The CMU Advantage

Central Michigan University delivers a Master of Public Administration program which, combined with NASPAA accreditation, provides outstanding educational opportunities and assists our students in fostering professionalism, integrity, and quality of practice in public service careers.

The MPA program at CMU graduates well qualified professionals who will be prepared to advance in careers in the public and nonprofit sectors, and provide a systematic understanding of the economic, political, and social problems facing public administrators.

The NASPAA Advantage

NASPAA accreditation ensures quality program delivery through incorporating best practices within the public service discipline into the classroom.

Students at CMU have the opportunity to join the Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society.

Public service job listings are increasingly requiring applicants to have educational credentials from a NASPAA accredited institution.

The MPA Program

The MPA degree requires 37 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 selects a specific concentration in nonprofit management, state and local government, or general public administration.

The pre-service student also will complete a required 3-hour internship in place of an elective course.

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 and a completed undergraduate course in statistics, economics, or research methods.

Each applicant must submit a resume and 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 academic program or accredited institution with approval of the advisor and the College of Graduate Studies.

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

NASPAA: Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, Washington D.C.
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**Course Offerings**

The MPA degree requires 37 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 (25 hours)**

- PAD 623 (3)  |  Public Policy Processes
- PAD 610 (3)  |  Foundations of Public Administration
- PAD 711 (3)  |  Public Personnel Administration Practice
- PAD 713 (3)  |  Public Budgeting & Finance
- PAD 714 (3)  |  Program Analysis & Evaluation
- PAD 730 (1)  |  Public Service Competencies
- PAD 773 (3)  |  Administration & Ethics in Public Service
- PAD 775 (3)  |  Organization Theory and Behavior
- PAD 780 (3)  |  Public Sector Research Methods

**Elective Courses**

- **Required Courses**
  - PAD 620 (3)  |  Nonprofit Management
  - PAD 621 (3)  |  Board Governance & Executive Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations
  - PAD 622 (3)  |  Strategic Planning

- **Elective Courses**  
  - PAD 523 (3)  |  Grant Writing
  - PAD 513 (3)  |  Citizen Engagement in Public Life
  - PAD 585 (3)  |  Public Sector Information Technology Management
  - PAD 790 (3)  |  Independent Study
  - PAD 795 (3)  |  Internship required for pre-service students
  - PAD 796 (3)  |  Research in Public Administration

**Concentrations (12 hours)**

- **Nonprofit Management Concentration (12 hours)**
  - **Required Courses**
    - PAD 620 (3)  |  Nonprofit Management
    - PAD 621 (3)  |  Board Governance & Executive Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations
  - **Elective Courses**  
    - All electives in this concentration must come from the following list
    - PAD 523 (3)  |  Grant Writing
    - PAD 513 (3)  |  Citizen Engagement in Public Life
    - PAD 585 (3)  |  Public Sector Information Technology Management
    - PAD 790 (3)  |  Independent Study
    - PAD 795 (3)  |  Internship required for pre-service students
    - PAD 796 (3)  |  Research in Public Administration

- **State and Local Government Concentration (12 hours)**
  - **Required Courses**
    - PAD 665 (3)  |  Managing Modern Local Government
    - PAD 661 (3)  |  American State Government and Administration
  - **Elective Courses**  
    - All electives in this concentration must come from the following list
    - PSC 566 (3)  |  Intergovernmental Relations
    - PSC 563 (3)  |  Politics and Policy in Urban Communities
    - PSC 513 (3)  |  Citizen Engagement in Public Life
    - PAD 785 (3)  |  Strategic Leadership
    - PAD 790 (3)  |  Independent Study
    - PAD 796 (3)  |  Research in Public Administration

**General Course of Study (12 hours)**

- **Required Course**
  - PAD 785 (3)  |  Strategic Leadership

- **Elective Courses**  
  - All electives in this concentration must come from the following list
  - PAD 523 (3)  |  Grant Writing
  - PSC 513 (3)  |  Citizen Engagement in Public Life
  - PAD 661 (3)  |  American State Government and Administration
  - PSC 563 (3)  |  Politics and Policy in Urban Communities
  - PAD 665 (3)  |  Managing Modern Local Government
  - PSC 566 (3)  |  Intergovernmental Relations
  - PAD 585 (3)  |  Public Sector Information Technology Management
  - PAD 620 (3)  |  Nonprofit Management
  - PAD 621 (3)  |  Board Governance & Executive Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations
  - PAD 622 (3)  |  Strategic Planning
  - PAD 712 (3)  |  Reform and Implementation of Public Programs
  - PAD 790 (3)  |  Independent Study
  - PAD 796 (3)  |  Research in Public Administration

**Required Course for all Pre-service Students:**
- PAD 795 (3)  |  Internship required for pre-service students

**Total:** 37 semester hours

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**Public Service Values**

To achieve our mission and realize our vision, our MPA program emphasizes the following NASPAA public service values.

**We (students and alumni) shall**
- pursue the public interest with accountability and transparency;
- serve professionally and with competence, efficiency, and objectivity;
- act ethically so as to uphold the public trust; and
- demonstrate respect, equity, and fairness to dealings with citizens and fellow public servants.

**Financial Assistance**

Each year the Department of Political Science and Public Administration awards a limited number of graduate assistantships to MPA students. Graduate assistants receive tuition credit and a stipend as compensation. They work up to 20 hours per week for the department by assisting in faculty research and/or teaching activities. Assistantship applications are available from the department and are due in early March.

The Edward H. Potthoff Memorial Scholarship program has been established to offer limited financial scholarships to MPA students pursuing careers in local government. MPA students also may apply for the Barbara P. Greene Endowed Scholarship in Political Science.

Other grants and scholarships are available. For more information, see the **Financial Information** section in the **Graduate Bulletin** or contact the department.

**Apply Online**

[http://apply.cmich.edu](http://apply.cmich.edu)

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**For More Information**

Inquiries regarding the Master of Public Administration program at CMU should be addressed to:

**MPA Director**

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For Global Campus program options, visit:  
[www.global.cmich.edu/programs/masters.aspx](http://www.global.cmich.edu/programs/masters.aspx)

Visit our website at:  
[www.grad.cmich.edu/mpa](http://www.grad.cmich.edu/mpa)