



MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Concerned about our democracy?

Develop the skills and knowledge you need to be most effective in your role in the public or nonprofit sector. Earn a MPA (Master of Public Administration) Degree!

- The MPA degree is the professional degree for students seeking a career in public service or nonprofit management.
MPA programs develop the skills and techniques used by managers to implement policies, projects, and programs that resolve important problems within their organization and in society.

Our Mission

The mission of the SF State MPA Program is to enhance individual and organizational capacity to serve the public and nonprofit sectors through engaged and innovative teaching, research and service.

- We teach effective public administration by enriching students with knowledge and skills to inspire innovation and motivate continuous improvement.
As faculty and students, we work to provide applied research and service to the community.
We instill an appreciation for public service values such as: accountability, civic engagement, equity, social justice, and sustainability.

Program Overview

- Mid-size program
Small class sizes
No bottlenecks; median time to degree is now 6 semesters
Full-time faculty of 5 – full focus on public administration
Each has academic preparation & practitioner experience
Opportunities for faculty-student collaborations
Strong base of area alumni
Nationally accredited by NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, & Administration)
Low tuition cost, best value for your investment

Curriculum Overview

- 39 – 42 Units:
Solid core of foundation classes (12 units, 4 classes)
Management perspectives courses (12 units, select 4 of 6 courses)
Flexibility in electives (12 units)
Internship (3 units)
Culminating experience (3 units): capstone or thesis
Cross-program focus on writing, critical thinking, oral presentation skills & developing teamwork abilities
Balance between theory and practice
Applied research & service learning opportunities

Career Development

- Opportunities
Practical, hands on experience
Internships
Applied field study credits
Research projects
Connections with alumni working in the field
2-year Willie Brown Fellowship
Relevancy of the MPA Degree
Employers know what they are getting
Strong analytical skills – research, evaluation, policy analysis, finance
Managerial skills
Writing & presentation skills
Soft skills – teamwork, communication, leadership



The MPA Program has offered me a wide range of tools that I have been able to apply in my professional life. I gained research skills



in several of the courses that gave me hands on experience with interviewing, survey development and research analysis. I learned planning methods that I was able to use in a major work project that involved collaboration among several partners. ---Stacy Kono, Director of Programs and Innovation / Rockwood Leadership Institute / SF State MPA '17