MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Seattle University Master of Public Administration program educates and inspires students and professionals to make effective contributions to public service. The program is guided by the values of social justice, analytic rigor, ethical decision-making, and service to communities.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

www.seattleu.edu/artsci/mpa

"I knew that a mid-level management role wasn't going to be my final destination. I looked at a number of advanced degree programs and was excited to see that SU's Master of Public Administration curriculum matched my professional needs and offered a lot of flexibility."

Jessi Bon, Class of 2003
Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Sammamish

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program educates individuals for leadership and management in local, state, and federal government and the nonprofit sector.

- Our curriculum provides students with practical "hands-on" experience and best practices, focusing on organizational leadership, public policy, and program improvement.
- Our program is designed for working professionals; classes are offered in the evenings and on Saturdays.
- Our students represent a diverse group of individuals working across public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- Our faculty are experts in public policy, finance, leadership and management, and program evaluation. They are practitioners working as economists, public analysts, and managers in state and local governments and nonprofit organizations.
- Our alumni are leaders in public and nonprofit sectors who connect students to an active network of local professionals and organizations.

For more information, visit our website at www.seattleu.edu/artsci/mpa

"The key to being successful in public service depends on your ability to communicate policy and framework, understand group and organizational dynamics, and navigate relationships. I gained foundational skills to successfully work in two policy-oriented environments: the Washington State Budget & Policy Center and the City of Seattle."

Karinda Harris, Class of 2012
Policy Analyst, City of Seattle

CURRICULUM

The Master of Public Administration program requires the completion of 54 credits with a specialization in government or nonprofit.

Required courses: 24 credits

Foundations of Public Administration
Understanding Organizations
Policy Formation and Implementation
Management and Human Relations Skills
Management Analysis and Control
Policy and Program Research
Economic Analysis
Capstone Project

The capstone course integrates classroom learning with experiences gained from working with local agencies or employers. Students analyze a policy or management problem and make recommendations for courses of action.

Specialization: Three courses in government or nonprofit: 9 credits

Electives: 21 credits

Sample courses:
Human Resource Management
Public Budgeting
Communication and Advocacy
Introduction to City Management
For-credit internship

Courses are offered fall, winter, spring, and summer quarters. Most students complete the program in two and a half years.

For detailed information about courses and degree requirements, visit our website at www.seattleu.edu/artsci/mpa

"Thanks to Seattle University's focus on social justice, I find myself thinking about the social justice implications of policies and procedures that we consider at work. Remembering the impact on those in need puts a face on those choices."

"The coursework helped me advance in my career by teaching me theories and skills beyond what was offered by my employer. Classes have challenged me to stretch my thinking and question my assumptions. This led directly to my development into a stronger candidate for a promotion at work."

Andrew Chin, Class of 2014
Child Support Program Manager
Department of Social and Health Services

POLICY INCUBATOR COMPETITION

Every year, MPA students submit papers proposing innovative public policy solutions to issues facing our region. Finalists present their papers to a panel of government and nonprofit leaders and receive direct feedback and recommendations from the judges.

OUR ALUMNI

Our alumni go on to successful careers in local, state, and federal government, as well as nonprofit organizations.

Many of our alumni work closely with our program, including participating in the MPA mentorship program. The program connects students with alumni and community leaders who provide guidance for professional development.

OUR STUDENTS

Recent MPA students received coveted Presidential Management Fellowships working in federal agencies including the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Defense.

"The people I met through the program—the staff, faculty, and classmates—were highly important to my personal and professional development. I was able to share ideas, debate real-life topics, and engage in serious dialogue about important issues. Those discussions and the technical skills gained have enabled me to serve others well."

Steve Wright, Class of 2006
Executive Director, Northwest Parkinson's Foundation

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Commitment to social justice.
- Instruction designed for working professionals that enhances their workplace experiences.
- Faculty expertise and research in public and nonprofit management, environmental justice and sustainability, public policy, and finance.
- Faculty currently in leadership positions in state and local governments and nonprofit organizations.
- Network of more than 1,000 alumni in local, state, and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations.
- MPA Connections mentorship program that promotes personal growth and professional development by connecting students with alumni and community leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors.
- Scholarships available.

ADMISSIONS

We encourage you to attend an information session, visit a class, or meet with a faculty member or alumnus of our program to learn more. For complete admission criteria, application procedures, and scholarships, visit our website at www.seattleu.edu/artsci/mpa.

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

Minimum 3.0 grade point average.

One year of professional work experience.

Applications are accepted for start dates in summer, fall, winter, and spring quarters.

CONTACT INFORMATION

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS OFFICE

901 12th Avenue
PO Box 222000
Seattle, WA 98122-1090

Phone: 206-220-8010
Email: grad-admissions@seattleu.edu
Website: www.seattleu.edu

Toll Free: 1-800-426-7123

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Institute of Public Service
Phone: 206-296-5440
Email: mpa@seattleu.edu
Website: www.seattleu.edu/artsci/mpa

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Phone: 206-220-8020
Email: financialservices@seattleu.edu
Website: www.seattleu.edu/sfs

Seattle University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology or status as a Vietnam-era or special disabled veteran in the administration of any of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletics, and other school-administered policies and programs, or in its employment related policies and practices. In addition, the University does not discriminate on the basis of genetic information in its employment related policies and practices, including coverage under its health benefits program.

All University policies, practices and procedures are administered in a manner consistent with Seattle University's Catholic and Jesuit identity and character. Inquiries relating to these policies may be referred to the University's Vice President for Human Resources and University Services and Equal Opportunity Officer at (206) 296-5870.

Consistent with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations, Seattle University has designated three individuals responsible for coordinating the University's Title IX compliance. Students or employees with concerns or complaints about discrimination on the basis of sex in employment or an education program or activity may contact any one of the following Title IX coordinators: Gerald Huffman, Vice President for Human Resources and University Services, Rianna 214, (206) 296-5870, huffmaje@seattleu.edu; Dr. Michele Murray, Associate Vice President of Student Development Student Center 140B, 206-296-6066, mmurray@seattleu.edu; and Ruth Donohue, Manager of Human Resources, Rianna 215, (206) 296-5865, donohue@seattleu.edu. Individuals may also contact the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.