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.grad.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-regs/grad/candidacy/)

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-regs/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-regs/grad/graduation-infor/)

Apply online today. (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>
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<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
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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/), 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

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Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<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>
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</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-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/)
• B.S. in Criminal Justice and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/
undergraduate/government-public-affairs/criminal-justice-bs-
concentration-justice/)
• B.S. in Criminal Justice with a concentration in forensic crime scene
investigation and M.P.A. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/
government-public-affairs/criminal-justice-bs-concentration-forensic-
crime-scene-investigation/)

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(804) 827-0364

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