

**SCHEDULE FOR DEPARTMENTAL ORIENTATION
AND MPA SOCIALIZATION SEMINAR
PADP 6980**

**Special Collections Library, Room 285
(300 S. Hull Street, Athens, Georgia)**

Attendance & Dress Code Policies

MPA students are required to attend all sessions and must enroll in PADP 6980 (1 credit hour) during the fall semester. The Socialization Seminar credit is required for graduation. Attendance will be taken at all sessions. The MPA Socialization Seminar is a three-day event structured to orient new students to the MPA program, Department, University, and Athens community.

The graduate programs in the Department of Public Administration & Policy at the University of Georgia are professional degree programs; therefore, we expect everyone attending socialization seminar sessions to be dressed accordingly. If you have any questions regarding the attendance or dress code policies, please contact Presley Morello at (706) 542-2961.

DAY 1: Monday, August 4, 2025

- 8:00 - 8:30 Registration and Morning Refreshments, Room 277**
A photographer will be present to take professional head shots for all incoming MPA students. Please plan to arrive on time in order to complete your registration and picture before our 8:30 AM start.
- 8:30 - 9:30 Welcome and Introductions**
*Dr. Matthew Auer, Dean of School of Public and International Affairs
Dr. Ed Kellough, Department Head, Public Administration and Policy
Georgia Students for Public Administration (GSPA)
International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Student Chapter
Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Student Chapter
Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN)*
- 9:30 - 10:30 Introduction and Public Service Value Discussion**
Dr. Eric Zeemering, MPA Director
- 10:30 - 10:50 Break**
- 10:50 - 12:00 Orientation to the MPA Program**
Dr. Eric Zeemering, MPA Director
- 12:00 - 1:15 Lunch (provided), room 277**
Faculty and staff from the Department of Public Administration and Policy will join students for lunch.
- 1:15 - 2:15 Library and Online Resources**
Elizabeth White, UGA Libraries
- 2:15 - 3:00 Health and Wellness**
Kelly Truesdale, University Health Center

- 3:00 - 3:30 Break**
- 3:30 - 4:30 Community Leaders Panel**
Erin Barger, President & CEO, Foodbank of Northeast Georgia
Dawn Brinkley, Ph.D., External Relations Coordinator, Clarke County Sheriff's Office
Kelly Girtz, Mayor, Athens-Clarke County
Steven Jackson, Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager, Athens Area Humane Society
Alexia Ridley, News Director & Reporter, WUGA Radio
Matt Stevens, Senior Director of Community Impact, Creature Comforts Brewing
Tommy Valentine, Ph.D., Executive Director, Historic Athens
- 4:30 - 5:00 Orientation to Athens Service Projects & Volunteering in the MPA Program**
Aaron Redman, MPA Associate Director

DAY 2: Tuesday, August 5

- 8:15 - 9:00 Morning Refreshments, Room 277**
The photographer will be available to take pictures of students unable to have their picture taken on Monday. A group photo will be taken at 8:45 AM. Please be present to participate.
- 9:00 - 10:00 Professional Skills**
Hardin Watkins, Carl Vinson Institute of Government
- 10:00 - 10:30 Mentoring in the MPA Program**
Tara Lamb, Career Services Coordinator
Presley Morello, Advising and Recruiting Assistant
- 10:30 - 10:50 Break**
- 10:50 - 12:00 Alumni Panel**
Matt Berry, Chief of Staff-Government Sector, KPMG
Patina Brown, Director of Finance, City of Marietta, GA
Laura Ann Holland, Policy & Special Projects Director, Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Molly Knight Pettitt, Organizational Development Specialist, UGA Small Business Development Center
Aisha Yaqoob Mahmood, Executive Director, Asian American Advocacy Fund
- 12:00 - 1:15 Lunch (provided), room 277**
- 1:15 - 2:30 Book Discussion**
Pathways to Positive Public Administration: An International Perspective by Patrick Lucas, Tina Nabatchi, Janine O'Flynn and Paul 'T Hart
- 2:30 - 2:50 Break**

2:50 – 4:30 Career Services Workshop
Tara Lamb, Career Services Coordinator

4:30 - 5:00 Advising / Q&A
Dr. Eric Zeemering, MPA Director
Kristin Lawrence, Graduate Program Administrator
Presley Morello, Advising and Recruiting Assistant

DAY 3: Saturday, August 9

Students will receive volunteer location instructions by email. See the email correspondence from Mallory Osner for your location and volunteer hours.