

MPA Admissions

The MPA program seeks to include individuals from many different backgrounds. A majority of students have had undergraduate degrees in the social sciences, especially in political science, but applicants have been accepted with many other majors, ranging from agriculture business to engineering. The program admits up to 25 students per year, with minority groups, women, and foreign nationals well represented. We encourage ethnic and racial diversity in the program and we try to balance the number of full-time and in-service students, most of whom attend school part-time.

Prospective graduate students are expected to have a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average during their last two years. Preference is given to applicants who demonstrate a clear commitment to public service. Applicants interested in entering the program are expected to have taken courses in the following areas:

1. American government and politics
2. Public administration
3. Economics
4. Statistics and/or Research Methods; and
5. Accounting.

Preparation in the above areas (as demonstrated by successful completion of undergraduate or graduate courses, or comparable work experience) is not required for admission. However, applicants with inadequate preparation in any of these areas will face conditions on their admission. Specifically, they will be required to take courses in those areas and may face some restrictions on when they are able to enroll in certain MPA core courses. Specific conditions for admission are explained in the letter from the MPA director in which the student is notified of admission to the program.

Applications are accepted year-round, although it is strongly recommended that students planning on seeking financial assistance apply two semesters (excluding summer) prior to their admission semester. The Graduate Catalog lists application deadlines for each semester and session. Given the scheduling of courses, completion of all degree requirements in a two-year period cannot be guaranteed for students starting in the spring or summer semesters.