

PUBLIC POLICY, MPP

Introduction

Program Director: Chris Weible, PhD

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 in remote 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 |
| 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 ¹ | |
| Capstone | | 3 |

Select one of the following:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|
| PUAD 5361 | MPA Capstone Seminar (during the final semester) |
| PUAD 6950 | Master's Thesis ² |

Total Hours 37

- ¹ 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.
- ² Taken for 3 or 6 credits with approval by and in consultation with the program director prior to enrolling in the course.

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.

All MPP concentrations require a total of 12 credits hours of concentrated elective coursework and may either be taken as part of the MPA program or as a stand-alone Graduate Certificate.

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 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 | |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| PUAD 6600 | Special Topics: Public Administration (Education Systems Leadership and Policy Institute) | |
| 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 |
| PUAD 5644 | Environmental and Hazards Law | 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 5740 | Sustainable Energy Policy | |
| 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 | Environmental Ethics | |
| Total Hours | | 12 |

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 | 3 |
| Required Elective Courses | | |
| 9 | | |
| 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 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 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 |