

What should I know before I get advised?

During advising we will be selecting your classes, so you should come prepared to make a schedule. When thinking about your classes, you should consider the MPA program's requirements, your personal schedule, and what your interests are. If you aren't entirely sure what your program requirements are, what you're interested in, or what you want to take before our appointment, that's okay, but you should still review the available classes to get an idea of what's available. You can check how the courses are filling here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15b9yyofK85GQh8idVPKdENdsdW7ubypWBw99e2Zsailw/edit#gid=0>. If you think you're interested in a course, but want to know more about it, you can often find a copy of an old syllabus. Archived syllabi from past years can be found here: <https://spia.uga.edu/course-semester/upcoming-department-of-public-administration-policy/padp-fall-2021/>.

How can I check to see if there is space in a course?

You can check how the courses are filling here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15b9yyofK85GQh8idVPKdENdsdW7ubypWBw99e2Zsailw/edit#gid=0>. You may see that a course looks like it has room in Athena but is listed as full on the Google Document. This occurs because course fill is determined by the number of students who have permission to take the course, not the number of students who have registered. During advising, you will receive permission of department (POD) to take your courses. Receiving POD saves you a seat. The google document tracks how many students have POD for a course and Athena displays how many students have registered.

When will advising occur and how do I schedule an advising appointment?

For incoming students, advising will take place right after the socialization seminar. This year, incoming student advising will take place from Wednesday August 11th through Friday August 13th. For spring advising, signups and reminders will go out on the UGA listserv. Now that you are a UGA student, you should be using your UGAMail account for official communications. You will be able to schedule your appointment between early October and December.

How do I get cleared for classes?

During advising you will select your classes. After your appointment, Kristin Lawrence will grant you POD to register for your classes. Please give us three business days to process your advising paperwork and grant you POD. There may be a backlog, especially when many students are being advised. If you attempt to register and are unable to a few days after your meeting, please email Kristin at krabney@uga.edu and cc Robert Hines at rhines57@uga.edu

Will advising be in person?

Yes, Athens advising appointments will be in person. Robert Hines is the advisor, and his office is 203A Baldwin Hall. If you enter through the front of Baldwin Hall, head up the stairs, take a left and walk, Baldwin 203A will be on the right next to the water fountain and bulletin boards. If

you would rather have a Zoom meeting or phone call, they can be arranged. Instructions on scheduling a Zoom or phone call will be distributed in the advising email.

I've scheduled a Zoom appointment, what's the link?

If you don't have the Zoom link, please email Robert Hines at rhines57@uga.edu right before your appointment. You will enter a Zoom waiting room and then be let into the meeting. The link isn't posted here and there is a waiting room to ensure that the meeting isn't joined by someone with bad intentions.

I'm calling in, what's the number?

706-542-2961

I've got a question about financial aid, my undergraduate graduation requirements, or the cost of my degree program. Can advising help?

No. Questions about financial aid should be directed towards the Office of Student Financial Aid here: <https://osfa.uga.edu/about-osfa/contact-us/>. Questions about tuition and fees should go to Bursar and Treasury Services here: https://busfin.uga.edu/bursar/bursar_contact_us/. If you have a question about your undergraduate degree program, you should contact your undergraduate advisor. If you are a Double Dawg, you are required to meet with Financial Aid to discuss how the MPA will change your financial aid status.

I'm interested in taking a class outside of the MPA program, what should I do?

There are two types of outside electives. First, there is a list of pre-approved electives that are mentioned in the MPA program handbook. If you would like to take one of these courses, bring it up in advising. Then, you will need to attempt to register. If you need POD for an external course, it's your responsibility to get it from the department offering the course. If you want to take a non-approved course, you need to get permission to take the course. If you are interested in a non-approved course, please reach out to Robert Hines at rhines57@uga.edu so that he can evaluate if the course could be acceptable and walk you through the approval process. To get the course approved you will have to provide a copy of the syllabus and a one page write up relating the course to your career goals and the MPA program to Dr. Zeemering for approval.