



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

School of Public & International Affairs
Department of Public Administration and Policy

Frequently Asked Questions for Double Dawg Students

This FAQ contains information for students in the Double Dawg program for the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) degree. General information about the Double Dawg program at the University of Georgia can be found at <http://doubledawgs.uga.edu>.

How can I apply for the Double Dawg pathway?

Undergraduate students from approved undergraduate majors may apply to the Double Dawg Pathway program after they have completed or have in progress at least 60 credit hours (of which at least 30 need to be UGA resident credit hours). Interested students are required to meet with the MPA Recruitment and Career Services Coordinator to discuss the MPA program, as well as with their undergraduate advisor to make sure that they meet the qualifications for the Double Dawg Pathway program. The Pathway application will be initiated by the undergraduate advisor and sent to the MPA Graduate Coordinator for final approval.

Who should I see for advising as a Double Dawg student?

Double Dawg students should continue to see their undergraduate advisor. Honors students will also continue to see their honors advisor. When you apply to enter the Double Dawg Pathway, you will meet with the MPA Director of Career Services and Recruitment. Each semester, you will meet with the advisor in the MPA Department to select and schedule your classes.

How is the workload different for graduate level courses?

The MPA is a professional degree. Faculty expect students to work with a high level of professionalism inside and outside of class. Reading and workloads will be heavier than undergraduate courses. Students will be expected to discuss class reading in detail. Many classes require time investments with teams outside of class and throughout the semester. Your classmates will also have high expectations for your contributions to work inside and outside of class.

After advising, may I drop and add classes?

We discourage any schedule changes after advising. The MPA includes a core of required classes. Each semester, these classes are very full. We may have very limited flexibility to identify alternative classes close to the start of the semester.

When do MPA classes meet?

Our classes are offered in the late afternoon and evening, generally starting at about 3:30 PM and 6:30 PM. Each class meets once per week for about three hours. Before entering the program, you should consider your ability to attend classes in these time slots.

How many MPA classes can count for undergraduate credit through the Double Dawg Program?

Students may take up to, but no more than, 12 credit hours of MPA classes which will count toward their undergraduate degree and their MPA, if they have been accepted into the Double Dawg pathway.

May I take more than 12 credit hours before I am accepted into the MPA program?

No. Only 12 credit hours may be completed before you are accepted as an MPA student. Any courses beyond 12 credit hours taken as an undergraduate student cannot be listed on your program of study for the MPA degree.

If I am in the Double Dawg pathway, when may I apply for the MPA program?

Undergraduate students in the Double Dawg pathway may apply for the MPA when they have 105 credit hours of undergraduate work completed or in progress, and at least 9 credit hours of MPA classes completed or in progress. Students must complete their undergraduate degree in four years as a Double Dawg student.

Do I need to complete the Socialization Seminar?

Yes. The Socialization Seminar provides information about graduate and professional education and the MPA program's core competencies. Students should take the Socialization Seminar as soon as possible after admission to the MPA degree. This seminar is only offered in August. Complete this requirement early to avoid any delay to your desired graduation schedule.

May I apply for a Graduate Assistantship?

After you have been admitted to the MPA program, and if you have at least 9 graduate-level credit hours each semester, you may apply for a graduate assistantship. We do not advise applying for a graduate assistantship before completing your undergraduate degree. To maintain the tuition waiver associated with a graduate assistantship, you must register for at least 12 hours **of graduate credit** per semester.

What are the financial aid implications of being accepted into the MPA and dual enrollment as an undergraduate and graduate student?

Before students apply for the MPA and enter dual enrollment, we advise you consult with the Office of Student Financial Aid. The change in student status has implications for financial aid and this should be discussed with the proper staff on campus.

May I take classes at the UGA Gwinnett Campus?

Yes. All students in the MPA program may take courses in Gwinnett. This is a good option for students working or completing internships in the Atlanta metropolitan region, or for those students wanting to take summer courses as more options are offered in Gwinnett than at the Athens campus during the summer term.

Am I required to complete an internship?

Yes. Students are required to complete an internship as part of their MPA degree in order to gain experience in the public or non-profit sector. Internships may be completed in the summer or during the semester. Only internships completed after being admitted to the MPA program will satisfy the MPA internship requirement. Students should consult with MPA Career Services and Recruitment Coordinator before finding an internship.

What types of jobs do students seek after earning an MPA?

Graduates with the MPA work in a wide range of careers related to public service. Recent graduates work for government agencies at the local, state and federal level. Our graduates have also gone to work for non-profit organizations and private consulting firms. Over 90 percent of MPA alumni report employment in the field within six months of graduation. For more information, see: <https://spia.uga.edu/departments-centers/padp/career-services/>