



# MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



## Why a master's degree in Public Administration?

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is the professional degree for individuals preparing for leadership roles in public service. The program is designed to help students develop the skills and techniques required to create and implement policies, projects and programs that resolve important societal problems, while addressing organizational, human resource and budgetary challenges.

## Why a MPA at Bowling Green State University?

The MPA program at BGSU is NASPAA accredited and is a flexible professional degree that can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis, with evening classes offered for working professionals. The program emphasizes applied coursework and includes ample opportunities for students to engage in projects that serve community clients, providing relevant, real-world experience. Since the arena of public service is so vast, the MPA is designed to enable you to synthesize and transfer your education, volunteer work and professional experiences into a meaningful career.

## Learning outcomes

Graduates of the MPA program will be well-equipped to address problems and challenges now and in the years ahead through the promotion of intellectual development, scholarship, leadership, ethics and training in basic and applied research relevant to the public and nonprofit sectors. The program trains students in the theory, methods and practice of public administration through a combination of coursework, research and experiential learning via public service and client-based projects.

## Professional opportunities

MPA graduates are prepared for work in a wide variety of public service fields including all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, international NGOs, academia and the private sector. Recent graduates of the program have been hired as grant writers, legislative aides, state auditors, policy analysts, human resource directors, county administrators, event and social media coordinators, fulfillment analysts and communication directors, just to name a few.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Shannon Orr,  
College of Arts and Sciences, at [skorr@bgsu.edu](mailto:skorr@bgsu.edu) or call (419) 372-7593.

For questions about Professional Pathways, contact Graduate Admissions:  
[gradinfo@bgsu.edu](mailto:gradinfo@bgsu.edu) | 419-372-2791 | [www.bgsu.edu/graduate](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate)

## Program strength and uniqueness

- This NASPAA accredited program can be completed full-time or part-time, with classes offered in the evenings for working professionals.
- Flexible course requirements allow students to tailor the program to prepare for individualized career goals.
- Emphasis is placed on applied coursework, with projects for community clients providing real-world experience prior to graduation.
- The MPA Student Association promotes professional development and social events, helping to foster community among students and faculty.
- Faculty in the MPA program are active in research and committed to uniquely effective pedagogies including case studies, service learning, simulations, lectures, seminars and field trips.
- A low faculty-to-student ratio assures small class sizes and individualized attention.
- All undergraduate majors may apply . . . there are no prerequisites.



*"I was able to apply what I learned at the city level to what I learned in the classroom, and was able to bring that back to share with other students. At the same time, I was immediately able to take things I learned in the classroom to apply to my council work and various community projects."*

— Daniel Gordon '14, Bowling Green City Council Member

## Admission requirements

The program strongly recommends that applicants have a minimum of a 3.0/4.0 undergraduate grade point average (GPA). Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted. Applicants are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

All applicants must submit a statement outlining their interests in the degree and public administration. A minimum of two (2) letters of recommendation from individuals with knowledge of the applicant's qualifications and ability to successfully complete graduate study are also required.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English (PTE), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

## Cost of tuition

Please refer to [www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar) for current information on tuition and fees.

## Financial assistance

A limited number of teaching assistantships and scholarships are available for full-time students who qualify. For more information, please contact the department.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at [www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions).

**Application deadline (w/ funding), fall term:  
March 1**

**Application deadline (w/o funding), fall term:  
July 1**

**Application deadline, spring term:  
November 1**

## Curriculum

A total of 36 credit hours of coursework at the graduate level are required, with at least 30 hours at the 6000 level or above.

### Core Courses (15 hours)

- POLS 6210 Public Administration Theory and Behavior
- POLS 6260 Public Management I: Personnel Management and Leadership
- POLS 6280 Public Management II: Budgeting, Fiscal Policy, and Decision-making
- POLS 6200 Public Administration and Public Policy
- POLS 6750 Research Methods

### Public Administration Courses (18 hours)

A minimum of 9 credit hours of 6000-level courses must be chosen from the Political Science Department. Sample courses may include:

- Administrative Law
- Economic Development
- International Development
- Nonprofit Management
- Program Evaluation

Students with specific interests should meet with the Graduate Coordinator to discuss an individualized plan of coursework.

### Internship

Waived for those students with previous work experience.

### Capstone or Thesis



## Professional Pathways

**Professional Pathways provide affordable, flexible and practical graduate programs for working professionals, as well as full-time students, desiring advanced degrees or certificates to increase career opportunities or expand knowledge in specific academic disciplines.**