Welcome

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) at Central Michigan University is designed to provide professional degree training, to enhance understanding of government work, and to develop a commitment to knowledgeable public service.

Evening and weekend courses accommodate both the traditional and nontraditional students who want to advance their careers in the public sector, in nonprofit organizations, or in public affairs work of private associations or firms.

The CMU Advantage

MPA graduates from Central Michigan University typically work in a variety of public service positions, including policy analyst, program manager, human resources director, city manager, planner for state, city, and county governments and nonprofit agencies, etc.

The MPA program at CMU strives to:

- graduate well qualified professionals who will be prepared to advance in careers in the public and nonprofit sectors;
- provide a systematic understanding of the economic, political, and social problems facing public administrators;
- impart ethical and legal/constitutional knowledge about the consequences of work performance; and
- foster quantitative, computer, and analytical skills appropriate to current and future work in the public sector and in public affairs.

The MPA Program

The MPA degree requires 36 hours of course work, including a set of core courses presenting an understanding of essential components within the discipline. With assistance from an advisor, each student develops a degree emphasis by one of the following:

- Selecting a specific concentration in either public management or state and local government.
- Selecting a set of general elective courses.
- Selecting a set of cognate courses focused on a particular subject area.

The pre-service student also will complete a 3-hour internship in place of an elective course. Before a student’s final semester, he or she will form an Applied Research Project committee of three faculty members and, with their advice, develop an approved research topic. The student then will present their finished paper to the committee.

Admission Standards

To be considered for admission to the MPA program, the applicant must have an undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.8, a minimum of 18 undergraduate hours in social science, and completed an undergraduate statistics or research methods course.

Each applicant must submit an essay discussing how completion of the program will facilitate his or her achievement of individual professional goals. Three letters of recommendation from former professors or public service professionals who can attest to the applicant’s potential to succeed in the program also must be submitted.

Conditional admission may be considered for applicants who do not meet these requirements. However, some courses taken to meet these additional requirements (e.g. Undergraduate Statistics) may not be counted toward graduate degree requirements.

Up to 9 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another institution with approval of the advisor and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

For international students, proof of English proficiency may be required. See the CMU Graduate Bulletin for details.
Course Offerings

The MPA degree requires 36 hours of course work. All MPA students are required to take the core courses. Elective courses should be selected with the assistance of an advisor.

**Core Courses (21 hours)**
- PSC 514 (3) American Public Policy Making
- PSC 610 (3) Foundations of Public Administration
- PSC 711 (3) Public Personnel Administration Practice
- PSC 713 (3) Public Budgeting and Finance
- PSC 714 (3) Program Analysis and Evaluation
- PSC 775 (3) Organization Theory in Public Administration
- PSC 780 (3) Research in Public Administration in Political Science

**Applied Research Project (3 hours)**
- PSC 796 (3) Applied Research in Public Administration

**Internship (1 to 6 hours, Spec)**
- PSC 795 (1-6) Internship in Public Administration

In-service students with experience are not required to take an internship. Students without experience will take 3 hours of internship, which will provide them with excellent opportunities to refine their skills and apply classroom knowledge to real-world situations, and reduce their number of elective courses by one course or three credit hours.

Working with the internship director, student interns have been placed with city, county, and state government agencies, nonprofit agencies, policy think tanks, and the State of Michigan Legislature.

**Degree Emphases (9-12 hours)**
**Choose from one of the following four options:**

**Cognate Courses Option (9-12 hours)**
With the approval of an advisor, a student may create an emphasis in a subject area by selecting from 9 to 12 hours of cognate course work in place of the general electives. A cognate course is outside of but related to the principle discipline of public administration.

**General Electives (9-12 hours)**
If no concentration or emphasis is selected, the student may choose from 9 to 12 hours from the following courses for a general administration track.

- PSC 516 (3) Environmental Politics and Policy
- PSC 522 (3) Regulatory Processes and Administrative Law
- PSC 566 (3) Intergovernmental Relations in the United States
- PSC 583 (3) Survey Research
- PSC 585 (3) Public Sector Information Technology Management
- PSC 655 (3) Managing Modern Local Government
- PSC 661 (3) Administration and Policy in American State Government
- PSC 712 (3) Implementation and Reform of Public Programs
- PSC 761 (3) Seminar in American State Government
- PSC 773 (3) Administration and Ethics in Public Service
- PSC 774 (3) Strategic Planning for Public/Nonprofit Organization
- PSC 785 (3) Strategic Leadership

_Note: Both PSC 661 and PSC 761 may not be selected._

**Public Management (9-12 hours)**
- PSC 522 (3) Regulatory Processes and Administrative Law
- PSC 566 (3) Intergovernmental Relations in the United States
- PSC 585 (3) Public Sector Information Technology Management
- PSC 712 (3) Implementation and Reform of Public Programs
- PSC 774 (3) Strategic Planning for Public/Nonprofit Organizations
- PSC 785 (3) Strategic Leadership

**State and Local Government (9-12 hours)**
- PSC 563 (3) Politics and Policy in Urban Communities
- PSC 566 (3) Intergovernmental Relations in the United States
- PSC 585 (3) Public Sector Information Technology Management
- PSC 655 (3) Managing Modern Local Government
- PSC 661 (3) Administration and Policy in American State Government
- PSC 761 (3) Seminar in American State Government

_Note: Both PSC 661 and PSC 761 may not be selected._

Total: 36 semester hours