

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (DPA)

Program Director: Adrian Velazquez Vazquez

Program Length: 4 Years

The Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) is designed to develop scholarly practitioners as leaders. Students learn to consciously integrate and apply current theoretical, ethical, and institutional perspectives that contribute to the disciplined analysis and resolution of organizational and community issues.

Prerequisites

Applicants should possess a master’s degree, ideally in Public Administration or a closely related field. Applicants must also have a minimum of five years of work experience.

Admission

Applicants are evaluated in a two stage process: First stage applicants are initially screened based on undergraduate GPA, graduate GPA, Statement of Purpose and letters of recommendation. Applicants advancing to the second stage may be required to schedule a personal interview. A standardized test score (e.g. GMAT or GRE) may be required, if recommended by the Faculty Admissions Committee. The department considers all of these measures in making a decision on admission.

Students accepted into the DPA program will begin their coursework in the fall.

The program requires a minimum time commitment of three years of coursework (which includes nine units each semester) and at least an additional year to produce and defend a dissertation of publishable quality (which includes 1 unit each semester). Additional semesters (two units each) beyond the fourth year may be needed to complete the dissertation.

Students must also take and pass the DPA Comprehensive Exams (after successfully completing all coursework for year two).

Program Coursework

56 semester hours

Course	Title	Semester Hours
First Year		
Fall		
PADM 609	Nature of Inquiry	3
PADM 611	Scope of Public Administration	3
PADM 613	Descriptive Statistics	3
Semester Hours		9
Spring		
PADM 612	Qualitative Analysis	3
PADM 677	Ethics and Decision-Making	3
PADM 681	Inferential Statistics	3
Semester Hours		9
Second Year		
Fall		
PADM 651	Policy Formulation and Processes	3
PADM 665	Economic Perspectives in Administrative and Policy Analysis	3

PADM 685	Selected Topics	1-4
Semester Hours		7-10
Spring		
PADM 620	Organizational Development	3
PADM 667	Urban Theory and Governance	3
PADM 674	Policy Implementation and Evaluation	3
Semester Hours		9
Third Year		
Fall		
PADM 670	Dissertation Seminar	3
PADM 685	Selected Topics	1-4
PADM 686	Research Specialization I	3
Semester Hours		7-10
Spring		
PADM 687	Research Specialization II	3
PADM 680	Dissertation Seminar II	3
PADM 695	Applied Research Methods and Techniques	3
Semester Hours		9
Fourth Year		
Fall		
PADM 697C	Dissertation I	1
Semester Hours		1
Spring		
PADM 697C	Dissertation I	1
Semester Hours		1
Total Semester Hours		52-58

Additional Dissertation Units

2 - 18 semester hours as needed

Students must be continuously enrolled in PADM 697D Dissertation II until they have successfully completed their dissertation and it has been posted.

One of the added features of the Doctor of Public Administration program is the possibility for students to obtain a Master of Arts in Policy Studies, while completing their doctoral studies. The Master of Arts in Policy Studies is intended to recognize work completed during the DPA program as added value.

Students will complete a total of 36 semester hours—12 semester hours each—in the three core areas (Public Administration, Public Policy and Research Methods) of the DPA program in order to be eligible for the Master of Arts in Policy Studies.

Degree Conferral Requirements

Students must obtain a B grade in each of the courses that compose the Master of Arts in Policy Studies. Additionally, students must pass the comprehensive examinations with an 80% cumulative grade. In a case where a student is unable to pass the comprehensive examinations, as an alternative, students could enroll in PADM 596 Graduate Seminar and obtain a grade of B to earn the Master of Arts in Policy Studies.