



GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

M.P.A. IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The master of public administration – human resource management degree is designed to meet the needs of professionals who seek to enhance their skills and qualifications in management and human resources. This dual-focus degree program enhances one's general management skills while also developing a strong human resource generalist foundation. Students will accomplish this goal by completing the administration core while complementing it with concentration classes in human resources.

Classes are suited to the educational needs of individuals currently employed in human resources as well as those seeking to transition into the field. The occupational backgrounds of students in this program cover a wide spectrum of career paths in the public and not-for-profit private sectors. The great array of career paths represented in this program is one of its invigorating aspects and contributes in important ways to the learning taking place both inside and outside the classroom.

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 program's curriculum incorporates the “Body of Knowledge” from the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR). The human resource concentration courses are designed to provide students with the content area required for IPMA-HR certification. While earning this certification is not an expectation for graduation, it is an opportunity worth

exploring for graduates with the requisite work experience. This degree requires an internship experience of three semester hours for students without sufficient professional work experience.

THE CURRICULUM

Students can earn an M.P.A. – HR degree by successfully completing all six administration core courses (18 semester hours) and the six human resources concentration courses (18 semester hours). Classes are led by a well-balanced mix of regular, full-time West Chester University professors and adjunct faculty who are practitioners in their fields.

Most M.P.A. students pursue the curriculum on a part-time basis while continuing to work full time. The majority of students enroll in one or two classes at a time. On a completely part-time basis, students can earn their master's degree in just a couple of years.

Classes generally meet one night a week during the fall and spring semesters. Most 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. Concentration Requirements (9 semester hours)

PPA 551 Staffing Development

PPA 552 Employee Relations

Or

PPA 553 Labor Relations

PPA 554 Compensation Analysis and Benefits Planning

Electives (6 semester hours)

Selected under advisement of M.P.A. director or faculty adviser

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 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 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 undergraduate and graduate levels
- Two letters of reference from current or

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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/](http://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.

