

PUBLIC POLICY, MPP

Program Director: Tanya Heikkila, PhD

Introduction

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree prepares students to design, advocate for, and evaluate public policy from positions inside or outside of government. Students will gain understanding of public policy design and analysis techniques, as well as the role of politics and power in influencing the making and implementation of public policy. Democratic norms constitute the bedrock and lodestone of this program, emphasizing principles of political equity and human dignity for all.

To learn more about our renowned faculty, please view their bios (<https://publicaffairs.ucdenver.edu/people/faculty/>) on the School of Public Affairs website.

Program Delivery

- Courses are offered on campus, online, and hybrid formats.

Program Requirements

- Students must successfully complete at least 36 credit hours of approved coursework (or 39 credit hours if the internship is required).
- Students must maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA in this program.
- Students must earn at least a B- in all core coursework and at least a C in all elective coursework to be accepted for graduate credit towards the degree.
- No more than 6 credit hours of Independent Study may be applied toward the degree.
- Students who have not had at least one year of professional work experience in the public or nonprofit sectors must complete an internship through an additional 3-semester-hour course, bringing their total semester-hour requirements to 39.
- This program must be completed within 6 years.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Core Courses		
All MPP students must complete the following seven core courses or approved equivalents:		
PUAD 5003	Research and Analytic Methods	3
PUAD 5004	Economics and Public Finance	3
PUAD 5005	The Policy Process and Democracy	3
PUAD 5310	Principles of Policy Design	3
PUAD 5320	Public Policy Analysis	3
PUAD 5380	Public Participation, Political Equity, and Government	3
PUAD 5750	Policy Workshop Seminar ¹	3
Required Elective Courses		12
Select four elective courses from a pre-approved list and/or with approval from the program director.		
Internship		3
PUAD 6910	Internship ²	
Capstone		3
Select one of the following:		
PUAD 5362	MPP Capstone Seminar (during the final semester)	

PUAD 6950 Master's Thesis ³

Total Hours **39**

- ¹ This is a 1-credit course that must be taken three times with different topics each time.
- ² Internship: Students who have limited experience (generally defined as less than one year of experience) in public, nonprofit or relevant private-sector service must enroll in PUAD 6910 Internship. The decision to require PUAD 6910 Internship for a particular student is made by the faculty admissions committee or the student's faculty advisor upon the student's acceptance to the MPP program. A minimum of 300 hours of supervised work and study is required to earn the 3.00 credit hours for this course. The internship requirement raises the total credit hours needed to earn the MPP degree from 36 to 39.
- ³ Students completing a thesis must enroll in the 3-credit PUAD 6950 course twice, for a total of 6 credits, with approval by and in consultation with the program director prior to enrolling in the course. The thesis option increases the total number of credits to complete the program from 36 to 39.

Optional Concentrations

Students in the MPP program may select one of the concentrations below or complete the MPP without a specified concentration. All students completing a concentration take their electives in the area of their concentration, complete the advanced seminar project in the area of their concentration and are advised by faculty from the concentration.

Education Policy Concentration

The concentration in Education Policy provides students with an understanding of how K-12 education is governed, financed, and regulated in the United States. Students will become familiar with the interaction between federal, state, and local policies and with the context in which education policy is formulated and implemented. The Education Policy concentration requires a total of 12 credit hours.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Core Courses		
PUAD 5200	Education Policy	3
PUAD 5210	Education Finance	3
Required Elective Courses		6
Select two additional elective courses from the list below or select unlisted courses that have been approved in advance by the program director.		
PUAD 5110	Seminar in Nonprofit Management	
PUAD 5120	Nonprofits and Public Policy	
PUAD 5140	Nonprofit Financial Management	
PUAD 5170	Strategic Management for Nonprofit and Public Managers	
PUAD 5180	Social Entrepreneurship	
PUAD 5230	Education Systems Leadership	
PUAD 5310	Principles of Policy Design	
PUAD 5320	Public Policy Analysis	
PUAD 5350	Program Evaluation	
PUAD 5460	Political Advocacy	
PUAD 5625	Local Government Management	
PUAD 5626	Local Government Politics and Policy	
PUAD 5628	Social Problems and Policies	

EDUC 5655	Leadership Practices for Transformative School Reform	
HDFR 6075	Family Policy and Law	
Total Hours		12

Environmental Policy Concentration

The concentration in Environmental Policy provides additional knowledge and skills relevant to careers in environmental policy. The Environmental Policy concentration requires a total of 12 credit hours.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Core Courses		
PUAD 5631	Seminar in Environmental Politics and Policy	3
Required Elective Courses		
Select two additional elective courses from the list below or select unlisted courses that have been approved in advance by the program director.		
COMM 5282	Environmental Communication	
ECON 5530	Economics of Natural Resources	
ECON 5540	Environmental Economics	
ENVS 5720	Climate Change: Causes, Impacts and Solutions	
GEOG 5090	Environmental Modeling with Geographic Information Systems	
PHIL 5430	How to think green: Environmental Ethics	
Total Hours		9

Policy Analysis Methods Concentration

The concentration in Policy Analysis Methods provides training for students interested in building additional quantitative and qualitative skills used in traditional public policy analysis. The Policy Analysis Methods concentration requires a total of 12 credit hours.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Core Course		
PUAD 5330	Intermediate Statistical Analysis (An equivalent intermediate statistical analysis course may be substituted with director approval.)	3
Required Elective Courses		
Select three additional elective courses from the list below or select unlisted courses that have been approved in advance by the program director.		
PUAD 5007	Qualitative Research Methods	
PUAD 5008	Evidence-Based Decision-Making	
PUAD 5350	Program Evaluation	
ECON 5150	Economic Forecasting	
GEOG 5085	GIS Applications for the Urban Environment	
PSCI 5011	GIS in Political Science	
Total Hours		12

Policy Entrepreneurship and Advocacy Concentration

The concentration in Policy Entrepreneurship and Advocacy is designed for students who are primarily interested in careers that involve developing and advocating for policy solutions in their particular areas of interest. The Policy Entrepreneurship and Advocacy concentration requires a total of 12 credit hours.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Core Courses		
PUAD 5180	Social Entrepreneurship	3
PUAD 5370	Public Discourse and the Policy Process	3
PUAD 5460	Political Advocacy	3
Required Elective Course		
Select one additional elective course from the list below or select unlisted courses that have been approved in advance by the program director.		
PUAD 5120	Nonprofits and Public Policy	
PUAD 5420	Law and Public Policy	
COMM 5282	Environmental Communication	
COMM 5682	Political Communication	
PSCI 5206	Social Movements, Democracy and Global Politics	
PSCI 5914	Community Organizing and Community Development	
Total Hours		12