GRADUATE STUDIES
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MPA

PFW.EDU/GRADUATE
Welcome! We are delighted that you are interested in our Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Purdue University Fort Wayne. We are committed to working in partnership with the local community to improve the quality of public policy development and to broaden the public service profession. Established in 1975, our MPA program is designed with you, the student, in mind. Our graduate program will prepare you to make a difference in your community by equipping you with the knowledge and skills needed to improve public policy, solve complex problems, make ethical decisions, communicate effectively, and advance your capacity to lead. The practicum and capstone projects of our MPA program will help you build and expand your network with various local government and nonprofit organizations.

We welcome students with diverse undergraduate and professional backgrounds who aim to succeed in a rapidly changing society. We are grateful for your ongoing interest in our mission. Please feel welcome to contact us and to find out more about our excellent MPA program, well-trained faculty, and supportive administrative staff.
BENEFITS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is a graduate degree designed to provide public service practitioners with the knowledge and tools to advance their organizational mission through critical thinking and problem solving, effective public policies, and strong leadership. Students gain critical managerial and analytical skills necessary for understanding and addressing the larger issues that public organizations face in this volatile political climate.

LEARN FROM DEDICATED, EXPERT FACULTY
Our expert faculty are dedicated to student success through the applied, interdisciplinary learning in the study of public affairs. They are committed to the core mission of teaching, research, and public service.

Faculty and professional staff research aligns with one or more of the following areas:
- Criminal justice
- Nonprofit management
- Political Science
- Public affairs and administration

The department’s faculty, staff, and students work collaboratively and individually to address public policy challenges that require the department’s unique, in-depth knowledge in the social, behavioral, and administrative sciences. This research extends beyond the classroom, into organizations where our students strive to make a difference in their communities.

Begin the next phase of your career. Pursue leadership roles within governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other related public-sector professions.

THE PURDUE FORT WAYNE DIFFERENCE
Stand out with a graduate degree that enhances your qualifications through:
- Small class sizes
- Dedicated and accessible faculty
- Course offerings designed for working adults
- Application of theoretical frameworks in a real-world setting through research and projects
- Networking opportunities with community professionals

"My experience with the Department of Public Policy has impacted me personally and professionally. As a student, I had an abundant amount of support from faculty members. The experiences in the classroom have been critical to the growth of my knowledge of healthcare and public management issues. I was also able to apply course material in a real-world environment and this helped me build important contacts within the community."

Surinder Kaur

"I chose Purdue Fort Wayne for my graduate education because of its recognition in the community and its academic quality. I wanted to stand out in my field, and I was confident I could achieve that with a Master’s in Public Administration. Through my graduate education, I am constantly challenged and it has made me a better student and person."

Ian Lese
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (39 CREDIT HOURS)

The MPA is an interdisciplinary professional graduate program structured around concepts and skills essential to management, policy and planning activities within governmental, quasi-governmental, and nonprofit organizations.

Core requirements

Concentration requirements

The experiential requirement

One elective

The course of study requires completion of 39 credit hours with four components:

- Core requirements
- Concentration requirements
- The experiential requirement
- One elective

CORE REQUIREMENTS (21 CREDIT HOURS)

The MPA core requirements (21 credit hours) include courses that are designed to provide foundation-level knowledge that is applicable to general public management and therefore functions as an appropriate context for all concentrations.

PPOL 50200 Public Management
PPOL 50600 Statistical Analysis for Effective Decision Making
PPOL 50900 Administrative Ethics in the Public Sector
PPOL 56000 Public Finance and Budgeting
PPOL 56200 Public Program Evaluation
PPOL 56600 Executive Leadership
PPOL 60000 Capstone in Public and Environmental Affairs
CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS (12 CREDIT HOURS)

The two concentrations require 12 credit hours and include Nonprofit Management and Public Administration and Policy.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT (12 CREDIT HOURS)

Important policies, perspectives and issues germane to the nonprofit sector are examined. Particular emphasis is placed on fund development, grant administration and management.

- PPOL 52100 The Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector
- PPOL 52500 Management in the Nonprofit Sector
- PPOL 55700 Proposal Development and Grant Administration
- PPOL 55800 Fund Development for Nonprofits

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY (12 CREDIT HOURS)

Quantitative and qualitative skills are developed in the context of this concentration that are necessary for public and not-for-profit management. Particular emphasis is placed on political, organizational, and economic analysis.

- PPOL 50400 Public Organizations
- PPOL 51200 Public Policy Process
- PPOL 53900 Management Science for Public Affairs
- PPOL 54000 Law and Public Affairs
EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENTS (3 CREDIT HOURS)

Each MPA student must complete the 3 credit hour experiential component. Students with at least one year of full-time management and/or policy experience can apply for an exemption. Students who do not meet this criterion must complete PPOL 58500 Practicum in Public Affairs for 3 credit hours.

ELECTIVE (3 CREDIT HOURS)

Public Administration courses may be completed to satisfy the elective requirement. The director of graduate studies must approve other Purdue Fort Wayne graduate courses.
APPLICATION

DEADLINES

JUN 30

NOV 15

Steps to Apply

1. Application: To begin your application, create an account through the portal at pfw.edu/grad-apply. Applicants can make and save changes before submitting by logging in with the username and password used to create the account.

2. Application Fee: The Graduate School application fee is $60 (U.S. dollars) for domestic applicants. Your application will not be processed until your nonrefundable application fee has been paid.

3. Transcripts: Through the application portal, you must upload transcript(s) and/or academic document(s) for every institution of higher education you attended regardless of whether or not a degree was received. If a degree was received then it must be printed on the transcripts. If no degree conferral is printed on the transcripts then a copy of the original diploma (degree certificate) is needed.

4. Statement of Purpose (Essay): The statement of purpose should be 300-500 words concerning your purpose for undertaking or continuing graduate study, your reasons for wanting to study at Purdue Fort Wayne, and your research interests, professional plans, and career goals. You also may explain any special circumstances applicable to your background and elaborate on your scholarly publications, awards, achievements, abilities, and/or professional history.

5. Recommendations: Submit names of two individuals who are qualified to evaluate your academic or on-the-job performance who can attest to your ability to pursue a graduate degree. In the online application to the Purdue Graduate School, once you click “Send to Recommender,” each individual will receive an email with instructions for submitting their recommendation online. Once submitted, the graduate program to which you applied will have access to view your recommendation(s).

Official Transcripts

You must provide official transcripts and/or academic records at the request of the graduate program or if you are admitted and choose to enroll. An official transcript bears the original signature of the registrar and/or the original seal of the issuing institution. An unofficial transcript printed from your current/previous institution(s) student system is not an acceptable document. Official documents should be submitted to:

Purdue University Fort Wayne
Office of Graduate Studies
2101 E Coliseum Blvd., KT 140
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Domestic transcripts can be mailed directly from a Registrar’s office to the Office of Graduate Admissions. (You can choose to send the transcripts yourself, but the transcripts must be in an envelope sealed by the Registrar). The institution can also send electronically to graduate@pfw.edu.