

**Concerned about governance and 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!**



**MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
PROSPECTIVE STUDENT INFORMATION SESSION**

Passion. Skill. Leadership.





Session Overview

Public Administration Field

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 develop & execute 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



Program Overview

- Mission
- Size
- People
- Curriculum
- Cost
- Opportunities for prospective students

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.

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**
Organization and Public Management
- **Dr. Jennifer Shea**
Nonprofit Administration, Public Policy
- **Dr. Genie Stowers**
Urban Administration, Information Technology
- **Dr. Janey Wang**
Program Director, Public Finance, Research Methods

Affiliated faculty & staff

- **Dr. Kathy Naff**
Human Resources Management
- **Dr. Ayse Pamuk**
Housing Policy
- **Dr. Carol Silverman**
Research Methods, Program Evaluation
- **Kevin Hickey, MNA**
Nonprofits, Public Policy & Society
- **Regina Neu, MsED**
Nonprofit Management
- **Dr. Jasper Rubin**
Director, School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement
- **Bridget McCracken**
Staff: Academic Office Coordinator

...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 teamwork abilities
- Balance between theory and practice
- Applied research & service-learning opportunities

Flexible Schedule; Alternative Class Formats

- Traditional (fully in-person or synchronous remote)
 - ▣ Evenings/Afternoons: Meet synchronously 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 (synchronous or asynchronous) meetings
- Online
 - ▣ No in-person meetings; only online

Estimated Tuition and Fees to Degree – 2021-2022

| | Estimated Tuition/Fees (in-state) for Degree | | Accredited? |
|--|--|-----------------|-------------|
| | PT | FT | |
| CSU-East Bay | \$16,218 | \$16,836 | No |
| San Jose State | \$18,822 | \$18,572 | Yes |
| Sonoma State | \$18,906 | \$18,628 | No |
| San Francisco State | \$23,695 | \$21,244 | Yes |
| Golden Gate (Executive MPA) | \$29,700 | \$29,700 | No |
| Notre Dame de Namur | \$34,524 | \$34,524 | No |
| University of San Francisco | \$45,220 | \$45,220 | Yes |
| UC Berkeley (MPP) | N/A | \$59,705 | No |
| Mills (MPP) | \$64,176 | \$64,176 | No |
| Presidio | \$54,975 | \$54,975 | No |
| Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey | \$63,528 | \$63,528 | No |



Why SF State's MPA?

- Quality
- High Impact Learning Practices
- Geography
- Career Development & Jobs
- The Curriculum
- Critical Success of Program Outcomes

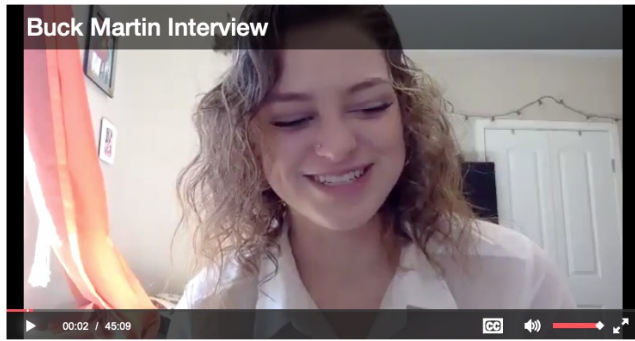
Quality

- Nationally accredited program, nationally respected
 - ▣ High quality faculty members – active researchers, high levels of community engagement
- Innovative, Flexible, High-Quality Curriculum
- 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

Action Learning: Theory Meets Practice



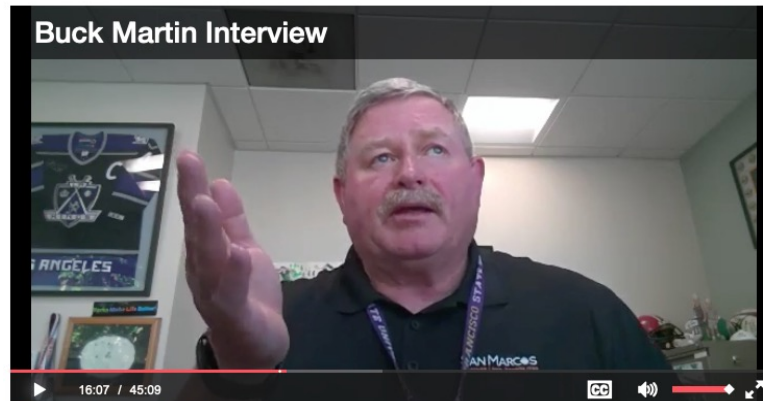
Interview with Buck Martin: Director of Parks and Recreation San Marcos
by [Madeleine Martin](#) - Thursday, October 28, 2021, 4:31 PM



Projects in many courses are action- and service-oriented.

In Dr. Joaquin's class, students interviewed managers about COVID-era adaptations. Here is a father-daughter duo: MPA student Madeleine Martin interviews San Marcos County Public Works Director, Mr. Buck Martin

Interview with Buck Martin: Director of Parks and Recreation San Marcos
by [Madeleine Martin](#) - Thursday, October 28, 2021, 4:31 PM



High Impact Connections with Alumni

Courses frequently feature alumni panels speaking about current events and relevant career opportunities. Alumni panelists in recent introductory courses:

- **Anissa B.-Villarreal, MPA 2015**
Assistant Agency Director, Government & Community Relations
Alameda County Social Services Agency
- **Brian Wiedenmeier, MPA 2014**
Executive Director, Friends of the Urban Forest
- **Camarin Sanford, MPA 2020**
Supervisor of Crisis Intervention and Outreach Programs
Progressive Policing and Community Engagement Bureau, BART Police Department
- **Doris Padilla Barone, MPA 2011**
Director of Disaster Services, San Francisco Human Services Agency
- **Ellie Tumbuan, MPA 2014**
Co-Owner and Managing Partner, The Justice Collaborative
- **Irving Torres, MPA 2020**
Director of Community Engagement, All Home
- **Najeeb Kamil, MPA 2015**
Senior Human Services Analyst, Family & Children's Services
Human Services Department, County of Santa Cruz

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
 - ▣ In-person classes held at SF State’s Downtown Campus
 - ▣ Remote synchronous and asynchronous class options
- International Connections
 - ▣ Summer abroad in Denmark (University of Aarhus)
 - ▣ Study abroad in Thailand (National Institute of Development Administration)
 - ▣ Faculty with international connections and interests

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](#)



Passion. Skill. Leadership.

- “He (*Shamann Walton*) credits San Francisco State with preparing him for that leap to government. There’s not a day that goes by in his current role that he doesn’t use what he learned at SF State, he says.
- “The MPA program taught me how government works, how resources flow from all levels of government – federal, state to local,” he added. “The program is second to none in preparing you for a life in government.”
- “He was drawn to SF State for its historic commitment to social justice, equity and inclusion, something his instructors lived and breathed, he says. “We live in a diverse world. In public service, it’s important to understand and build relationships with the communities and the cultures around you. All of my professors understood that and taught from that perspective,” he said. “It’s a testament to the leadership at SF State that professors know and understand that different cultures are important, that diversity is important and to bring all that to a leadership role is important.”

Source: Oppenheim, James. 2021. *SF State News*. Available at <https://news.sfsu.edu/news-story/board-supervisors-president-says-sf-state-prepared-him-public-office>

Shamann Walton
President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
SF State MPA Graduate 2010





THE SCHOOL of
PUBLIC AFFAIRS &
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

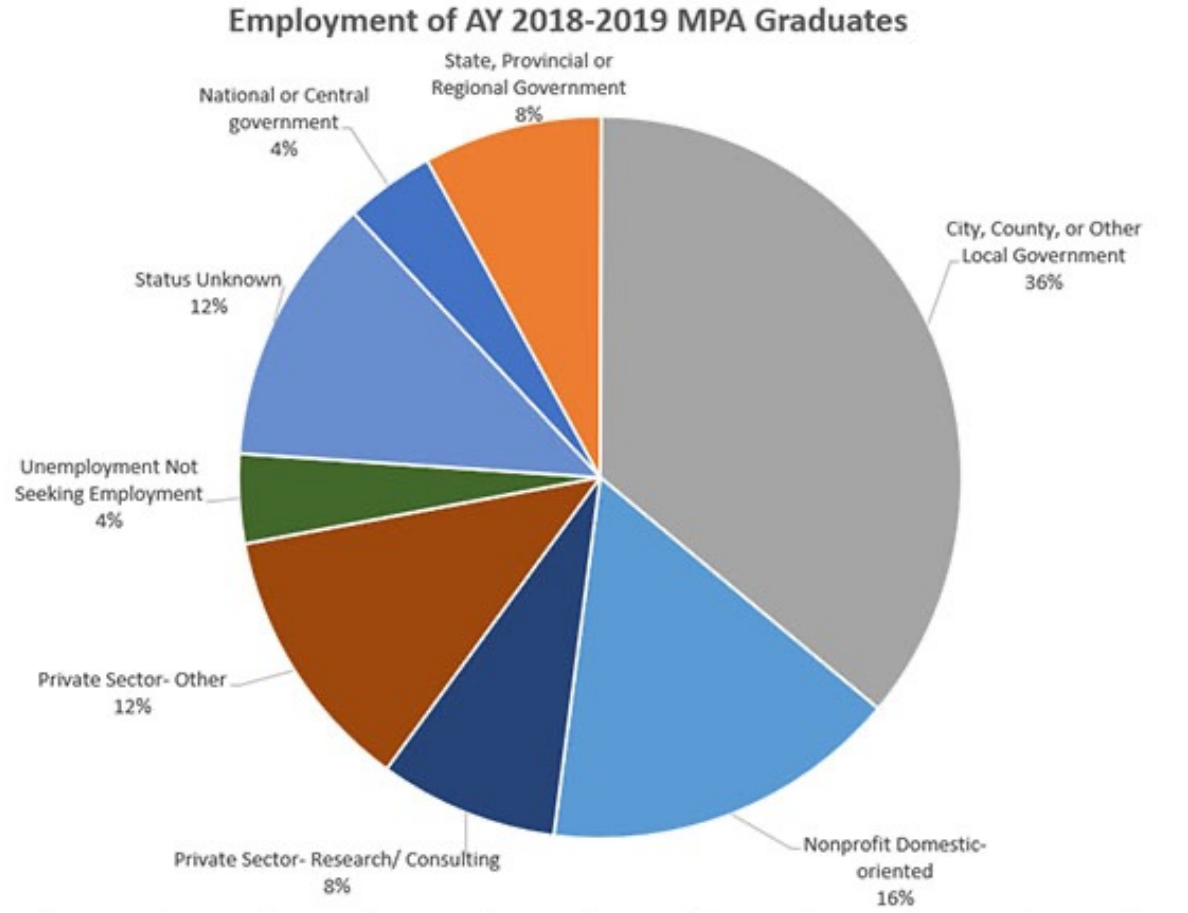
Passion. Skill. Leadership.

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**



Employment of 2018-2019 MPA Graduates



Important MPA Program Outcomes

- High retention rates: 86.2 percent of students enrolling in our MPA Program complete their degree!
- Average number of semesters students needed to complete the degree is only 6.3 (for students enrolling in 2014-2015)
- Highly diverse student body: 70% of the student body come from under-represented groups,
 - Our students also represent a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, and fields
- Highly diverse full-time faculty
 - 80% female,
 - 60% from under-represented groups
- A **HIGHLY** affordable degree
 - 43.5% of students graduating in 2019-2020 reported taking on NO student debt
 - 8.7% took on only \$5,000 of student debt
- 52.2% of students graduating in 2019-2020 got a NEW JOB DURING their MPA program
 - 47.8% of students received a PROMOTION during their degree program.

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

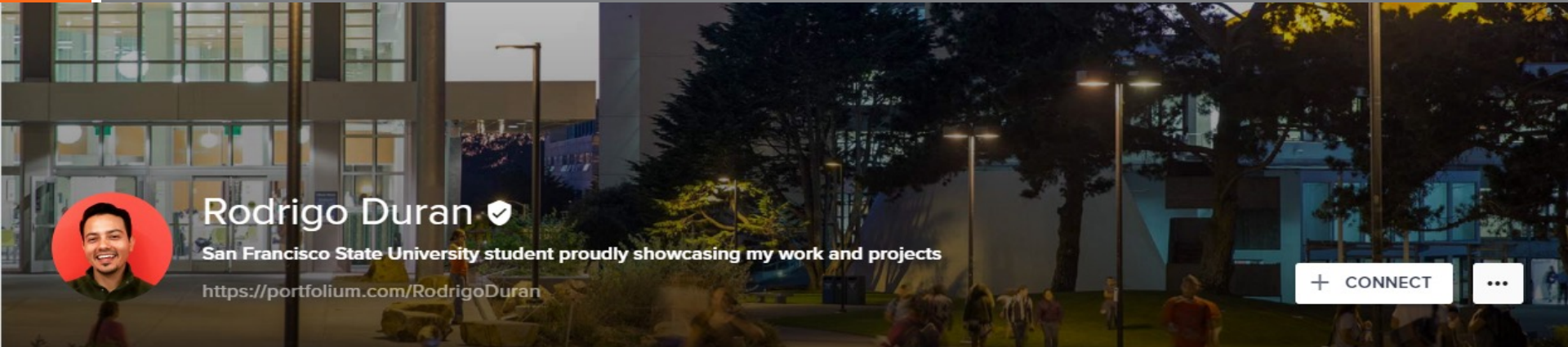
Internship


- 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)

E-Portfolio Example: Demonstrating Learning Competencies



 **Rodrigo Duran** ✓
San Francisco State University student proudly showcasing my work and projects
<https://portfolium.com/RodrigoDuran>

+ CONNECT ...

PROFILE

PORTFOLIO

CONNECTIONS

Overview

Education

Master's In Public Administration - Public Administration (2017) at San Francisco State University

Lives In

San Francisco, CA

19 Projects 29 Skills 19 Connections

Skills

Search Rodrigo's skills...

Critical Thinking

5

SHOW ▾ SORT BY ▾



SFSU MPA Core Courses

PA700 Foundations of Governance and Management PA705 Design and Consumption of Research PA706 Applied...

Public Administration



Public Policy Process

Public Policy Process

Public Administration



Management Perspectives

Management Perspectives

Public Administration





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 May 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, 2022 for the Fall 2022 admissions cycle.** Applicants must submit all application materials by **May 1, 2022.** After May 1st, only evaluators will be able to upload letters of reference. Admission decisions will be made on a rolling basis until all available seats are filled.

Admissions Process (<http://pace.sfsu.edu/mpa#Admissions>)

1. Apply online through Cal State Apply. 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.

Resume / C.V. & Transcripts

- 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 is used as initial writing assessment

Willie L. Brown, Jr. Fellowship 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 2022 for fellowships beginning January 2023
 - For additional information, visit <https://pace.sfsu.edu/wlbjffellowship/graduate>

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>
 - <https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/advising-faqs>

Additional Resources

- **Visit the MPA Program website:** <http://pace.sfsu.edu/mpa>
- **Visit the Graduate Studies website:**
<https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/frequently-asked-questions>
- **More information for international applicants:**
<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>
- **Questions?**
 - **Email** mpa@sfsu.edu or jqwang@sfsu.edu