Public Administration (PADM)

Faculty
Patrick J. Conge, Associate Professor
Andrew J. Dowdle, Associate Professor
Pearl Karen Dowe, Assistant Professor
John Gaber, Professor
Najib Ghadbian, Associate Professor
Donald R. Kelley, Professor
Brinck Kerr III, Professor
Angie Maxwell, Assistant Professor, Diane D. Blair Professor of Southern Studies
Joshua Lee Mitchell, Assistant Professor
Janine A. Parry, Professor
Margaret F. Reid, Professor
Jeffrey J. Ryan, Associate Professor
William D. Schreckhise, Associate Professor
Todd G. Shields, Professor
Geoboo Song, Assistant Professor
Patrick A. Stewart, Associate Professor
Ka Zeng, Professor

http://plsc.uark.edu/graduate/MPA.php

The Master of Public Administration program is administered by the Department of Political Science. The major objectives of the program are as follows:

1. To provide a broad flexible program to prepare students for careers in public service and nonprofit management;
2. To afford opportunities to practicing administrators for improving their careers and services through advanced education and training; and
3. To prepare scholars for further graduate study in the field of public administration.

Prerequisites for Admission to the M.P.A. Degree Program:

1. Admission to the Graduate School
2. Minimum scores of 155 on the verbal portion and 145 on the quantitative portions of the current Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). (GRE scores may be waived under certain circumstances at the discretion of the PLSC Admissions Committee. Examples of possible exceptions include the successful completion of a master’s degree or the submission of GMAT or LSAT scores in lieu of GRE scores).
3. 3.20 minimum grade-point average in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.
4. A written essay, submitted in accordance with standards set by the PLSC Admissions Committee.
5. Three letters of recommendation from persons competent to judge the applicant’s academic/work experience.
6. Academic prerequisites: the PLSC Admissions Committee may require appropriate coursework related to an understanding of governmental processes and activities to cover deficiencies in past education.

7. All requirements listed above must be completed and reported before the beginning of the student’s second semester or the student will not be admitted to courses that semester.

Requirements for the Master of Public Administration Degree: The M.P.A. requires a total of 42 semester hours of which 27 hours are to be 5000-level courses or above.

Required Courses (9 semester hours)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSC 5193</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Administration (Fa)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 5803</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods Analysis (Fa)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 5813</td>
<td>Methods in Public Management Information (Sp)</td>
<td>3</td>
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Select five of the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSC 5103</td>
<td>Human Behavior in Complex Organizations (Fa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 5113</td>
<td>Seminar in Human Resource Management (Fa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 5123</td>
<td>Public Budgeting and Finance (Fa)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 5133</td>
<td>Nonprofit Management of Service Sector Organizations (Irregular)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 5143</td>
<td>Administrative Law (Sp)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 5153</td>
<td>Environmental Politics and Policy (Even years, Fa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 5163</td>
<td>Public Policy (Sp)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 5243</td>
<td>Seminar in State Politics and Policy (Even Years, Fa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 5823</td>
<td>Grant Writing for the Social Sciences (Irregular)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 584V</td>
<td>Special Topics in Public Administration (Sp)</td>
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Special Interest Areas: Twelve to 18 graduate semester hours, depending on exercise of the internship, may be chosen in PLSC/PADM and other disciplines with approval of the M.P.A. Program Director. The M.P.A Program Director, in consultation with the student, will develop a set of relevant graduate courses that will help the student in meeting career objectives. Concentrations may be developed for students interested in fields such as community development, environmental policy and sustainability, health services administration, higher education administration, non-profit management, public policy, and recreation and tourism. Other concentrations may be exercised with the consent, advice and approval of the M.P.A. Program Director. Students who elect to take only twelve hours may satisfy the remainder of the required degree hours with optional thesis or professional development/internship credit (please see below).

Mandatory Comprehensive Examination: All students will be required to take a written comprehensive examination covering their M.P.A. program or complete a six-hour thesis. The comprehensive exam will be graded by at least a three-person faculty committee selected by the M.P.A. Program Director. Students pursuing the thesis option are not required to take a written examination. Rather, successful defense of their thesis satisfies this requirement. In addition to the successful completion of all course requirements and a passing grade on the written comprehensive examination (if taken), each student must present a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.00.

Thesis Option: Students wishing to exercise the thesis option should consult with the graduate coordinator of the Department of Political Science. The thesis committee must be composed of at least three faculty members. The chair and another faculty member must be PLSC faculty. Thesis credit is six hours.
Professional Development/Internship: (1-6 semester hours). The professional development/internship is recommended but not required. It will be offered on a credit/non-credit basis only. The number of semester hour credits depends on the length and full/part-time nature of the internship.

**J.D./M.P.A. Program**

**Degrees Conferred:**
J.D./M.P.A. (Dual Degree)

http://plsc.uark.edu/7150.php

The Department of Political Science, the Graduate School, and the School of Law cooperate in offering a dual degree program that allows a student to pursue the M.P.A. and the J.D. degrees concurrently. Students must be admitted to the M.P.A. program and the School of Law. If a student seeks to enter the dual degree program after enrolling in either the law school or the M.P.A. program, he/she must obtain admission to the other degree program during the first year of study.

The School of Law accepts nine semester hours of M.P.A. courses to satisfy requirements for the J.D. degree. Fifteen hours of law school courses may be counted toward the M.P.A degree. To qualify for J.D. credit, the M.P.A. courses must come from a set of core courses and must be approved by the law school. Students must earn a grade of “B” or higher in any M.P.A courses offered for credit toward the J.D. For purposes of the M.P.A. degree, fifteen hours of elective courses may be taken in the law school, provided they are not required for the J.D. degree and are in an area of concentration approved by the director of the M.P.A. program.

Students admitted to the dual degree program may commence their studies in either the law school or the M.P.A. program but must complete first year course requirements before taking courses in the other degree program. If they do not maintain the academic or ethical standards of either degree program, students can be terminated from the dual degree program. Students in good standing in one degree program but not in the other may be allowed to continue in the other program in which they have good standing and must meet the degree requirements of that program. If for any reason a student admitted to the dual degree program does not complete the M.P.A. degree, he/she cannot count nine hours of M.P.A. courses toward the J.D. degree. Likewise, M.P.A. students may not be able to count certain law courses if they decide to discontinue their studies in the law school. The J.D. will be awarded upon completion of all degree requirements; the M.P.A. will be awarded upon completion of the comprehensive examination and the internship (and internship report), or alternatively, six hours of additional coursework.

**Mandatory Comprehensive Exam:** All students will be required to take a written comprehensive examination covering their M.P.A. program. This exam will be graded by at least a three-person faculty committee selected by the M.P.A. Program Director. Students pursuing the thesis option are not required to take a written examination. Rather, successful defense of their thesis satisfies this requirement. In addition to the successful completion of all course requirements and a passing grade on the written comprehensive examination, each student must present a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.00. Students enrolled in law classes that are counted towards their M.P.A. degree cannot make a grade lower than a “C.” However, these courses will not be counted against the Graduate School GPA.

**Thesis Option:** Students pursuing the thesis option should consult with the graduate coordinator of the Political Science Department. The thesis committee must be composed of faculty members from both the School of Law and the Department of Political Science. Thesis credit is six hours.

**Internships:** Students may pursue an internship. Internship credit is variable and depends on the number of hours worked. Students wanting internship credit must consult with the M.P.A. adviser who will develop an internship work plan and explain expected academic work products.