

GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

M.P.A. IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The master of public administration is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to enhance the field of public service through positions both inside and outside government in the nonprofit and even private sector, e.g., as consultants to governmental organizations or as governmental service providers. The program is designed for individuals with professional work experience who desire to enhance their administrative and public management skills, as well as pre-service students who do not have professional experience. This degree can be pursued concurrently with a graduate certificate in either sport management and athletics or urban and regional planning.

This program is oriented, in its setting, structure, and culture, toward accommodating those who want to learn alongside other working professionals. A program strength is the caliber of the student body and, as a result, the quality of “peer learning.” For this reason class sizes are kept small, 20-25 students (on average). The degree requires an internship experience of three semester hours for students without sufficient professional public sector work experience.

THE CURRICULUM

Students can earn an M.P.A. by successfully completing all six administration core courses (18 semester hours) and six concentration courses in public administration (18 semester hours). Most M.P.A. students pursue the degree on a part-time basis while continuing to work full time. Classes generally meet one night a week during the fall and spring semesters. All of the administration core courses are available during both of these semesters.

WCU also offers two summer sessions, and some of the administration core courses are available during these times as well.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

I. Public Administration Core (18 semester hours)

PPA 500 Foundations in Public Service

PPA 501 Research Methods in Public Administration

PPA 502 Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation

PPA 503 Public Budgeting and Finance

PPA 504 Public Human Resources Management

PPA 505 Public Sector Organization Theory

II. Public Administration Electives (15 semester hours)

Selected under advisement of the M.P.A. director or faculty adviser. Students may transfer these electives in from other departments within the University or from any approved graduate certificate program.

Suggested (not required) electives include

PPA 510 Topics in Public Administration

PPA 511 Technologies for Public Administrators

PPA 512 Communications for Public Administrators

PPA 513 Administrative Law

PPA 514 American Public Policy

III. Capstone Seminar (3 semester hours)

PPA 600 Capstone Seminar in Public Administration

IV. Internship or Professional Seminar (3 semester hours) required for students without sufficient, professional public sector work experience

PPA 601 Public Policy and Administration Internship

OR

PPA 602 Professional Seminar in Public Administration

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies:

- Completed graduate application, including a statement of how the M.P.A. furthers the individual's professional goals (apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad)
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended at both the undergraduate and graduate levels
- Two letters of reference from current or former supervisors who can attest to the applicant's management potential
- Resume

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education
McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

Or contact the department:

Write: Dr. Jeffery L. Osgood, Jr., Director
M.P.A. Program
1160 McDermott Drive
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2438

E-mail: mpa@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/mpa

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/official_documents/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees

and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

