Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. ([http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regps/grad/candidacy/](http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regps/grad/candidacy/))

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. ([http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regps/grad/graduation-infor/](http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regps/grad/graduation-infor/))

Apply online today. ([https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/](https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/))

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.P.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1 (early admission); Apr 1 (priority deadline); May 1 (final deadline)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester. Please contact the program chair with specific application questions.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School ([http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/](http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/)), selection is made on the basis of prior academic performance, professional accomplishments and other indicators of the ability to pursue graduate studies and a professional career in public management successfully. Specifically, the application for admission requires a transcript documenting the completion of a
Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601</td>
<td>Intro to Public Service and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Critical and Creative Thinking for Public Managers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623</td>
<td>Applied Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Empirical Analysis for Evidence-Based Governance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625</td>
<td>Policy Insights: Assessing Public Policies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 672</td>
<td>Equity-Centered Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Capstone: Bridging Theory and Practice (capstone)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select nine credit hours from any additional graduate-level PADM, CRJS, GVPA, HSEP or URSP courses. Consult with an academic adviser for any non-Wilder School electives.

Internship

GVPA 693 Internship (required for students with less than one year of professional experience in the public or nonprofit sector) 0-3

Total Hours 36-39

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 36 (or 39 with internship).

Students who complete the requirements for this degree will receive a Master of Public Administration.

Accelerated opportunities

The program offers opportunities for qualified undergraduate students to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. See the individual program pages in the Undergraduate Bulletin for details.

- B.A. in African American Studies with a concentration in public administration and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/african-american-studies/african-american-studies-concentration-public-administration/)
- B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in civil rights and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/political-science-program/political-science-ba-concentration-civil-human-rights/)
- B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in comparative politics and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/political-science-program/political-science-ba-concentration-comparative-politics/)
- B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in international relations and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/political-science-program/political-science-ba-concentration-international-relations/)
- B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in political theory and methodology and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/political-science-program/political-science-ba-concentration-political-theory-methodology/)
• B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in politics and government and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/political-science-program/political-science-ba-concentration-politics-government/)

• B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in public policy and administration and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/political-science-program/political-science-ba-concentration-public-policy-administration/)

• B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in U.S. government and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/political-science-program/political-science-ba-concentration-us-government/)


Contact
Myung H. Jin, Ph.D.
Associate professor, program chair and graduate program director
mhjin@vcu.edu
(804) 828-8812

Additional contacts
Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Assistant professor and assistant chair
rrhuff@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9813

Wilder School recruitment
wsrecruit@vcu.edu
(804) 827-0364

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubadmin.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubadmin.html)