

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Master of Public Administration (MPA) Face to Face and Online Delivery

This is a guide based on the 2025-2026 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their progress.

The Master of Public Administration degree requires the completion of 36 hours of coursework, consisting of 21 hours of core courses, 12 hours of elective courses, and a 3-credit-hour capstone, internship, or thesis. A full-time student can often complete the program in two years, subject to appropriate planning for the internship.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

36 hours required

Core Requirements:

- ☐ PS502 Fundamentals of Public Administration (3)
- ☐ PS505 Organizational Theory and Behavior (3)
- ☐ PS518 Public Policy Analysis (3)
- ☐ PS545 Research Methods (3)
- ☐ PS603 Public Personnel Administration (3)
- ☐ PS615 Government Budgeting Process (3)
- ☐ PS655 Federalism (3)
- ☐ PS697 Internship (3)

OR

- ☐ 3 Hours Thesis

Choose one 12-hour track:

Nonprofit:

- ☐ PS631 Nonprofit Management (3)
- ☐ PS632 Nonprofit Marketing (3)
- ☐ PS636 Grants and Fundraising (3)
- ☐ PS691-696 Topics in Political Science (3)

State & Local Governance:

- ☐ PS621 Social Media and Politics (3)
- ☐ PS691-696 Topics in Political Science (3)
- ☐ PY571 Introductory Behavioral Statistics (3)
- ☐ SC560 Organizational Communication (3)

Choose one with advice of program coordinator:

- ☐ GR698 Master's Final Comprehensive Examination (0)
- ☐ GR699 Master's Oral Examination (0)

Admission Requirements

In addition to the criteria established for general admission to graduate studies, applicants must have the following:

1. An undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or higher on a 4.0 scale
2. Resume
3. A letter of intent addressing professional goals and objectives. The letter should address what the applicant expects to achieve through graduate level study. The letter should be typed and a maximum of 750 words in length.

Application materials must demonstrate the student's commitment to a career in governmental or nonprofit organizations.

GRE, LSAT, or GMAT scores are not required but may be submitted to strengthen application.

Letters should be addressed to the Director of Admissions. All documents should be submitted directly to the Office of Admissions.

For graduate studies admissions deadlines, visit

<https://semo.edu/admissions/requirements/graduate.html>.

Other Degree Information

- The capstone internship (PS697) involves 120 hours of work with the host organization, and the writing and defense of a scholarly internship paper on the experience.
- Undergraduate students who apply for and meet the eligibility requirements of the Accelerated MPA Program can take as many as four of the 500-level core courses and have them count toward both their undergraduate and MPA degrees.
- The University requires that at least 18 credit hours of the 36-hour program must be at the 600 level.
- Students are also expected to comply with Graduate School general requirements, including continuous enrollment provisions, etc.

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2025-2026 degree map



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