

2010-11 Academic Year Information

Department of Public Policy and Administration

Sacramento State

Degrees/Certificates

Master of Public Policy and Administration: The Department of Public Policy and Administration (PPA) at Sacramento State offers the opportunity to earn a master's degree at the professional level for students interested in a public service career. The program draws together the diverse perspectives, technologies and skills now essential to success in public management or in one of the many fields within the public policy arena. Unlike programs with a more limited focus, ours provides the skills necessary for management and budgeting, as well as analytical tools helpful for understanding the economic implications of policy choices, evaluating policy options, developing political strategies for advancing proposals, and conducting/assessing research projects. Additionally, we infuse the consideration of ethics and the public good throughout the curriculum.

Master of Science in Urban Land Development: Combining courses in real estate and finance from Sacramento State's College of Business Administration, the PPA Department also coordinates a master's degree whose purpose is to bring together the private (decision-making) and public (policy) aspects of real estate development and to help students develop the skills needed to develop land in metropolitan areas. The program is interdisciplinary and covers all major aspects of the development process including design, feasibility analysis, land use regulation, market and location analysis, and negotiation. Graduates from the program bridge the gap between land use professional with training in fields such as city planning, government, and public policy and those trained in business administration. Holders of this master's degree understand the constraints and incentives faced by both the private and public sectors when making land use recommendations and decisions

Doctorate in Education Leadership: The PPA Department partners with the Department of Education Leadership and Policy in the College of Education to offer Sacramento State's first professional doctorate. This independent doctorate program produces exemplary educational leaders for K-12 schools, community colleges, and related areas within education. Graduates are prepared to lead in educational environments that promote learning, equity, and achievement for all students. Armed with real world, problem-based learning, holders of this professional doctorate are ready to manage the complexities of educational organizations, affect school change, and shape the educational policies that bear on the practice of education in the public setting. Three major core curricular elements form the doctorate's pedagogical basis: Transformational Leadership, Critical Policy Analysis and Action, and Informed Decision-Making.

Certificate in Collaborative Governance: The PPA Department also offers a graduate certificate program in collaborative governance aimed at teaching students of policymaking how to build consensus among competing interests to resolve complex public policy issues. This can be earned in one of our two master's programs (PPA or ULD). This certificate program is one of the few of its type in the country. It offers students advanced skills in collaborative methods for dealing with public policy issues that have no clear solutions and that can involve multiple actors and interest groups. Collaborative governance, or deliberative and participatory governance, calls for active participation of advocacy groups, businesses, non-governmental organizations and citizens in government decision-making. Experts in public policy are calling the emerging field of collaborative governance an important new development for the health of democracy.

Certificate in Judicial Administration: For several years, the Department of Public Policy and Administration offered a graduate certificate in judicial administration for those holding an undergraduate degree and court experience. The Department is now transitioning the administration of the Judicial

Administration Certificate Program to the College of Continuing Education at Sacramento State. Here it will continue as a valuable opportunity to earn a professional certificate in the skills necessary to conduct public administration in the judicial system.

Full-Time Faculty and their Teaching, Scholarly, and Service Activities

Su Jin Jez, Ph.D.: Dr. Jez earned her Ph.D. in Administration and Policy Analysis at Stanford University School of Education. Prior to joining us, she was a Research Associate at WestEd where a significant amount of her research and technical assistance work was focused on supporting early college schools and community colleges. Dr. Jez teaches in both the PPA Department and the Independent Education Doctorate Program.

Mary Kirlin, DPA: Dr. Kirlin earned her doctorate and her master's degrees in Public Administration at the University of Southern California. Prior to joining our faculty, her work included positions at Indiana University and in California state government. She teaches master's level courses in Introduction to Public Policy and Administration, Public Management, and Thesis Preparation; and a doctorate course in Education Policy. Professor Kirlin scholarly pursuits focus on theoretical and empirical examinations of adolescent civic and political participation. Her research appears in *PS Online* and in invited book chapters. She serves as the department's academic senator and is very active in assisting the campus in its formulation of a strategic plan and an effective assessment strategy. Dr. Kirlin is Sacramento State's representative to the American Democracy Project, leads many of their national activities, and often speaks on this issue nationally.

Edward (Ted) L. Lascher, Ph.D.: Dr. Lascher studied Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. His specialty is the policy process, legislative politics, direct democracy, and regulatory policy. He previously taught at Harvard University and worked for two California State agencies. Professor Lascher now serves as Associate Dean for the College of Social Sciences at Sacramento State, but continues to teach one master's level course in Research in Public Policy and Administration. He is well published, with over 20 articles in refereed journals and/or conference proceedings, and three books to his credit. His service to the university includes Acting Director to the Serna Center and numerous other college and university wide committees. He has been awarded Sacramento State's President's Award Research and Creative Activities Award and the School of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Science's Teaching Award.

William D. Leach, Ph.D.: Dr. Leach studied Environmental Policy at the University of California, Davis. He joined the Center for Collaborative Policy in 2003 and the Department of Public Policy and Administration in 2008. He teaches Master's level courses in Research in Public Policy and Administration, Applied Economic Analysis, and Collaborative Policy. Professor Leach also serves as the Director of Research for the Center for Collaborative Policy, and the Faculty Coordinator of the California State University's Faculty Fellows Program (which solicits the help of CSU faculty in performing research studies requested by the state legislature and governor). He is well published and recent refereed articles have appeared in the *American Political Science Review* and the *Public Administration Review*.

Robert W. Wassmer, Ph.D.: Dr. Wassmer is the Chair of Sacramento State's Department of Public Policy and Administration, Director of its Master's in Urban Land Development Program, and Associate Director of its Doctorate in Education Leadership. He studied economics at Michigan State University, Binghamton University, and Oakland University. His specialties are applied microeconomics, urban economics, state and local public finance, and policy. He previously taught at Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University. He teaches master's level courses in Applied Economic Analysis, Quantitative Methods, and a doctorate course in Education Policy. Dr. Wassmer's two major research interests are in a better understanding of the offering of local economic development incentives to business in a metropolitan area and the causes and consequences of urban sprawl. He has authored two books, over 25 refereed articles, and seven solicited books chapters on these and other topics related to state and local public policy. His service to the college includes active participation on retention, tenure, and promotion committees. At the university level, he has served on committees

regarding faculty housing, graduate policies, creation of a satellite campus, etc. He has received the Sacramento State President's Award for Research and Creative Activities.

Part-Time Faculty, Courses Taught, and Their Day Jobs

Being an applied professional master's program, the Department of Public Policy also relies upon a group of highly qualified practitioners to share their expertise in the classroom with students who aspire to the positions that these experts now hold. These include: David Booher who is an advisor and consultant to the Center for Collaborative Policy, Bryan Borys who works for the Los Angeles Superior Court, Jim Brighton who is Bureau Chief at the Superior Court of California in Alameda County, Peter Detwiler who is Staff Director of the California Senate Local Government Committee, Russell Fehr who is Sacramento City's Treasurer, Tim Hodson who is the Director of the Center for California Studies, Patricia Leary who is an Assistant Administrator in Yolo County, Michael Roddy who is Executive Officer in the Superior Court in San Diego County, Steve Sakurai who is President of the Sakurban Land Development Company, Linda Shafer who is a Staff Development Officer in the Sacramento Superior Court, and Nancy Shulock who is the Director of the Institute for Higher Education and Leadership at Sacramento State.

Alumni Careers

Graduates of the PPA Program pursue careers as policy analysts for state and local governments and in the private sector, advocates for policy interests in the state legislature and in city and county governments, governmental relations officers for private sector organizations, local government administrators, budget and personnel analysts, program administrators in government and community based organizations.

Recent alumni of the PPA Program have worked for a variety of agencies and organizations, including: California Association for Local Economic Development, California Budget Project, California Chiropractic Association, California Common Cause, California Community Colleges California Community College Chancellor's Office, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Department of Education, California Department of Insurance, California Employees Public Retirement System, California Energy Commission, California Department of Conservation, California Department of Finance, California Department of Health Services, California Department of Industrial Relations, California Department of Social Sciences, California Department of Transportation, California Employment Development Department, California EPA, Department of Pesticide Regulation, California's Little Hoover Commission, California Lieutenant Governor, California Research Bureau, California State Assembly, California State Association of Counties, California State Auditor, California State Senate, California State Treasurer, California State University Chancellor's Office, California Student Aid Commission, California Taxpayers Association, California Youth Authority, Center For California Studies, Center for Civic Partnerships, City of Los Angeles, City of Rancho Cordova, City of Sacramento Police Department, City of West Sacramento, Economic and Planning Systems, Inc., El Dorado County Local Agency Formation Commission, El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office, Institute for Higher Education Policy and Leadership, etc.