PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MASTER OF (M.P.A.)

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration

Program goals
The Master of Public Administration program’s mission supports a “generalist” conception of public administration. This seems quite appropriate as the students come from diverse academic and employment backgrounds and find jobs in a wide variety of government and nonprofit organizations. The M.P.A. program is delivered online, face-to-face or hybrid.

The program’s mission includes the following goals:

1. Prepare professional public managers, public officials and citizens to meet the challenges of public service in both government and nonprofit sectors
2. Advance the state of knowledge in the field of public administration through scholarly research and publications
3. Serve the profession and local, state, federal and international communities by extending faculty expertise and intellectual resources

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will participate in and contribute to the policy process.
2. Students will lead and manage in public governance.
3. Students will analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions.
4. Students will articulate and apply a public service perspective.
5. Students will communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.graduateschool.vcu.edu/) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg)
bachelor’s degree, three letters of reference (including both academic and professional references if possible), and a current resume. In addition, applicants must have taken an undergraduate math course (algebra, statistics or finite mathematics) and passed with a minimum grade of C.

No applicant will be considered for admission to the M.P.A. program within two years of having been terminated from the program or of having been rejected for admission to the program.

Degree requirements

The Master of Public Administration program is designed to meet the graduate educational needs of pre-service and in-service professionals for careers in public management and analysis in the public and nonprofit sectors. The degree requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours (39 credit hours for students with less than one year of experience in the public or nonprofit sector). In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/graduation-info/), M.P.A. students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours, as approved, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. Students who do not have at least one year of professional-level experience in the public sector or in a nonprofit agency are required to earn three additional hours of credit in a public service practicum/internship (for a total of 39 graduate credit hours for the degree).

2. Students who are required to take the practicum/internship will usually do so during the summer between the first and second years or during the last semester of course work. The practicum must include a minimum of 300 hours as required by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. The scheduling of the practicum will be flexible enough to accommodate the needs of those students who pursue the degree on a part-time basis. Each practicum will be negotiated between VCU and the host agency, including the scope of work to be performed by the student, the type and extent of supervision, both within the agency and from the university, and the stipend. A learning contract will be executed among the department, the agency and the student. A written student project is required to complete the internship.

3. All students are required to complete the courses in the core curriculum unless competence in the subject matter can be demonstrated on the basis of previous experience or course work. Course work that is waived must be replaced by approved substitutions in order to meet the minimum 36 (or 39) graduate credit hours required for the degree.

4. Students must complete all core courses in order to be eligible to take PADM 689.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</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>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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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).

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-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/)


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