Concerned about our democracy? Develop the skills and knowledge you need to be most effective in your role in the public or nonprofit sector. Earn a Master of Public Administration (MPA) Degree!
Public Administration Field and Job Prospects
Program Overview
Why SF State’s MPA?
Admissions
Questions?
What is Public Administration / Public Affairs?

- Public Administration / Public Affairs is the study of how to manage government and nonprofit agencies

- Includes
  - Public policy
  - City management
  - Nonprofit administration
  - General public management
  - Others
    - Environmental, criminal justice, health, gerontology administration
The Master’s of Public Administration Degree

- The Masters of Public Administration (MPA) degree is the professional degree for students seeking a career in public service or nonprofit management.

- MPA programs develop the skills and techniques used by managers to implement policies, projects, and programs that resolve important problems within their organization and in society.
Where would I work? By sector...

- **Public (government)**
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local

- **Nonprofit, Nongovernmental organizations**

- **For-profit (govt. relations, consulting, contract work)**

- **Cross-sector hybrid**

- **Public-private partnerships**
Outlook for Government Jobs

- Federal jobs expected to slightly decline up to 2026
- State and local government jobs expected to continue increasing each year to 2026
Program Overview

- Size
- Quality
- People
- Curriculum
- Cost
- Opportunities for prospective students
Program Overview

- **Mid-size program**
  - Small class sizes
  - No bottlenecks; median time to degree is now 6 semesters
- **Full-time faculty of 5 – full focus on public administration**
  - Each has academic preparation & practitioner experience
  - Opportunities for faculty-student collaborations
- **Strong base of area alumni**
- Nationally accredited by NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, & Administration)
- Low tuition cost, best value for your investment
Faculty & Staff

Core PA faculty

- **Dr. Sheldon Gen**
  Public Policy, Environmental Policy

- **Dr. Ernita Joaquin**
  Public Management, Urban Administration

- **Dr. Jennifer Shea**
  Nonprofit Administration, Public Policy

- **Dr. Genie Stowers**
  Urban Administration, Information Technology

- **Dr. Janey Wang**
  Program Director, Public Finance, Research Methods

Staff and associated faculty

- **Bridget McCracken**
  Staff: Academic Office Coordinator

- **Dr. Jasper Rubin**
  Director, School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement

- **Dr. Anoshua Chaudhuri**
  Economics, Health Policy

- **Dr. Al Hyde**
  Brookings (ret.), Public Administration

- **Dr. Kathy Naff**
  Human Resources, Public Management

- **Dr. Ayse Pamuk**
  Housing Policy

- **Dr. Raquel Pinderhughes**
  Urban Sustainability

- **Dr. Carol Silverman**
  Research Methods

- **Dr. Jeff Snipes**
  Criminal Justice

…and several other adjunct faculty
Curriculum Overview

- 39 – 42 Units:
  - Solid core of foundation classes (12 units, 4 classes)
  - Management perspectives courses (12 units, select 4 of 6 courses)
  - Flexibility in electives (12 units)
  - Internship (3 units)
  - Culminating experience (3 units): capstone or thesis

- Cross-program focus on writing, critical thinking, oral presentation skills & developing team work abilities

- Balance between theory and practice

- Applied research & service learning opportunities
Flexible Schedule; Alternative Class Formats

- **Traditional**
  - Evenings/Afternoons: Meet in person once per week
  - Saturdays – 3 unit classes meet for 6-7 full-day sessions; 1 unit classes meet on varied schedules for a total of 15 ‘contact hours’

- **Hybrid**
  - Combines in person and online (asynchronous) meetings

- **Online**
  - No in-person meetings; only online
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Estimated Tuition/FEES (in-state) for Degree</th>
<th>Accredited?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSU-East Bay</td>
<td>PT $16,218, FT $16,836</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Jose State</td>
<td>PT $18,822, FT $18,572</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonoma State</td>
<td>PT $18,906, FT $18,628</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>San Francisco State</strong></td>
<td><strong>PT $22,932, FT $20,808</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Gate (Executive MPA)</td>
<td>PT $29,700, FT $29,700</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notre Dame de Namur</td>
<td>PT $34,524, FT $34,524</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of San Francisco</td>
<td>PT $45,220, FT $45,220</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC Berkeley (MPP)</td>
<td>PT N/A, FT $59,705</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mills (MPP)</td>
<td>PT $64,176, FT $64,176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presidio</td>
<td>PT $54,975, FT $54,975</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middlebury Institute of International Studies</td>
<td>PT $63,528, FT $63,528</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: *Accredited by NASPAA; ^Fees not included in estimate
Why SF State’s MPA?

- Quality
- Mission
- Geography
- Career Development & Jobs
- The Curriculum
- High Impact Educational Practices
Quality

- Nationally accredited program, nationally respected
  - High quality faculty members – active researchers, high levels of community engagement

- Competitive Admissions
  - Our student body is outstanding and diverse
  - From wide variety of backgrounds and interests
  - Help to further enhance the classroom experience

- The best deal around in terms of costs and return on your investment
Mission

The mission of the SF State MPA Program is to enhance individual and organizational capacity to serve the public and nonprofit sectors through engaged and innovative teaching, research and service.

- We teach effective public administration by enriching students with knowledge and skills to inspire innovation and motivate continuous improvement.
- As faculty and students, we work to provide applied research and service to the community.
- We instill an appreciation for public service values such as: accountability, civic engagement, equity, social justice, and sustainability.
Geography – SF and Abroad

- Located in the Heart of SF
  - Opportunities for applied projects, service learning, and community-engaged research with public and nonprofit agencies

- Convenient
  - Scheduled tailored for working adults – nights, weekends, late afternoons, hybrids
  - At the Powell Street BART/Muni station

- International Connections
  - Summer abroad in Denmark (University of Aarhus)
  - Study abroad in Thailand (National Institute of Development Administration)
  - Faculty with international connections and interests
  - Visiting scholars and practitioners
## Career Development

### Opportunities

- Practical, hands on experience
- Internships
- Applied field study credits
- Research projects
- Connections with alumni working in the field
- 2-year Willie Brown Fellowship

### Relevancy of the MPA Degree

- Employers know what they are getting
- Strong analytical skills – research, evaluation, policy analysis, finance
- Managerial skills
- Writing & presentation skills
- ‘Soft’ skills – teamwork, communication, leadership

“Common starting jobs for graduates include policy analysts, program managers, grant writers, researchers, and budget analysts. As their experience grows, many graduates rise to upper-level positions in government, nonprofit, and even business organizations.”

Source: [NASPAA](https://www.naspaa.org)
Jobs

Our students and alumni get great jobs with public, nonprofit and private employers.

- Network of alumni is especially rich in the Bay Area
- Pipelines with local employers
  - San Mateo County
    - Professional Fellowship Program (paid)
  - Deloitte Tax
    - Government Relations Summer Internships (paid)
  - Government Accountability Office
    - Graduate Internship Program (paid)
  - Neighborhood Empowerment Network, City & County of SF
    - Graduate Internships (paid)
Curriculum: Core Learning Competencies

- Meet challenges of rapidly changing world
- Lead and manage in public governance
  - Apply a wide range of knowledge about the public service
  - Apply a wide range of knowledge about an elective area within public service
  - Evidence professional skills necessary for the public service
- Participate in and contribute to the public policy process
- Analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions
- Articulate and apply a public service perspective
- Communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry
  - Write effectively and concisely for an audience of professionals
  - Present effectively to small and large groups
  - Work effectively in groups and teams
- Communicate and work to ensure social justice, equity and other public service values highlighted by the Program
Core Curriculum

**Core Courses (4 courses, 12 units)**
- PA 700: Foundations of Government & Management, 3 units
- PA 705: Design & Consumption of Research, 3 units
- PA 706: Applied Data Analysis, 3 units
- PA 715: Policy Process & Civic Engagement, 3 units

**Management Perspectives (select 4 courses, 12 units)**
- PA 720: Organizational Design & Change Management, 3 units
- PA 722: Performance Management & Planning, 3 units
- PA 724: Economic Perspectives, 3 units
- PA 725: Managing Human Capital, 3 units
- PA 727: Program & Service Delivery
- PA 730: Resource Management, 3 units
Elective Emphases (12 units)

- Criminal Justice Administration
- Environmental Administration
- Gerontology
- Nonprofit Administration
- Public Management
- Public Policy
- Urban Administration
- Self-Designed Emphasis
3-Unit Electives

- PA 740: Public Service Management
- PA 741: Emerging Trends in Public Service
- PA 744: Nonprofits, Public Policy & Society
- PA 745: Perspectives on Nonprofit Management
- PA 746: Organizational Learning & Nonprofit Management
- PA 750: Financial Management in Public Service
- PA 752: Public Affairs and the Law
- PA 753: Decision Making in Public Service
- PA 754: Comparative Perspectives in Public Service
- PA 755: Information & Knowledge in Public Service
- PA 757: Moving Public Service Online
- PA 762: Leading Change Across Sectors
- PA 770: Policy Analysis
- PA 775: Program Evaluation
- PA 776: Environmental Policy
- PA 777: Criminal Justice Administration
- PA 780: Urban Administration
- PA 781: Sustainable Development in Cities
- PA 783: Urban Housing Policy
- PA 784: Intergovernmental Relations
- PA 790: Special Topics in Public Administration
- PA 858: Environmental Land Use Planning
1-Unit Electives

- PA 707: Qualitative Data Analysis
- PA 708: Qualitative Interviewing
- PA 709: Practicum in Statistical Software Applications
- PA 711 Survey Research
- PA 743: Collaborative Government
- PA 747: Organizational Ethics: Doing Good, Being Good
- PA 748: Negotiation & Compromise
- PA 751: Pensions & Pension Administration
- PA 756: Data Visualization
- PA 763: Personal Leadership Development
Internship

- 300 hours (20 per week in 15 weeks semester)
- May be waived with substantial relevant work experience
- Great way to get foot in the door of new career or agency
Culminating Experience

- **Thesis**
  - Traditional social science research
  - Work independently with faculty guidance

- **PA 890: Capstone Course**
  - Semester-long course taken in last semester
  - Synthesize materials from across the curriculum
  - Culminates with Strategic Assessment Memorandum (SAM)
The MPA Program has offered me a wide range of tools that I have been able to apply in my professional life. I gained research skills in several of the courses that gave me hands on experience with interviewing, survey development and research analysis. I learned planning methods that I was able to use in a major work project that involved collaboration among several partners.

Stacy Kono, Director of Programs and Innovation
Rockwood Leadership Institute
SF State MPA Graduate 2017
E-Portfolio Example: Demonstrating Learning Competencies
Admissions

Overview

About the admissions process

Components of the application

Financial aid & scholarships
Overview

- **Deadlines:**
  - Spring admission
    - Review begins October 1st; Applications close November 1st
  - Fall admission
    - Review begins March 1st; Applications close April 1st

- **Academic Standards:**
  - 3.0 GPA in last 60 units
  - No GRE requirement
  - No pre-requisite coursework required
Admissions Deadlines & Admission Cycles

- The Public Administration Admissions Committee will begin to review completed applications as of March 1, 2020 for the Fall 2020 admissions cycle. Applicants must submit all application materials by the April 1, 2020, deadline. After April 1st, only evaluators will be able to upload letters of reference. Admission decisions will be made on a rolling basis until available seats are filled.

- The Public Administration Admissions Committee will begin to review completed applications on October 1, 2020 for the Spring 2021 admissions cycle. Applicants must submit all application materials by the November 1, 2020, deadline. After November 1, only writers of your letter of recommendations will be able to upload letters. The Public Administration Admissions Committee will make admission decisions on a rolling basis until all available seats fill.
1. **Apply online through [Cal State Apply](http://pace.sfsu.edu/mpa#Admissions).** The Office of Graduate Admissions no longer accepts paper applications. Submit the following materials by uploading them to the Cal State Apply portal:
   - Your current resume.
   - Unofficial transcripts from all the universities you have attended.
   - Statement of purpose to the SF State MPA Program.
   - 2 letters of recommendation.

2. **Pay the 70.00 USD application fee.**
   - Pay online when you submit your application.

4. **Committee review begins after application deadline.**
There is no waiver of 3.0 minimum GPA in last 60 units

Make sure to include:
- All work experience, with time period spent there
- All volunteer experience, with time period spent there

Explain common ‘red flags’ – unexplained gaps in work experience or lots of jumping around to different jobs

Explain any patterns in course grades like consistent trouble with certain types of courses
- Address issues explicitly in the statement of purpose or ask references to discuss
Personal Statement Requirements, < 4 pages in a coherent essay

1. Life experiences that have led you to an interest in public service (public or nonprofit)
2. Background in the public service, including any work or volunteer experience you might have in public or nonprofit agencies
3. Areas of specific interests in the public service, including what has led you to these specific interests
4. Career and professional goals and aspiration
5. Describe how the MPA degree will be helpful and consistent with your career goals and aspirations
6. Describe why this is the right time in your career to come into a MPA program and seek the degree
7. Describe why the SF State MPA degree program is a good fit for you and your career / professional goals
References (2 required)

- If less than 5 years since Bachelor’s degree, prefer at least 1 from a professor
- Currency of reference is important
- Referee should be able to speak to applicant’s professional and academic accomplishments and potential
- References should indicate an awareness of field of study, speak to applicant’s aptitude, interest, passion for field
Connecting the Dots

- Taken together, personal statement, references, transcripts, and resume should tell a coherent story
  - Obstacles are okay, but explain them and resolution
  - Demonstrate that applicant knows what the MPA degree is and will be satisfied with what it delivers
  - Demonstrate applicant’s potential to
    - Add diversity to the program (interesting background or experience)
    - Make a contribution to the public/nonprofit sector
    - Succeed in the program
- Personal statement used as initial writing assessment
Scholarships & Fellowships Just for MPA Students

- **Two Year Willie Brown Fellowship for MPA Students**
  - $10,000 per year for 2 years, plus $3,000 in professional dev. funding
  - Enroll in at least 6 units per semester for 2 calendar years
  - Year 1 – participate in a public sector internship
  - Year 2 – Research & submit paper to present at professional conference and/or publication
  - Open to incoming students; must be accepted into MPA Program by Nov. 15th
  - Applications open in fall 2020 for fellowships beginning January 2021. Email wbfellows@sfsu.edu for more information.

- **Barney T. Deasy Honorary Scholarship**
  - 1 student per year; approximately $9,000
  - Funds students with affordable housing interests

- **Other scholarships offered by the Public Administration Program.**
Other Financial Aid & Scholarships

Information about other scholarships and financial assistance can be found at the University’s Office of Financial Aid or by visiting a financial aid counselor at the Student Service Building during their office hours.

SF State’s Fellowships Office is available to assist undergraduates, graduate students and recent alumni in applying for nationally competitive fellowships, scholarships and grants, as well as system-wide awards offered by the California State University system.

All students should create a profile in Academic Works and update it each semester; you may automatically qualify for a scholarship even if you don’t apply for it.
Opportunities for Prospective Students

- Observe a class
- Attend guest speaker presentations in classes
- Participate in career development workshops
- Be put in contact with alumni and current students
- For more information about opportunities listed above, contact mpa@sfsu.edu
- Take advantage of application advising and support from the Graduate Division:
  - https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/advising
  - http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/prospective/domestic/domestic-application-submission
Additional Resources

- Visit the MPA Program website: [http://pace.sfsu.edu/mpa](http://pace.sfsu.edu/mpa)
- Revisit this presentation: [http://pace.sfsu.edu/content/prospective-student-information](http://pace.sfsu.edu/content/prospective-student-information)
- Visit the Graduate Studies website: [https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/prospective/domestic/domestic-application-submission](https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/prospective/domestic/domestic-application-submission)
- More information for international applicants: [https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/international-application-submission](https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/international-application-submission)
- Stay in Touch! Connect with us on social media or join our listservs: [https://pace.sfsu.edu/contactus](https://pace.sfsu.edu/contactus)
- Questions?
  - Email mpa@sfsu.edu or jqwang@sfsu.edu
  - Call 415-817-4455