

BA in Public Administration

The Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration prepares students to become effective and ethical leaders in government, nonprofit, and community organizations. The program provides a strong foundation in management, financial management and budgeting, innovation and decision-making, and public service motivation, equipping graduates with the skills needed to navigate complex organizational environments and to serve the public interest.

Students gain a comprehensive understanding of how public organizations function and how resources are managed responsibly. Training in financial management and public budgeting ensures that graduates can analyze revenues and expenditures, evaluate programs, and design strategies for fiscal accountability. Courses in management and organizational leadership develop competencies in supervising teams, managing change, and aligning operations with democratic values and institutional goals. The curriculum also emphasizes innovation and decision-making, teaching students to apply data-driven analysis, creative problem-solving, and strategic planning to address real-world challenges. Finally, a distinctive feature of the program is its focus on public service motivation, cultivating ethical awareness and a commitment to advancing equity, accountability, and community well-being.

Experiential learning is embedded throughout the program. Students complete internships or applied capstones with local governments, nonprofits, or agencies, allowing them to put classroom learning into practice. Elective pathways-such as nonprofit leadership, urban administration, or emergency management-offer opportunities for specialization.

Graduates are prepared for careers as program managers, budget and policy analysts, community engagement coordinators, nonprofit leaders, and administrative professionals across the public and nonprofit sectors. They also gain the foundation needed for advanced study in public administration, law, or related fields.

Graduates of the BA in PA will be able to:

- **Management & Leadership**
 - Apply organizational theory and public management practices.
 - Lead and motivate teams while managing change and fostering innovation.
- **Financial Management & Budgeting**
 - Interpret and analyze public budgets and financial reports.
 - Develop and manage budgets that ensure accountability and align with policy priorities.
- **Innovation & Decision-Making**
 - Use data and evidence to inform administrative and policy decisions.
 - Design and evaluate innovative solutions to public sector challenges.
- **Public Service Motivation & Ethics**
 - Demonstrate commitment to equity, transparency, and accountability.
 - Recognize and resolve ethical dilemmas in public service.
- **Communication & Professional Skills**
 - Communicate clearly with diverse stakeholders in written, oral, and digital formats.
 - Collaborate effectively across organizational and community contexts.

Marketable Skills

- Management and Leadership -Ability to supervise teams, coordinate projects, manage organizational change, and motivate employees in diverse workplace settings.
- Financial Management and Budgeting- Proficiency in preparing, analyzing, and managing budgets; ensuring fiscal accountability; and aligning resources with policy priorities and organizational goals.
- Decision-Making and Problem-Solving -Capacity to evaluate evidence, use data to guide policy and administrative choices, and develop innovative solutions to complex public sector challenges.
- Policy and Program Analysis - Skills in evaluating the effectiveness of public programs, assessing community needs, and applying evidence-based methods to improve outcomes.
- Ethics and Public Service Motivation - Commitment to equity, transparency, accountability, and professional integrity in serving the public interest.
- Communication -Strong written, oral, and digital communication skills for working with diverse stakeholders, presenting policy recommendations, and preparing reports.

Degree Plan

Code	Title	Hours
Designated Core		
Required:		
MATH 1320	Math for Social Sciences I	3
ECON 2304	Principles of Microeconomics	3

Required Core

Required:

PAD 3355

PAD 3356

PAD 4353

PAD 4354

PAD 4355

POLS 3350	Intro to Public Administration	3
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POLS 3300	Research in Political Science	3
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COMM 3323	Comm & Org Leadership	3
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Variable Core

Choose four (12 SCH Total)

POLS 3351	The Public Policy Process	3
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POLS 3353	State and Local Administration	3
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POLS 3354	Internship	3
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POLS 4356	Non-Profit Organizations	3
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POLS 4357		
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POLS 4358	Special Topics in Public Admin	3
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POLS 4359	Urban Planning	3
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Select a Minor**Open Electives**

Select additional hours to complete a total of 120 hours

Degree Plan

Code	Title	Hours
Semester 1		
RWS 1301	Rhetoric & Composition I	3
HIST 1301	History of U.S. to 1865	3
MATH 1320	Math for Social Sciences I (Designated Core)	3
Social & Behavioral Sciences (non-Econ)		3
UNIV 1301	Seminar/Critical Inquiry	3
Semester 2		
RWS 1302	Rhetoric & Composition 2	3
HIST 1302	History of U.S. Since 1865	3
ECON 2304	Principles of Microeconomics (Designated Core)	3
Creative Arts Core		3
Language, Philosophy & Culture (core)		3
Semester 3		
POLS 2310	Introduction to Politics	3
Life and Physical Sciences		3
COMM 1301	Public Speaking	3
Minor or Elective course		3
Elective (free or minor)		3
Semester 4		
POLS 2311	American Gover & Politics	3
Life & Physical Sciences		3
Minor Course		3
Minor Course		3
Elective (free or minor)		3
Semester 5		
PAD 3356		3
PAD 3355		3

POLS 3350	Intro to Public Administration	3
Course for Minor		3
Elective (free or minor)		3
Semester 6		
PAD 4353		3
PAD 4354		3
POLS 3300	Research in Political Science	3
Minor Course		3
Elective		3
Semester 7		
PAD 4355		3
COMM 3323	Comm & Org Leadership	3
POLS 4356	Non-Profit Organizations	3
POLS 3351	The Public Policy Process	3
Minor Course		3
Semester 8		
POLS 4359	Urban Planning	3
Minor Course		3
Elective (free)		3
Elective (free)		3
Elective (free)		3
Total Hours		120