

Department of Public Administration and Policy
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Public Administration & Policy
School of Public & International Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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WHO WE ARE: LOCAL TO GLOBAL

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at The University of Georgia (UGA) educates students for professional careers in management and policy analysis in government and nonprofit organizations. The program serves students who are continuing their education following undergraduate school, as well as those who have been or are employed in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors and who are seeking to advance their careers. While most students seek the MPA as their final professional degree, some graduates of the MPA program enter PhD or other advanced degree programs and pursue careers in academia.

The Georgia MPA is built around a comprehensive curriculum that combines both theoretical and practical aspects of public management and policy while maintaining a commitment to public service. The program is offered by the Department of Public Administration and Policy in The University of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA). It is co-sponsored by The University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG).

RANKINGS: BY THE NUMBERS



Ranked among TOP 10 public affairs programs

3rd

Nationally in
Public Finance and Budgeting*

3rd

Nationally in
Public Management and Leadership*

4th

Nationally in
Local Government Management

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

Mission Statement:

The MPA program at The University of Georgia strives to be a leader in educating and inspiring students for managerial and analytical careers in public service. Through instruction by leading scholars, engagement with policy and management problems in the field, and service opportunities within the community, MPA students are prepared for professional careers in government and the non-profit sector, advancing the values of ethics, accountability, and inclusion in democratic governance.

SPECIALIZATIONS

A student may choose either to specialize in a specific area of study or to complete a generalist degree. Areas of specialization include the following:

- Criminal Justice
- Health Policy and Administration
- Higher Education Administration
- International and Comparative Public Administration
- Local Government Administration
- Nonprofit Administration
- Public Budgeting and Financial Management
- Public Management/Organization Theory
- Public Policy

To achieve an area of specialization, an MPA student must take four courses in that area. To complete a generalist degree, students must choose a minimum of two courses from within at least two of the specified areas of specialization.

CURRICULUM (41 semester hours)

Socialization Seminar (1 hour)

Public Management Core (15 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

Research Methods Core (6 hours)

- PADP 7110 Research Methods in Public Administration
- PADP 7120 Data Applications in Public Administration

Electives (18 hours)

Classes taken outside of the core requirements toward a specialization or generalist degree.

Internship

See page 7 for more information.

Capstone Paper & Portfolio (1 hour)

At the end of the MPA program, students must submit a 15-20 page paper describing their development of MPA program competencies through course work and the internship or their professional experience. Included with the capstone paper is a portfolio that illustrates student mastery of program competencies during the MPA program.

Full-time students should be able to earn their MPA in two years (4 semesters and one summer).

Recent Internship Employers:

American Red Cross of Northeast Georgia
Athens-Clarke County Police Department
Atlanta Regional Commission
Arizona Governor's Office
Carl Vinson Institute of Government
Carter Center
Community Connection of Northeast Georgia
Connecticut ACIR
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Georgia Department of Economic Development
Georgia Museum of Art
Georgia Office of the Governor
Habitat for Humanity
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission
Oconee County Finance Department
Office of Management and Budget
Southern Poverty Law Center
State of Israel, Ministry of Health
Tennessee Office of Finance & Administration
UGA Office of Economic Development
United Nations
U.S. Centers for Disease Control
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of the Treasury
U.S. Government Accountability Office
U.S. Health and Human Services
U.S. Secret Service

INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENT

As part of the requirements for the Master of Public Administration degree, most students must complete a public sector internship for a minimum of 300 hours. While one internship is required, many MPA students complete two or three internships during their program of study. It is possible to have this requirement waived with current fulltime public service work experience. The Capstone Paper is required of all students regardless of professional experience.

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

Double Dawgs Program

The Double Dawgs program was created to give ambitious and motivated students a competitive advantage in today's knowledge economy. By earning both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in five years or less, students can save time and money while positioning themselves for success after graduation. For more information about requirements and participating programs, visit the website: doubledawgs.uga.edu

MPA/MUPD

The UGA MPA program is collaborating with the College of Environment + Design's Master of Urban Planning and Design program (MUPD) to offer a dual MPA/MUPD degree. This academic program will allow a student to earn both degrees in three years, eliminating approximately one year of academic work. There is a need for individuals that have both knowledge and training in public policy and urban development in all levels of government.

MPA/JD

The MPA program also has joined with the UGA Law School to offer the MPA/JD joint degree. This program allows students to earn both degrees in four years. Students must be considered for and receive admission to each program separately and take both the GRE and the LSAT. The joint MPA/JD degree allows UGA to combine two of its best degrees in a creative way to attract the best students whose interests lie in both fields. Future careers may include working for the U.S. Department of Justice or the FBI, clerking for a federal or state court judge, or serving as a lawyer or counsel for a public agency or nonprofit, particularly in the fields of civil and human rights.

Dual Degree Program with Seoul National University

Students in the UGA MPA program can apply to Seoul National University and complete one year of study in Athens and one in Seoul for MPA degrees from both institutions.

ATHENS: THE CLASSIC CITY

The main offices and core faculty of the MPA program are located at The University of Georgia's North Campus in Athens. The beautiful 759-acre campus, with over 36,000 students, is nestled in the rolling hills of Georgia's Piedmont region, approximately 65 miles northeast of Atlanta. Classes in the MPA program in Athens are offered during late afternoons and evenings to accommodate students with internships, assistantships, and jobs.

When you close the books and take a break from studying, be sure to take advantage of all Athens has to offer. Along with football in the fall, festivals abound in the spring and summer celebrating a variety of interests from human rights to cycling to comics. Athens is also home to music as diverse as bluegrass, rock, and hip-hop hosted at venues like the 40 Watt, the Melting Point, and the historic Georgia Theatre. Art aficionados will feel at home at the numerous free galleries such as ATHICA, the Georgia Museum of Art, and the Lamar Dodd School of Art. For those who like to spend their free time in the sun, try kayaking down the Broad River or taking a stroll on the North Oconee River Greenway, which offers miles of biking and walking trails. Athens is also a foodie paradise with diners, grills, and gourmet eateries serving local and ethnic cuisine at a full range of price points. There are over fifty restaurants in the downtown area alone, which is less than a ten-minute walk from the Department's main office.



“Athens, Ga., has been called the birthplace of alternative rock and America’s best college town. That was yesterday. Sure, the town that spawned R.E.M. and the B-52s is still an indie-songsmith hub. And University of Georgia Bulldogs fans are as passionate as ever. But Athens’s historic downtown has rerouted some of that hipster-meets-rah-rah history into a hyperlocal entrepreneurial spirit that caters to the mature tastes of those who have moved in, come back or never left. The result is a renaissance for the area, which feels like your favorite, secret neighborhood, where iconic locales dovetail with new and resurrected music spaces, boutiques, lounges and restaurants.”

-Alex Crevar, The New York Times

GWINNETT CAMPUS: FOR ATLANTA PROFESSIONALS

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 40 minutes from the state capitol building. Most classes are small (about 15-20 students) and allow students to pursue an advanced degree while continuing to work full time. Two classes per semester (including summer) are offered at our Gwinnett campus. All MPA students may register for classes at either the Athens or Gwinnett campus to complete the program in less time.



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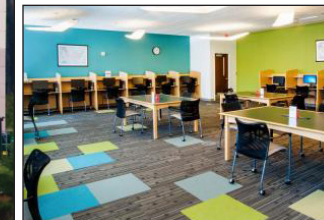


GWINNETT: FACT LIST

60,000
square feet
21
state of the art classrooms

average age: **35**
age range:

22-62
approximate class size:
15 students



OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Carl Vinson Institute of Government

The MPA program is co-sponsored by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG), a public service outreach unit of UGA that conducts research, provides technical assistance, and educates individuals and state and local governments in Georgia, throughout the U.S., and worldwide. This partnership involves students with the work of the Institute. Also, select faculty from CVIOG teach courses on topics ranging from human resource management to local government administration.

Georgia Students for Public Administration

The Georgia Students for Public Administration (GSPA) is a student organization that strives to build social and academic networks for its members. The executive board is composed of elected MPA students. GSPA organizes academic, philanthropic, and social events throughout the year, which include a policy competition, banquet, football tailgates, First Friday socials, monthly service events, holiday parties, and career development brownbag lunches.



Professional Development

This program, a \$1,000 value offered to MPA students for free by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, consists of six 3-hour workshops and a mock-interview designed to certify skills identified in the Georgia Governor's High Demand Career Initiative concerning professionalism in the workplace. Organizations search very competitive job markets for candidates who can effectively communicate to a diverse group of internal and external stakeholders and concert action across organizational lines. Our partners at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government have tailored this course to provide students this advantage on the job market.

Student Government Finance Officers Association

The UGA Student Chapter of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) is devoted to providing professional development opportunities to students interested in public finance. Members will have the opportunity to meet, connect, and network with field practitioners and other students pursuing careers in public finance.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

UGA ICMA Student Chapter

The UGA International City/County Management Association Student Chapter (UGA ICMA) introduces and integrates students into the local government management profession. The mission of UGA ICMA is to establish connections between local government management theories, practices, and applications through tangible and actual examples, and to cultivate a learning community wherein members actively share experiences and learn from one another. UGA ICMA is the first ICMA student chapter in the state of Georgia.

100 Hours of Service Award

All students are encouraged to complete 100 hours of community service before graduation. To acknowledge this accomplishment, students are awarded a custom made lapel pin and certificate each spring at our GSPA Student Banquet. Our department is also an Official Certifying Organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. Students who complete at least 100 Hours of service in one calendar year will receive a signed letter and certificate of recognition from the President of the United States.



A walk through North Campus will enable you to experience one of the most beautiful university campuses in the nation. From fountains to open green spaces, the North Campus gardens offer a restful place amidst deadlines, tests, and appointments. Herty Field offers an open lawn with the sound of the fountain splashing in the background. Escape the fluorescent lights, grab a blanket and your textbooks, and take advantage of the sunlight. Let the birds be your background music. Explore what the University has to offer outside of degrees and credit hours.



ADMISSIONS: THE PROCESS

To be considered for admission to the MPA program, students must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. The GRE is optional for any applicant, domestic or international, whose GPA as calculated by the UGA Graduate School falls at or above a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Domestic applicants with five years of work experience in the public or non-profit sector and an undergraduate GPA over 3.0 on a 4.0 scale may request a waiver for the GRE during the application process.

For more about admissions requirements, visit our website:
padp.uga.edu



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