More about our program

Our student body includes:

- Full- and part-time students
- International students
- Recent undergraduates and non-traditional students

Most of our courses are offered in the evenings (5:30 p.m. and after) to accommodate working students.

Our students and alumni include professionals holding public sector and nonprofit positions and individuals seeking to enter these sectors.

Some research assistantships, which include tuition waivers, are available.

Admissions

Applicants to the MPPA program must have an undergraduate degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 for admission to the Graduate School; some exceptions are possible.

In addition, a two- to three-page personal statement and three letters of recommendation are required, with at least one letter from a college-level instructor.

Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in college algebra or the equivalent.

Don’t take our word for it, here’s what our alumni say...

“The degree, the skills, the knowledge that I got from UMSL’s MPPA program was foundational for me.”

Cordaryl Patrick, MPPA 2011
Economic Recovery Coordinator for the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

“The MPPA program’s friendly and accessible faculty and staff made my experience both enjoyable and enlightening.”

- Felicia Fette, MPPA ‘11
Program Analyst
U.S. Department of Transportation

“There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t recall or rely on the information I learned in at least one of the courses I took as part of the MPPA program.”

- Nathan Schauf, MPPA, LGM 2013
City Administrator, City of Shrewsbury Mo.

“The MPPA Program at UMSL allowed me to be confident in my profession because I received a quality education from a top-ranking school. I love what I do, and without my master’s degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, I would not be on the path of success that I am on today!”

- Rosalind Johnson, MPPA , ’12
Neighborhood Programs Coordinator,
City of Overland Park, Kan.
About the UMSL MPPA Program

UMSL’s Master of Public Policy Administration (MPPA) program uses an interdisciplinary approach to prepare students for careers in public policy, public administration, and nonprofit administration. We educate students to make informed policy decisions and to become leaders in improving our communities and society.

- Accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)
- The highest ranked graduate public affairs program in the St. Louis region by U.S. News and World Report
- Competitive tuition rate

Curriculum Highlights

The 40 credit-hour curriculum (25 hours of core courses and 15 hours of electives in a chosen emphasis area) combines work in public administration and policy analysis, training students in qualitative and quantitative approaches to the field. The curriculum is both rigorous and grounded in the real world. Internships related to the chosen emphasis area and a capstone course round out the experience.

Required Courses (25 hours)

- Public Policy Administration
- Public Budgeting, and Financial Management
- Policy Analysis
- Economics
- Statistics and Research Methods
- Program Evaluation
- Capstone course that uses the case study approach to analyze real world problems and offer solutions

Emphasis Area (15 hours of electives)

- Local Government Management
- Nonprofit Organization Management
- Policy Research and Analysis
- Individualized Emphasis Area
- Internships are required for those without substantial experience in their chosen field.

Certificate Programs

The Public Policy Administration Program offers three 18-credit-hour graduate certificates, which can be earned on a stand-alone basis, or in conjunction with the MPPA degree.

- Nonprofit Leadership and Management (NPML)
- Local Government Management (LGM)
- Policy and Program Evaluation (PPE)

About Our Faculty

Areas of expertise for MPPA core faculty include gender and family policy; organizational behavior; urban and community development; public sector budgeting; nonprofit management; local government management; immigration; international economic development; and urban politics.

MPPA adjunct faculty bring considerable professional, educational, and teaching experience, and play an important role in connecting our students with the professional community.

Adjunct faculty currently work as city managers, certified public accountants, municipal fiscal directors, and professional fundraisers.