

PART-TIME MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

Public Policy & Administration

Choose from five specializations — study on campus, online, or a combination of both.



Become a Change Agent

MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

By giving students a thorough grounding in both the analytical and the administrative components of public policy, Northwestern University's online Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) program stands apart.

While most graduate public policy focus on analysis or administration, Northwestern's MPPA covers both. Accessible on-campus or in a convenient online format, the program is designed specifically for current and aspiring leaders who understand that public policy is most likely to remedy societal ills and ultimately serve the greater good when it is thoughtfully designed and effectively administered.

In fields like child health care, monetary policy, and municipal government, Northwestern's MPPA graduates are not only shaping meaningful policy, they're also providing substantive leadership, applying policy in ways that make a positive difference.

As engaged participants in the program, students actively contribute to the greater learning community and emerge as uniquely equipped and empowered leaders. Designed with the working professional in mind, the MPPA program provides an outstanding curriculum designed and taught by Northwestern faculty. The program is designed for completion within two to three years of part-time study.

A Program for Leaders

- *Comprehensive and Integrated.* This is a comprehensive program that truly connects public policy creation to the implementation of policy.
- *Real-World Application.* This is a professional degree that builds essential skills that can be immediately applicable to your career, of value to your employer, and relevant to your industry.
- *Leadership Focused.* The curriculum emphasizes fundamental skills in effective leadership, communication, innovation, and change management.
- *Professional Scholarship.* Professors are recognized scholars and leaders in their fields. Students are introduced to the latest theories and practice in their fields.

Curriculum

The MPPA program requires the completion of 13 courses to obtain a degree. Students complete 9 core courses and a capstone (498) or thesis (590) project as well as three elective courses corresponding in a chosen area of specialization.

CORE COURSE

10 COURSES

- MPPA 401 Research Methods
- MPPA 402 Elements of Public Finance and Budgeting
- MPPA 403 Fundamentals of Public Administration
- MPPA 404 Microeconomics
- MPPA 405 Statistics for Research
- MPPA 406 Analytic Methods
- MPPA 407 Scope and Theory of Public Policy
- MPPA 408 Organization Theory and Analysis
- MPPA 409 Strategies for Effective Writing and Communication
- MPPA 498 Capstone Project or MPPA 590 Thesis Research (independent)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

3 COURSES

Public Administration

This specialization prepares students to serve as managers on the local, state and federal levels, and in the nongovernmental organization and nonprofit sectors. Graduates leave with an improved ability to deal with the complex challenges and concerns that face public administrators.

- MPPA 411 The Legislative Process
- MPPA 413 Foundations of the Nonprofit/ NGO Sector
- MPPA 417 Public Human Resources
- MPPA 430 Behavioral Economics

Public Policy

Students in this specialization will be able to understand the factors in public decision-making and policy formulation by honing their analytical skills and increasing their theoretical and practical knowledge in the field. Graduates are able to evaluate competing demands and lead toward innovative and transformative public policy solutions.

- MPPA 411 The Legislative Process
- MPPA 419 The Strategic Policy Environment
- MPPA 432 Intergovernmental Relations
- MPPA 430 Behavioral Economics
- MPPA 435 Regulatory Policy
- MPPA 490 Special Topics: US and Global Environmental Policy

Global Policy

This specialization introduces students to key issues addressed by global policy, such as development goals, the environment, financial regulation, nuclear proliferation, democratization and state-building. Graduates build the tools, training and knowledge necessary to lead policy development in an increasingly interdependent world while engaging various governments, private industries, non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

- MPPA 430 Behavioral Economics
- MPPA 440 International Institutions
- MPPA 450 Global Economic Policy
- MPPA 452 The Global City
- MSGH 421 Globalization and Public Policy
- MPPA 490 Special Topics: U.S. and Global Environmental Policy
- MPPA 490 Special Topics: U.S. Foreign Policy

Global Health (ONLY OFFERED ONLINE)

Government agencies and major foundations are investing billions to combat largely treatable chronic diseases that claim far too many lives in low- and middle-income countries. This specialization is designed to enable students, such as nonprofit administrators, policy analysts, social entrepreneurs and others, to make a meaningful difference in healthcare access and outcomes. Students will navigate the legal and regulatory aspects of health-related industries around the world and evaluate cultural and ethical considerations inherent in global health contexts.

- MSGH 405 Foundations of Global Health
- MSGH 417 Global Health Systems
- MSGH 421 Globalization and Public Policy
- MSGH 427 Grant Writing and Fundraising
- MSGH 450 Global Health Initiatives

Data Analytics (ONLY OFFERED ONLINE)

The data analytics specialization is intended for students who will use data analytics and statistics to address policy issues. Policy analysts and researchers who can use sophisticated statistical and computational methods can add insight and value to public policy decision-making by using big data to improve public services in public health, transportation, and law enforcement, predict and avert famine and droughts, and improve city infrastructures.

Please note that students must take the core MPPA 405 Statistics for Research before beginning the specialization.

- PREDICT 400 Math for Modelers (and any two of the following)
- PREDICT 410 Regression and Multi Analysis
- PREDICT 420 Database Systems and Data Preparation
- PREDICT 455 Data Visualization
- PREDICT 460 Decision Analytics
- PREDICT 490 Special Topics: any special topics course that is appropriate

Admission

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or its foreign equivalent. A competitive undergraduate record that indicates strong academic ability is required, though applicants need not have extensive academic experience in public policy. Work experience in the public sector is desirable but not necessary. New or relevant course work at the undergraduate level are recommended for applicants whose previous academic performance was below a B average.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Online application — sps.northwestern.edu/apply
- \$75 nonrefundable application fee
- One sealed copy of official transcripts from ALL attended colleges and universities.
 - Official transcripts must arrive in our office in the original sealed envelope issued by the institution. Northwestern University School of Professional Studies accepts electronic transcripts from U.S. institutions via secure electronic transcript providers. Consult with your institution to see if they are part of a secure e-delivery network. All electronic transcripts should be sent to spsadmissions@northwestern.edu. Please note transcripts are not accepted by fax or personal email.
 - Applicants with international transcripts must request an official course-by-course evaluation of transcripts from a NACES member such as WES or ECE. A course-by-course evaluation will translate courses, degrees and grades to U.S. equivalency.
- Two letters of recommendation focusing on academic and professional achievement and ability
- Statement of purpose (see following)
- Current resume or curriculum vitae
- Writing sample (see following)

Transcript mailing address:

MPPA Graduate Admissions, Northwestern University School of Professional Studies, Wieboldt Hall, Sixth floor
339 E. Chicago Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60611-3008

THE WRITING SAMPLE

The writing sample allows the applicant to demonstrate the ability to present ideas and arguments in a manner appropriate to a graduate-level program. The sample can be an academic paper, a short work-related memo or other written analysis, or an essay describing a critical public policy issue.

If you submit an academic paper, it should consist of the following:

- A clearly articulated thesis on a topic drawn from public policy or a related discipline
- An argument that persuasively supports the thesis and demonstrates an awareness of contrary arguments.
- Documentation of quoted material and acknowledgment of ideas taken from the works of others using an accepted academic style guide (such as that of the American Psychological Association or Modern Language Association)

If you submit a work-related analysis of a policy, problem, or program of which you are the sole author it should consist of the following:

- A clear identification of the organizational issue in need of attention
- An analysis of the issue and its importance to the organization
- Well-reasoned action options and your final recommendations with supporting justifications for the action you advocate

If you are submitting an essay it should be comprised of the following:

- A description of what you see as one of the most critical public policy issues that faces the nation, your state, or your community
- Provide a summary of a course of action you advocate to address this issue as if you were serving in a policy-making or administrative leadership role
- Supporting justification for the action you advocate

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Applicants must submit a 300-word statement of purpose explaining how the degree program will help them meet their academic and professional goals. Applicants who did not major in public policy or a related field should explain how other academic and nonacademic experiences have prepared them to undertake graduate study in this program.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications are accepted every quarter.

- **Fall:** July 15
- **Spring:** January 15
- **Winter:** October 15
- **Summer:** April 15

For detailed admission information visit sps.northwestern.edu/ppa. For application assistance call 312-503-2579 or email mppa@northwestern.edu



“One thing about working in public policy is that a lot of us are here because we’re so passionate about it. The line between what you do for fun and what you do for work blurs.”

JC Kibbey, Midwest Outreach and Policy Advocate at the Union of Concerned Scientists



“The most important thing I gained from the MPPA program was the ability to think critically. With critical thinking skills, it doesn’t matter where you land. You’ll have the skill to analyze information and act on it.”

Kimberly Davis (MPPA '13), chief financial officer at Inspiration Corporation

Northwestern | SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

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