus on writing a memo and more focus on managing a project

Labor Law and its practical application when violations occur

Ethics should be required as a Core Class.

I think it would be beneficial for Public Financial Administration to provide more technical skills.

Intergovernmental relations should be a core requirement!

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	72

## 5. Would you recommend the UGA MPA program to future public administration and policy students?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Yes		100	71%
2	Possibly		18	13%
3	Probably Not		2	1%
4	No		2	1%
5	Most Likely		19	13%
	Total		141	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	1.74
Variance	1.94
Standard Deviation	1.39
Total Responses	141

6. The following are core classes that have been required in the MPA program. Please rate each class on a scale from 0 to 5 where 0 means less useful and 5 means more useful to successfully executing your post-graduation occupation(s):

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Organizational Theory	0.00	5.00	3.47	1.25	139
2	Public Financial Administration	0.00	5.00	3.83	1.19	138
3	Public Personnel Administration	0.00	5.00	3.60	1.40	135
4	Data Applications	0.00	5.00	3.22	1.32	136
5	Economic Foundations of Policy Analysis	0.00	5.00	3.17	1.36	129
6	Research Methods	0.00	5.00	3.26	1.43	137
7	Public Administration and Democracy	0.00	5.00	3.08	1.44	134
8	Administrative Law	0.00	5.00	3.20	1.47	105

7. Which of the following best describes the type of organization by which you are currently employed?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Federal government		25	18%
2	State government		35	25%
3	Local government		23	16%
4	International quasi-governmental organization		0	0%
5	Domestic non-profit organization		12	9%
6	International non-governmental organization (NGO)		2	1%
7	Private sector (research or consulting)		6	4%
8	Private sector (not research or consulting)		11	8%
9	Self-employed		2	1%
10	Pursuing additional education (PhD, JD, DPA, etc.)		7	5%
11	Other (please specify):		18	13%
	Total		141	100%

Other (please specify):
Higher Education, Student Affairs
Public Service Faculty at UGA
Higher Education
Stay at home mom. Previous job in local nonprofit agency
Higher education, private non-profit 4-year university
Regional Commission
Domestic non-profit organization, state government, institution of higher education
Regional Commission
I am currently obtaining my MD.
Both non-profit and state-level government
retired
Public Sector in my country: Prime Ministry
Independent school educator/administrator
Private contractor of government educational services
lawyer
Unemployed
University Professor
higher education

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	11
Mean	4.62
Variance	12.62
Standard Deviation	3.55
Total Responses	141

8. What was your first annual salary after completing the MPA program?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	0 to $20,000		5	4%
2	$20,001 to $30,000		13	10%
3	$30,001 to $40,000		35	27%
4	$40,001 to $50,000		35	27%
5	$50,001 to $60,000		14	11%
6	$60,001 to $70,000		11	9%
7	$70,001 to $80,000		9	7%
8	$80,001 to $90,000		3	2%
9	$90,001 to $100,000		0	0%
10	$100,001+		3	2%
	Total		128	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	10
Mean	4.13
Variance	3.34
Standard Deviation	1.83
Total Responses	128