Public Administration

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Program Codes:
20FS0339MPA (MPA)
20FS0339PHD (PhD)

Please note: The PhD in Public Administration has been suspended effective Fall 2015. Contact the department for more information.

The graduate program in Public Administration is part of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. The unit offers course work leading to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) and the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration.

The MPA is a professional program fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. Its broad goal is to train both preservice and working professionals for productive careers in public service.

The doctoral program is designed to produce graduates with demonstrated research abilities, and the creativity and potential for making significant, original contributions to the field of Public Administration. The program builds on a core of ideas and issues, with strong emphasis on theory construction and empirical research in the areas of Public Management; Financial Management; Science, Technology, and Information Policy; and Survey Methods.

Admission and Degree Requirements

- Master of Public Administration (http://catalog.uic.edu/gcat/colleges-schools/urban-planning-public-affairs/pa/mpa)
- PhD in Public Administration (http://catalog.uic.edu/gcat/colleges-schools/urban-planning-public-affairs/pa/phd)

Courses

PA 400. Public Administration Theory. 3 or 4 hours.
Theoretical developments; including bureaucracy, administrative state, politics and administration, market and bureaucratic alternatives, organizational decision making, organizational culture, ethics in public sector organizations. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 407. Data Analysis for Public Administration. 4 hours.
Topics and methods of analyzing information relevant to the administration and management of public programs and organizations. Includes causation, univariate statistics, significance testing, correlation, and regression. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Appropriate score on the department placement test; and graduate standing or consent of the instructor. Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 410. Economics for Public Administration and Policy Decisions. 3 or 4 hours.
Basic economic tools and methods relevant to public administration and current policy, including opportunity cost, competition versus monopoly, economic efficiency, equity, market failure, public goods, and externalities. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): Appropriate score on the department placement test and graduate standing and admission to the MPA program; or consent of the instructor.

PA 421. Public Management. 3 or 4 hours.
Theories, concepts, and applications of management in public organizations. Topics include bureaucracy, public versus private organizations, leadership, motivation, and managing organization change, discretion, and networks. Course Information: Previously listed as PA 415. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 447. Survey Planning and Design. 3 hours.
Theory and applications of sample survey planning and design for conducting research in health sciences and related fields. Addresses three major topics: survey design and planning, sampling, and data collection procedures. Course Information: Same as CHSC 447. Prerequisite(s): Graduate or professional standing and BSTT 400 and CHSC 446; or approval of the department. Recommended background: Credit in CHSC 446 or the equivalent.

PA 460. Data Management. 4 hours.
Database theory and constructing and managing databases relevant to the operation of government. Utilizes database software and allows students to gain practice with complex database programs and development of a database system. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 461. Management of Information Technology in Government. 4 hours.
Concepts and methods of planning, implementing, and managing new information technology or modifying existing technology. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 462. Project Management for Public Managers. 4 hours.
Discusses the theory, principles, tools, and techniques behind solid project management. The Project Management Institute’s (PMI) standards for project management will be emphasized throughout the course.

PA 463. Introduction to e-Government. 4 hours.
Application of the Internet and related technologies for public management. Topics include, Web-based service delivery, online governance, the technological divide, the use of social media, and the changing role of public managers. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.
PA 464. Technology and Innovation Theory. 4 hours.
The course focuses on theories surrounding the creation, development, transfer, and use of technology. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 465. Geographic Information Systems for Public Managers. 4 hours.
Individuals completing this course will have an understanding of some fundamental GIS tools and applications as well as the challenges in implementing and sustaining a GIS function in the public setting. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Laboratory-Discussion.

PA 466. Science, Technology and Public Policy. 4 hours.
This course addresses the relationships between public policy and science and technology in the United States. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 490. Field Experience in Public Administration. 4 hours.
Students work in an organization such as a government agency, community group, or nonprofit organization. Students are required to submit written work and meet with professor on periodic basis to review work experience. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. A maximum of 4 hours of credit may be applied to the Master of Public Administration program. Field work required. Students who have no prior work experience in the public or non-profit sectors are strongly recommended to register for this course. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing required; and admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 493. Topics in Urban and Public Affairs and Administration. 3 hours.
In-depth study of selected issues on urban and public affairs. Course Information: Same as UPA 493. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Students may register for more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the BA in Urban and Public Affairs Program or consent of the instructor.

PA 494. Special Topics in Public Administration. 3 or 4 hours.
Consideration of timely or enduring issues in public administration not available in regularly offered courses. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 496. Senior Capstone Experience in Urban and Public Affairs I: Public Administration. 3 hours.
Selection of capstone topic and introductory research on that topic. Course Information: Same as UPA 496. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or above; Admission to the BA in Urban and Public Affairs Program or consent of the instructor. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture/Discussion and one Conference.

PA 497. Senior Capstone Experience in Urban and Public Affairs II: Public Administration. 3 hours.
Students synthesize and draw upon knowledge gained in the UPA major to engage in projects in the urban community. This course is an extension of UPA/PA 496. Course Information: Same as UPA 497. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or above; Admission to the BA in Urban and Public Affairs Program or consent of the instructor. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Conference.

PA 499. Independent Study in Urban Planning and Public Affairs and Administration. 1-3 hours.
Provides an opportunity for students to pursue an independent project that is not available through the required UPA coursework. Course Information: Same as UPA 499. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the BA in Urban and Public Affairs Program or consent of the instructor.

PA 502. The Legal Context of Public Administration. 4 hours.
Legal basis and statutory framework for administrative agencies and actions in government. Relationship between courts and public agencies, rulemaking and adjudicative powers of public agencies, and impact of specific laws on government. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 503. Public Personnel Management. 4 hours.
History and current innovations in managing personnel and other areas of human resources. Compensation, classification, affirmative action, performance appraisal, labor relations, and unions. Statutory and court decisions affecting government personnel issues. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 504. Budgeting for Public Administration. 4 hours.
Processes and methods relevant to government finances and fiscal health: revenues, taxation, budget formulation, operating budgets, cost analysis, planning and performance, budget reforms, politics, capital budgeting, role of budgeting in management. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 506. Policy Development and Analysis for Public Administrators. 4 hours.
Examines the process by which public policies are formulated, decided on, implemented, and evaluated. Techniques of analysis appropriate for various policy issues, and substantive policy issues facing us today. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Grade C or better in PA 407 and admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 510. Organization Theory and Behavior in Public Administration Research. 4 hours.
Analysis of major analytical models of organizations; decision-making; control and accountability; change and development; interorganizational relations; the organization-environment interface. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D. in Public Administration program or approval of the program director.

PA 511. The History and Development of Public Administration Research and Theory. 4 hours.
The history and development of modern public administration, with emphasis on the U.S. model. Major scholarly movements; institutional developments; other factors shaping the present state of the discipline. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D in Public Administration program or approval of the program director.

PA 515. The Bureaucracy and the Policy Process. 4 hours.
Theories and research issues concerning the role of administrators in policy formation. Case studies and research on federal, state, and local agencies. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D. in Public Administration program or approval of the program director.
PA 521. Strategic Management: Planning and Measurement. 4 hours.
This course addresses strategies and issues relating to the strategic management of public and quasi-public organizations. It addresses strategic planning and performance measurement processes within organizations. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 522. Ethics and Accountability. 4 hours.
Better government through institutionalizing ethics and accountability. Effectiveness of boards of ethics, Inspector General, codes of ethics, and educational programs. History of ethics within the Western intellectual tradition. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 523. Intergovernmental Management. 4 hours.
Relationships between federal, state and local governments focusing on management of overlapping programmatic, regulatory and fiscal responsibilities. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 524. Leadership in Public Sector Organizations. 4 hours.
Examines theories and practices of leadership in public sector organizations. Global, political, social, and organizational contexts of public sector leaders and interface between administrators, appointees, elected officials. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 526. Public Decision Analysis. 4 hours.
Provides an introductory treatment of decision analysis. The intended participants are students who want to learn more about decision making under uncertainty and tools that can be used to support it. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 407 or consent of the instructor.

PA 527. Public Management Theory. 4 hours.
Addresses the development of the public management subfield within the field of public administration. It covers the development of public management theory from its early stages to current questions and theoretical approaches. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 528. Public Program Evaluation. 4 hours.
Theory and procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of programs administered by public and non-profit organizations. Includes application of research design, quantitative, and qualitative methodologies. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 542 or equivalent; and admission to the Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 529. Change and Reform in Public Organizations. 4 hours.
Examines how large, bureaucratic organizations change how they do business. Can improved efficiency and effectiveness result from such change? What techniques are being applied by public organizations to achieve such change? Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 530. History and Theory of the Nonprofit Sector. 4 hours.
History of philanthropy in the U.S., nonprofits in an international context, the civic base of the nonprofit sector, and the historical and modern relationships between the government and the nonprofit sector.

PA 532. Labor Management Relations in the Public Sector. 4 hours.
Skills and knowledge to manage labor relations in government. Constitutional influences on public employment, rights of public employees, mgmt and labor unions; civil service laws, collective bargaining, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 503; and admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 533. Managing Workplace Diversity. 4 hours.
Examines discrimination and diversity in public sector workplaces along several dimensions including race, ethnicity, sex, age, sexual preference, and physical ability. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 503; and admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 534. Human Resource Development and Management in Public Administration. 4 hours.
Topics in public personnel administration; work motivation, performance appraisal, high performance work systems, equal employment opportunity, affirmative action, strategic human resource management and representative bureaucracy. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to a Ph.D. program or consent of the instructor.

PA 536. Financial Management and Fundraising in Nonprofit Organizations. 4 hours.
Financial management and fundraising activities in nonprofit organizations. Financial accounting, developing nonprofit resources, fundraising, fund development, marketing, philanthropy, grant-writing, and nonprofit budgeting. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 504 and PA 538; or consent of the instructor.

PA 537. Local Government Management. 4 hours.
Issues in the management of local government, including the metropolitan and regional context, the evolving role of managers and special considerations in finance, reform, service delivery, economic development, and democracy at the local level. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 538. Nonprofit Management. 4 hours.
Examines management in nonprofit organizations: volunteer management, membership, fundraising, faith-based organizations, grant management, service delivery, philanthropies and missions, finance and reporting requirements, and performance. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 540. Research Design for Public Administration. 4 hours.
Logic and methods of quantitative and non-quantitative research in public administration. Issues in measurement; causal inference; experimental and quasi-experimental designs; and methods of data collection. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D. in Public Administration program or approval of the program director.

PA 541. Advanced Data Analysis I. 4 hours.
Elements of matrix theory; introduction to the theory of estimation; hypothesis testing; logit and probit models; factor analysis; and principal components analysis. Application of techniques to public administration research. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing; and PA 540 or equivalent or approval of the instructor.

PA 542. Advanced Data Analysis II. 4 hours.
For those likely to pursue careers in the more quantitative aspects of public administration research. Discrete multivariate analysis and regression; multivariate analysis of variance; other advanced techniques. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing; and PA 541 or equivalent or approval of the instructor.

PA 544. Qualitative Research Methods in Public Administration. 4 hours.
The uses, strengths and limitations of qualitative methods of research and analysis including case studies, participant-observer, and ethnography will be explored. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate or professional standing; PA 540 or equivalent; or consent of the instructor.
PA 545. Research Topics in Public Administration I. 2 hours.  
Provides Ph.D. students with a better understanding of current research topics in PA. Students will read current working papers and published articles so as to develop the tools needed for critical analysis of current research. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D. program in Public Administration and advanced standing or consent of the instructor.

PA 546. Research Topics in Public Administration II. 2 hours.  
Continuation of PA 545. Students critically analyze current research and will develop a research topic of their own focusing on the elements needed to write a quality research paper. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): PA 545; and admission to the PhD program in Public Administration with advanced standing or consent of the instructor.

Overview of issues and concepts important for admin and mgmnt of govt's financial affairs: govt accounting, purchasing, cash management and investment, risk management, pension and benefits administration, debt management and capital financing. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 504; and admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 551. Governmental Accounting. 4 hours.  
Introduction to major concepts, principles, and objectives of governmental accounting (including fund accounting) and budgetary control systems for local and state government. Designed for students with little or no background in accounting. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 504; and admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 552. Public Capital Budgeting and Finance. 4 hours.  
Examines governmental capital budgeting processes, linkages between the capital budget and capital improvement plan, and methods and techniques of financing capital projects including debt financing. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 504; and admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 553. State and Local Public Finance. 4 hours.  
Analyzes expenditures and revenues of state and local govs and public sector responses to market failures. Examines state and local revenue sources and discusses governmental provision of services. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): PA 504; and admission to the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 554. Financial Management in Public Administration. 4 hours.  
Principles of financial management and applications in various institutional and programmatic settings. Forecasting techniques, computer applications, innovations in public borrowing and debt management. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate or professional standing; and PA 410 and PA 504 or equivalents; or consent of the instructor.

PA 567. Topics in Political Communication. 4 hours.  
Intensive study of selected aspects; organizational communication in public institutions, urban political communication patterns, communication elites. Independent research using a variety of community research techniques. Course Information: Same as COMM 567 and POLS 567. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

PA 577. Survey Questionnaire Design. 3 hours.  
Concepts and strategies for developing survey questionnaires for various modes of survey data collection. Course Information: Same as CHSC 577. Prerequisite(s): Graduate or professional standing and CHSC 446 or CHSC 447; or approval of the department.

PA 578. Surveys, Public Opinion, and Public Policy. 4 hours.  
Addresses the nature of the relationship between public policy and public opinion and the role that surveys play in that relationship. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 579. Practicum in Survey Methodology. 2-6 hours.  
Students learn about survey research by participating in the process of conducting a survey or surveys. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 580. Survey Nonresponse. 2 hours.  
Provides an overview of current problems in survey nonresponse and related questions of impact on data quality. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 581. Cross-Cultural Survey Research Methods. 2 hours.  
Provides graduate students with a clear understanding of the methodological issues involved in collecting survey data across multiple cultural groups and best practices when conducting cross-cultural research. Course Information: Recommended background: Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 582. Survey Data Collection Methods: Theory and Practice. 4 hours.  
This course will address the impact of data collection methods on survey responses and data quality. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate or professional standing or consent of the instructor.

Introduces students to one approach to survey methodology ? the examination of the psychological processes through which survey respondents answer questions. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 584. Internet Surveys. 2 hours.  
Examines current developments in the collection of survey data via the internet, including both the methodological strengths and weaknesses of this approach, as well as current standards for best practice. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 585. Survey Research Ethics. 2 hours.  
Students will be exposed to survey research ethical issues. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 586. The History of Survey Methodology. 2 hours.  
Examines the history of surveys, their development and change over time. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 587. Seminar on Special Topics in Survey Methodology. 2 hours.  
This seminar is for special topics in survey methodology not covered in the other elective courses. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 588. Applied Survey Sampling and Analysis. 4 hours.  
Provides an in-depth overview of available procedures and standards for survey data reduction and data analysis activities. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the MPA or Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.
PA 590. Public Administration Capstone. 4 hours.
Integration of classroom learning with practical experience. Students will work in groups to solve real problems for public and non-profit organizations. Course Information: Extensive collaboration required among group members outside of class time. Students should expect significant field work at their assigned organizations. Students are responsible to the course professor and to the project supervisor in their assigned organizations. Because the coursework is team-based, students are not allowed to drop this course once teams are created. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor and enrollment in the MPA program. Course must be taken in the last two semesters in the MPA program or consent of the instructor.

PA 593. Independent Research in Public Administration. 1-8 hours.
Advanced study and analysis of a topic selected by a student under the supervision of a faculty member. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the director of graduate studies and consent of the instructor.

PA 594. Special Topics in Public Administration. 1-4 hours.
Advanced study of an announced topic. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Ph.D. in Public Administration program or consent of the instructor.

PA 596. Independent Study in Public Administration. 1-4 hours.
Advanced study and analysis of a topic under guidance of select faculty. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the director of graduate studies and consent of the instructor.

PA 599. Ph.D. Thesis Research. 0-16 hours.
Individual study and research. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Prerequisite(s): Open only to degree candidates, upon approval of topic by dissertation committee.