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RANKINGS:
BY THE NUMBERS

Nationally in
Public Finance and Budgeting*
Nationally in
Public Management and Leadership*
Nationally in
Local Government*
Nationally in
Public Affairs Masters Programs*

3rd
3rd
4th
Top 10

* National Ranking by U.S. News and World Report 2024

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Masters in Public Administration

3rd
Nationally in
Public Management and Leadership
3rd
Nationally in
Public Finance and Budgeting

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GWINNETT CAMPUS

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Department of Public Administration and Policy

ALUMNI COMMITTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

"UGA’s MPA program provided me with invaluable experience in key elements of public administration that gave me a strong foundation as I began my career. As my roles in public service have grown and changed, my MPA provided me with the necessary knowledge and skills to perform my duties effectively. I am so glad that I chose UGA for my MPA program and the connections that I have been able to make in the program and connections with a network of other alumni across the state, country, and globe." - Mercy Montgomery, Assistant City Manager, City of Chamblee, Georgia

"The combination of my MPA with my work experience makes me more of a diverse candidate. I really think the MPA has helped me get to where I am in the government today." - Amelia Hines Dortch, State Public Affairs Specialist with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

"I chose the UGA MPA program because it has a tremendous reputation and is heralded as one of the nation’s best. And because it is offered at the Gwinnett campus, it is incredibly convenient." - Ted Pestorius, Deputy Director, Global Health Office of Management and Overseas Operations, CDC

2023
The following provides an outline of the MPA Curriculum:

1. Socialization Seminar (1 semester hour)
   PADP 6980 Socialization Seminar

2. Public Management Core (15 semester hours)
   PADP 6910 Public Administration and Democracy
   PADP 6920 Public Personnel Administration
   PADP 6930 Public Financial Administration
   PADP 6950 Economic Foundations of Policy Analysis
   PADP 6960 Public Management

3. Research Methods Sequence (6 semester hours)
   PADP 7110 Research Methods in Public Administration
   PADP 7120 Data Applications in Public Administration

4. Elective Courses (18 semester hours)
   Six Classes taken outside of the core requirements toward a specialization or
generalist degree

5. Internship (may be waived with full-time public service work experience)

6. Capstone Paper and Portfolio (1 semester hour)
   PADP 6990 Capstone Paper and Portfolio

You’ll find MPA courses with the same faculty and resources as those at our home campus in Athens, but delivered at our convenient Gwinnett campus just off I-85, only 15 minutes from both downtown Duluth and Lawrenceville. Parking is on location and free. Most classes are small (about 15-20 students) and allow students to pursue an advanced degree while continuing to work full time. Two evening classes per semester are also offered. Students must complete 41 hours to complete the MPA degree. Students can choose to complete the UGA MPA program on a full- or part-time basis.

A total of 41 semester hours are needed for the completion of the MPA program. A mandatory socialization sequence and core course sequence introduce the student to the various fields of public administration and the economic foundations of public policy. In addition, two required courses in research methods assist students in developing a familiarity with quantitative techniques in public decision making. Students must also complete an internship for credit. Students can choose to complete the UGA MPA program on a full- or part-time basis.

To be considered for admission to the MPA program, students must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. No specific courses related to public administration are required prior to beginning the MPA program. A GRE waiver may be requested for those with 5 years work experience in the public or non-profit sector and an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. The GRE is optional for those with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Applicants should submit the following:

- Graduate School application ($75)
- Statement of Purpose
- GRE scores
- Copy of undergrad transcript
- Letters of recommendation (3)
- Resume

Students can begin classes during the spring, summer, or fall semesters according to the application deadlines below:

- May 1: Summer semester
- July 1: Fall semester
- November 15: Spring semester

A total of 41 semester hours are needed for the completion of the MPA program. A mandatory socialization sequence and five core courses introduce the student to the various fields of public administration and the economic foundations of public policy. In addition, two required courses in research methods assist students in developing a familiarity with quantitative techniques in public decision making. Students must also select six courses from a number of available elective specializations to complete their degree. Students can choose to complete the UGA MPA program on a full- or part-time basis.