



School of Public &
International Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

PADP 6980: Socialization Seminar
Department of Public Administration and Policy
August 4, 5, and 9, 2025

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Class Meeting Location: Special Collections Libraries, Room 283

Course Description

Welcome to the MPA program at the University of Georgia! The MPA Socialization Seminar is designed to welcome new students to campus while previewing important themes in public service education. At the end of our three days together, students will be familiar with the five core MPA program competencies, will have a deeper understanding of public service values, and will participate in our commitment to public service during a volunteer day in the Athens community. This one credit hour seminar introduces you to many aspects of life as a graduate student and engages you in discussions about public service values, the role of government in society, and the importance of clear communication as a professional skill in public service.

Student Learning Outcomes & MPA Program Competencies

- Students will demonstrate a familiarity with the five MPA program competencies and understand how they will develop these competencies during their time as MPA students.
- Students will reflect upon their own values in public service and establish a base-line for thinking about how their values inform their public service.
- Students will practice professional writing skills through a collaborative exercise.
- Students will become more familiar with the Athens community by hearing from local leaders and engaging in direct service with a local government or non-profit organization.

Required Books

Lucas, Patrick, Tina Nabatchi, Jannine O’Flynn, and Paul ‘T Hart, eds. 2024. *Pathways to Positive Public Administration: An International Perspective*. New York: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Swain, John W. and Kathleen Dolan Swain. 2014. *Effective Writing in the Public Sector*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0765641502

Grading and Evaluation

This is a one credit hour seminar, evaluated with pass/fail grading. Students who attending both days of the seminar on campus and the Saturday volunteer event will receive credit for their participation. Students who are not able to attend the full seminar will be required to make up the time during the next socialization seminar in August 2026. This may result in a delay of progress to your degree and may even delay graduation for some students. Please be sure to register your attendance each day so that you may receive credit.

University Policies and Instructor Expectations for Students

All of the University's expectations for your conduct as a student apply in this class.

Academic Honesty: As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Disabilities and Accommodations: If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>

Course Schedule

The schedule for the MPA Socialization Seminar is available online:
<https://spia.uga.edu/departments-centers/padp/orientation/>

The schedule for the seminar will also be included in a folder of materials distributed to students on August 4. Volunteer assignments will be distributed to students individually before the Seminar. If you have any questions during the seminar, please ask or see staff from the Department of Public Administration and Policy to assist you.