

Master of Public Policy

Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 2.75/4.00 for the final 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of undergraduate study, including all work taken in the term in which the student began the final 60 semester hours of study.
- **English Proficiency** Additional information on the English proficiency test requirement for international students can be found on the [UIC Admissions website](#). Minimum test scores for this program are:

Exam	Score	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
TOEFL iBT (exams taken on or after January 21, 2026)	4.5	4	4	4.5	4.5
TOEFL iBT (exams taken prior to January 21, 2026)	80	19	17	20	21
IELTS Academic	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
PTE Academic	54	51	47	53	56

- **Personal Statement** Required. Applicants must submit a brief statement of their professional goals and academic interests.
- **Additional Materials**
 - *Required:* Applicants must submit a resume.
 - *Optional:* Applicants may submit a 5–10 page writing sample and up to three letters of recommendation. These letters should be from instructors familiar with the applicant's academic training or supervisors familiar with the applicant's professional experiences.
- **Nondegree Applicants** Nondegree Applicants must submit an official transcript from their baccalaureate institution, resume, and a letter stating which courses they would like to take and why they feel nondegree admission would be beneficial.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 53.
- **Coursework**

Code	Title	Hours
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Foundational Core Courses (25 semester hours)

PA 401	Foundations of Public Service	
PA 402	Introduction to Data Management and Analysis	
PA 403	Economics for Management and Policy	
PA 506	Public Policy Development and Process	
PA 521	Strategic Management: Planning and Measurement	
PA 590	Capstone and Portfolio in Public Policy, Management, and Analytics	
PA 591	Managing Your Career	

MPP Core (16 semester hours)

PA 434	Intermediate Data Management and Analysis	
PA 515	Bureaucracy and the Policy Process	
PA 528	Public Program Evaluation	
PA 541	Advanced Data Analysis I	

Policy Area Specialization (8 credit hours)

Select 8 credit hours within a policy area specialization in health policy, educational policy, environmental policy and urban planning, housing and community development, or a specialization approved by the director of graduate studies or advisor.

Electives (4 semester hours)

Select 4 semester hours with the approval of the advisor.

- **Grade Point Average:** Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.00/4.00 in the program in order to graduate and must receive a C or higher in all required courses.
- **Comprehensive Examination:** None
- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options:** Coursework only. No other options available.