

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

University of Kansas Public Management Center

In the University of Kansas MPA program, we endeavor to strengthen the provision of public services in society by preparing students for leadership and management positions in the public and nonprofit sectors. The KU Public Management Center was established in 1973 to bring the MPA to Topeka. Over 400 scholars have earned their degrees with us and many now hold key leadership roles for the State of Kansas, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. Our highly motivated, mid-career students bring an array of professional experiences that enrich our classes. Through our coursework, we emphasize the development of abilities important to the effective and ethical management of governmental and nonprofit organizations.

The Curriculum

The MPA degree requires completion of 38 credit hours of coursework. This is comprised of nine core courses (28 hours), three electives (9 hours), and a one-credit practicum.

Required Core Courses

PUAD 824-828 Public Policy course—each student must complete one from this series.

PUAD 831 Practicum

PUAD 834 Human Resource Management

PUAD 835 Financing Public Services

PUAD 836 Quantitative Methods

PUAD 837 Resource Allocation and Control

PUAD 841 Role, Context and Ethics of Public Administration

PUAD 842 Law and Public Management

PUAD 845 Organizational Analysis

PUAD 853 Policy Analysis and Evaluation

Electives

Students complete three elective courses. Recent offerings include: Diversity in Public Administration; Performance Measurement; Sustainability Issues in Public Administration; Leadership and Community Engagement; Nonprofit Management.

Completing the MPA as a Topeka-Based Student

We offer two MPA courses at the Public Management Center during each fall and spring semester. These courses meet one day each week from 4:30-7:30pm. With the exception of the quantitative methods course—which we do not have lab space for at this time—we try to offer each of the required courses in Topeka every two years, though sometimes this is not possible due to faculty availability. Generally, Topeka-based students will complete two or three of their courses in Lawrence and be able to take the rest here at the PMC. The Department makes an effort to schedule those Lawrence courses needed by Edwards and Topeka students in the evening.

For more information visit www.kupmc.org

Admissions Requirements

What the Admissions Committee is looking for:

- A commitment to public service
- Demonstrated leadership or leadership potential
- An academic background that indicates an ability to be successful in a rigorous social science program that is research and writing intensive.

Academic prerequisites for the MPA program:

- Completion of a bachelor's degree, preferably with a background in the social sciences, with courses in college algebra and statistics recommended but not required.
- A grade-point average of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) for all previous university work. Under extenuating circumstances an average below 3.0 may be considered.

Required Application Materials

1. The Office of Graduate Studies application, submitted online via www.graduate.ku.edu.
2. A non-refundable application fee, submitted online with the application form. For domestic applicants, the application fee is \$55; for international applicants, the application fee is \$65.
3. One official transcript from the degree-granting college or university and any post-graduate college or university attended.
4. Three letters of recommendation. If possible, at least one should be an academic reference. The departmental reference form, available through the website, must be submitted with each letter.
5. A three to five page reflective essay describing your background, career goals and clearly indicating how the MPA degree fits into those goals. Note: the essay should address any deficiencies in your academic preparation and convince the admissions committee that you will be able to do graduate-level work in a research and writing intensive social science program.
6. A current résumé.
7. A writing sample that is at least 5 pages in length. It should be a work where you critically analyze an issue (not just summarize) and be well-cited.
 - *Some possibilities for the writing sample include:* an undergraduate research paper; a policy paper completed for work; another work product that analyzes an issue and makes an argument for a position.
 - *The following items are not adequate for the application writing sample:* police reports; internal or external briefing memos; newsletters; correspondence.
 - If you do not have a written sample that meets the requirements, you may prepare a report on a book or academic article relevant to the field of public administration. The KU Libraries can assist you with searching databases and accessing materials.

Deadlines

Applications are due May 1 or July 1 for fall admission and October 1 and November 15 for spring admission. The earlier date gives the applicant an earlier decision; the later date gives the applicant more time to complete the application.

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