

MPA Admission Decision

Applications for admission are normally reviewed year-round by as many MPA core faculty members as possible, with decisions made by a committee of no fewer than three MPA faculty members. The committee considers a variety of factors in making this decision, one of the most important of which is the candidate's commitment to public service. Other factors include previous academic performance, preparation for studying public administration, work experience, standardized test results (if available), writing skills, and letters of reference.

The committee may set restrictions on which core courses can be taken and in what sequence, based on the student's preparations in the following areas: American government, public administration, economics, accounting and statistics/methods. Students will be informed of any such conditions in the same letter in which they are notified of admission to the program. Students required to take additional courses may not be able to complete the program in the normal two-year cycle.

Candidates with incomplete applications (missing letters of reference, no writing sample, etc) will be denied admission to the MPA Program without prejudice. In many instances such applicants will qualify for unclassified admission status in the Graduate School. Unclassified students may enroll in graduate classes and can seek admission to the MPA Program at a later date when a complete application is available for review. There is no guarantee that students who pursue this option will be admitted to the program. If admitted, no more than nine (9) credit hours of graduate course work may be transferred from unclassified status to the MPA Program.

After review by the Admission Committee, the applicant will receive two letters. One will be from the Dean of the Graduate School summarizing the outcome of the review process. The second will be from the MPA Director addressing any specific issues pertaining to an individual's application. Students denied admission may pursue reconsideration of the decision using the procedures explained in the letter from the MPA Director.

