Curriculum

Academic Core (27-30 units)

Overview
- PPA 200: Introduction to Public Policy and Administration (3 units)

Public Policy
- PPA 220A and PPA 220B: Applied Economic Analysis (6 units)

Public Administration
- PPA 240A and PPA 240B: Public Management and Administration (6 units)

Research Methods
- PPA 205: Research in Public Policy and Administration (3 units)
- PPA 207: Quantitative Methods (3 units)

Budgeting and Finance
- PPA 230: Public Budgeting and Finance (3 units)

Politics
- PPA 210: Political Environment of Policymaking (3 units)
- PPA 295: Public Policy and Administration Internship (3 units)

Electives (6 units)

Collaborative Governance (earns a certificate)
- PPA 270: Collaborative Policy (3 units)
- PPA 272: Advanced Practice in Collaborative Policy (3 units)

Urban Policy and Land Use
- PPA 250: California Land Use Policy (3 units)
- PPA 251: Urban Problems, Economics and Public Policy (3 units)

Choice of graduate courses offered at Sacramento State or other institution

Culminating Thesis/Project (3 units)
- PPA 500: Culminating Experience (3 units)
The Master’s Degree in Public Policy and Administration

The Master’s Degree in Public Policy and Administration is a premier professional degree for students interested in public service careers. It brings together the interdisciplinary perspectives and skills essential to a successful career in public management or within the public policy arena.

Our unique degree focuses on public policy and administration, providing the skills necessary for management and budgeting, as well as the analytical tools to understand the economic implications of policy choices: evaluating policy options, leading cross-unit collaborations, developing political strategies for advancing proposals, and conducting and assessing research projects.

The idea of ethics and public good is infused in our diverse curriculum. Our greatest comparative advantage is our location in Sacramento, capital of the largest sub-national government in the world.

We prepare our graduates for careers as:
- administrators in state departments and agencies, and on boards and commissions
- elected officials
- government policy analysts and public affairs officials
- government administrators, including city/county managers and budget analysts
- advocates for policy interests coming before state, county and city governments
- leaders of non-profit institutions

“I sought out this degree for the unique offering of classes in both public policy and administration, a vital combination when pursuing work in the analytical field. A well-balanced, practical curriculum delivered by incredible faculty cultivates a cadre of professional students who are well-prepared to tackle real-world policy issues and challenges. I am thankful to be involved in the PPA program and look forward to using the skills I attain to further my career in public service.”

Terra Townsend
Undergraduate: Criminal Justice from Seattle University.
Entered PPA Program in Fall 2012.

Educating students since 1989, the Master’s Degree in Public Policy and Administration at Sacramento State boasts more than 350 graduates now employed by:

- California Chiropractic Association
- California Common Cause
- California Legislative Analyst’s Office
- California Little Hoover Commission
- California State Association of Counties
- California State Auditor
- California State Departments of Education, Employment, Finance and Health Services
- California State Legislature Chief of Staff
- California Taxpayers Association
- City of West Sacramento
- Internal Revenue Service
- Legislative offices in the California Senate and Assembly
- New Zealand Ministry of Social Development
- Sacramento Police Department
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments
- Sacramento County Planning Department
- San Francisco County Board of Supervisors
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of State
- Yolo County Executive Office

Among our prominent graduates are:
- Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento
- Susan Catron, Vice Chair and Director, UC Davis Extension
- Mark Iwasa, Sacramento State Police Chief
- Jim Mayer, Executive Director of California Forward
- Kevin McCarty, Sacramento City Council Person
- Karen Yelverton-Zamariapa, CSU Assistant Vice Chancellor

“Applications are accepted October 1 through March 1 for admission into the following fall’s class.

A completed application received before December 1 is eligible for priority admission. All applicants must have a baccalaureate degree with at least a 3.0 GPA and have completed (or have the promise of completing before fall start) prerequisite undergraduate courses in microeconomics, statistics and American government/political science.

Applications must include:
- completed CSU Mentor and PPA forms
- results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test
- a written statement of purpose
- letters of recommendation addressing the ability and desire to attend graduate school
- official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- and, for students whose primary language is not English, a 550 (213 computer-based) TOEFL score

With full-time attendance (three to four classes per semester), students can complete the program in two years. With part-time attendance (two classes per semester), students usually finish within three years.

“I decided to apply to Sac State’s PPA Program when I learned of the analytical and research skills I could develop and utilize in my professional career. As a PPA student, I feel closely connected and supported by my peers in the program and the larger network of PPA graduates via GASPPA, the program’s student organization. I am certain this program’s well-rounded, interdisciplinary approach is the right fit for me.”

Josef Preciado
Undergraduate: Community Studies and Latino Studies from University of California, Santa Cruz. Entered PPA Program in Fall 2012.

Chancellor
• Karen Yelverton-Zamarripa, CSU Assistant Vice Chancellor
• Kevin McCarty, Sacramento City Council Person
• Jim Mayer, Executive Director of California Forward
• Mark Iwasa, Sacramento State Police Chief
• Susan Catron, Vice Chair and Director, UC Davis Extension
• Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento
• Doris Matsui, U.S. Representative for California’s 3rd congressional district
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