



SACRAMENTO
STATE

Master of Public Policy and Administration
Fall 2026 Cohort Start

Information Session



Housekeeping

You are muted upon entry

- Please remain muted for now
- Simply **raise your hand** *or* **use the chat feature** for immediate questions, comments, or technical issues
- We have allotted time throughout and at the end of the meeting for live (unmuted) questions



Welcome!

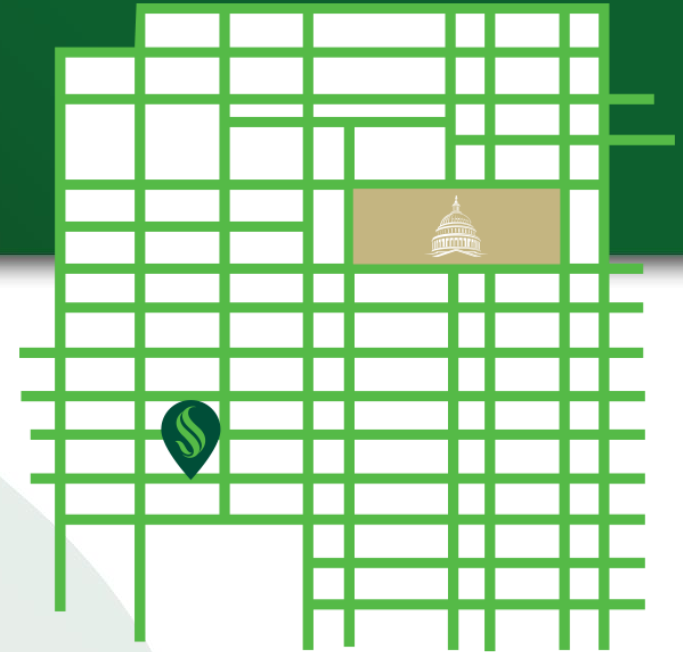
Professor & Chairperson, Shane Nordyke
Academic Department Coordinator, Sovannra Yos



SACRAMENTO STATE
Redefine the Possible

Agenda

- Our Mission
- Our GASPPA Board
- 5 Reasons Our Program is the Right Option for You!
- Our Alums
- Application Requirements & Process
- Q&A



Our Mission

The Capital Campus's graduate program in Public Policy and Administration prepares future leaders to address the complex issues that face California. We serve the state and the region by developing leaders with strong analytical tools and a deep commitment to public service.



Graduate Association of Students in Public Policy and Administration (GASPPA)



Alexa Contrell, President

Sabrina Tonanzin Cisneros, Vice President

Noah Vanderkar, Finance Director

Yesenia Solano, Alumni Coordinator

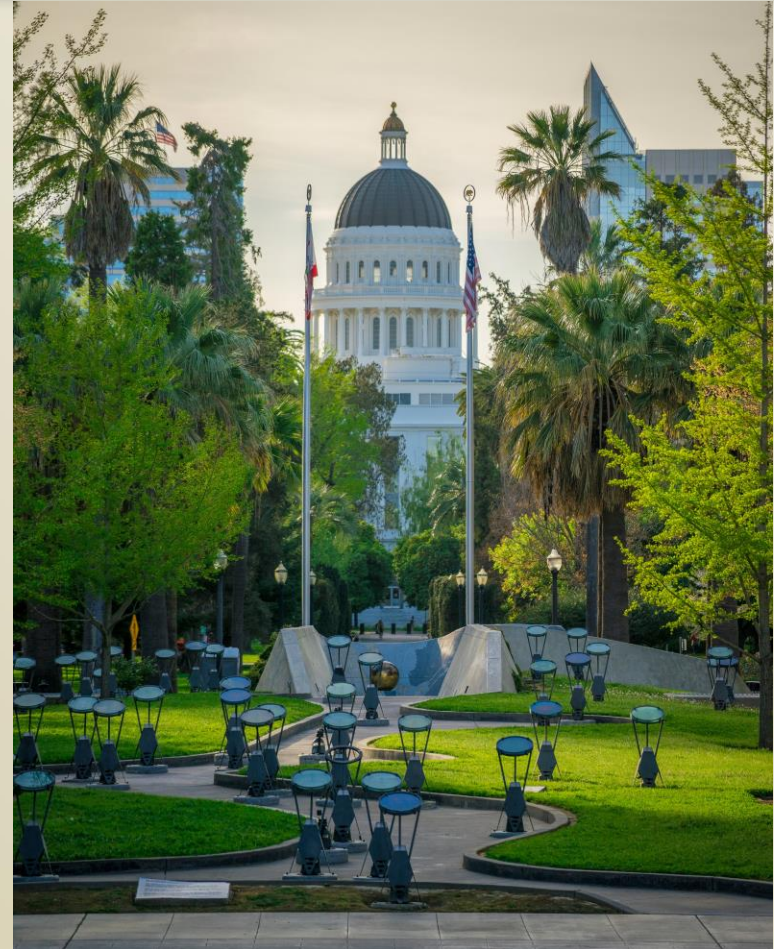
Xitlali Curincita, Communications Director



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Reason 1: Location

- In the heart of the Capital City of the 5th largest economy of the world and at the leading edge of policy making.
- Downtown campus: 304 S. St.
- Most of our students continue to work fulltime jobs in the legislature, federal or state agencies, for city or county governments or local non-profits.



Reason 2: Community



- Cohort model, fall start only
- Small seminar style classes
- Regular professional and social events
 - Job Fair
 - Pints and Policy
 - Resume and Salary Negotiation Workshop
- Strong alum network

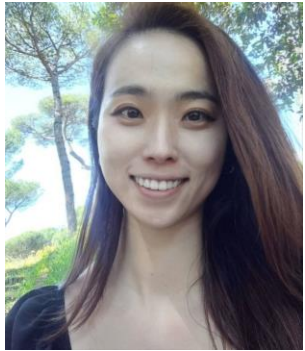


Reason 3: Excellence in Teaching and Mentorship

- We are rigorous but we match that rigor with academic support.
- All classes are **face to face** in the evenings, M-Th, 6-8:50 p.m. (one Sat. Intensive)
- Three years if part time (two classes a week), two years if full time (three class a week)



Our Faculty



Dr. Ahrum Chang
Assistant Professor

Ahrum.chang@csus.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers



Dr. Amal Kumar
Assistant Professor

kumar@csus.edu

Pronouns: he/him/his



Dr. Shane Nordyke
Chairperson and
Professor

Shane.Nordyke@csus.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers



Dr. Saahir Shafi
Assistant Professor
and Hazel Cramer
Endowed Chair

Saahir.shafi@csus.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers



Dr. Rob Wassmer
Professor

rwassme@csus.edu

Pronouns: he/him/his



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Reason 4: Public Policy AND Public Administration

- Two Bookends (Intro and Culminating Project)
- **Two Course Public Policy Sequence**
- **Two Course Public Administration Sequence**
- Two Course Research Methods Sequence
- 1 Political Environment of the Policymaking
- 1 Public Budgeting course
- Two electives



Part Time (students enrolling in 6 or fewer units a semester)

	Fall semester	Spring semester
1st Year	PPA 200 Introduction to PPA PPA 220A Economics	PPA 210 Political Env. PPA 220B Economics
2nd Year	PPA 205 Research Methods PPA 240A Public Mgmt	PPA 207 Quant. Analysis PPA 240B Public Mgmt
3rd Year	elective PPA 230 Public Budgeting	elective PPA 500 Culminating Exp.

Full Time (students enrolling in more than 6 units a semester)

	Fall semester	Spring semester
1st Year	PPA 200 Introduction to PPA PPA 220A Economics PPA 205 Research Methods	PPA 210 Political Env. PPA 220B Economics PPA 207 Quant. Analysis
2nd Year	elective PPA 240A Public Mgmt PPA 230 Public Budgeting	elective PPA 240B Public Mgmt PPA 500 Culminating Exp.



Reason 5: Cost



- Expect to spend about \$22,000 to \$25,000 for your entire degree.
- If you take *6 or fewer units*, you pay about \$3,622 for that semester (as of fall 2025).
- If you take *6 or more units*, you pay about \$5,314 for that semester (as of fall 2025).
- Books, parking, and graduation fees are extra.

Our Alums

Eric Guerra

Councilmember

City of Sacramento, District 6



“

I would recommend the MPPA program because individuals who make up the faculty, participants and the alumni all have practical experience in the field. This program is much more than theoretical learning, these individuals have real experience working as practitioners of public policy.

— — Eric Guerra

”

“

The program provided so many opportunities to meet new people and expand my network. The program itself expanded my knowledge and gave me the confidence to advocate for my professional growth at work. I would often directly take what I learned in class and apply it to my work.

— — Puneet Bhullar

”



Puneet Bhullar

Program Officer

The California Council on Science and Technology



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Our Alums

Angela K. Marin

Section Chief, Homelessness

California Department of Housing and Community Development



“

The PPA program is a perfect balance between public policy and public administration. Most other programs are one or the other. I appreciated the small class format, the opportunities to connect with my professors directly, and the high reputation that the program has in the Sacramento region. I discovered a new interest in public administration and my career pursuits post-grad have followed that thread. I am so grateful for my graduate education and all the doors it has opened.

— — Angela K. Marin

”

“

The MPPA program was an invaluable experience. The program (1) increased my confidence and understanding in policy and administration and (2) helped build valuable relationships with alumni, faculty, and other MPPA students, and (3) gave me access to decision-makers.

— — Michael Lynch

”



Michael Lynch

Co-Founder and CEO

Improve Your Tomorrow



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Where are they now?

- Governor's Office of Service and Community Engagement (Go-Serve)
- City of West Sacramento
- Power California
- Rural County Representatives of California
- Rural County Assistance Corporation
- California State Senate
- 3Strands Global Foundation
- Association of Plastic Recyclers
- California Community Colleges
- League of California Cities
- California State Auditor
- California State Treasurer's Office
- California Budget and Policy Center
- City of Elk Grove
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Institute for Local Government
- California Strategic Growth Council



What are they doing?

- Program Coordinator
- Deputy City Manager
- Policy Strategist
- Economic Development Officer
- Senior Policy Analyst
- Site Supervisor
- Lead Program Developer
- State Government Relations Manager
- Compliance and Grants Analyst
- Vice Chancellor for Government Relations
- Legislative Director
- Deputy Secretary for Legislation
- Economic Development Analyst II
- Planner and Evaluator
- Social Worker/Investigator
- Senior Government Relations Specialist
- Public Policy Manager
- Equity Policy Research Fellow
- Policy and Communications Manager
- Planning Commissioner
- Director of Governmental Relations
- Lobbyist
- Vice President, Public Policy and Development
- Suicide Prevention Researcher (Research Scientist III)
- Senior Environmental Management Consultant
- Chief of Staff
- Senior Tribal Community Resilience Planner
- Executive Director
- Legislative and Regulatory Analyst
- Grants Management Analyst
- Bureau Chief

And these are just the folks that
have graduated since 2020!



Application Deadlines

- Fall 2026 admission cycle: **Oct. 1, 2025 - March 1, 2026.**
- Fall 2026 priority admission closes: **Dec. 1, 2025.**
- *We do not have spring admissions.*



Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree with a minimum GPA of 2.75. **We welcome applicants from all majors.**
- Applicants need a grade of B or better in all *required* prerequisite courses before starting the program.
- MPPA Prerequisites
 - Introduction to U.S. Government or Political Science
 - Introduction to Microeconomics
 - Recommended - Introduction to Statistics.
- GRE requirement permanently suspended.



Application Process



NOW

- Review instructions on the program website
- Visit Cal State Apply and set up your MySacState account
- Upload supplemental application form and materials (statement of purpose and resume/CV)
- Prepare ALL required unofficial transcripts
- Reach out to request references
- Submit application
- Contact the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) at grad_admissions@csus.edu if you have any questions.

LATER

- Request official transcripts, only if accepted
- Complete any missing prerequisites



Tips for Recommenders

- All recommendations are submitted electronically using Letters by Liaison the Cal State Apply Recommender Portal. Let them know the request will come from calstateapply@liaisoncas.com.
The Office of Graduate Studies does not accept emailed recommendations.
- The deadline to submit recommendations is the same as the application deadline, make sure your recommenders are aware.



Likert Analysis

	Not Observed 	Poor (1) 	Below Average (2) 	Average (3) 	Good (4) 	Excellent (5) 
* Committed to the education of all students						
* Holds a school vision of high standards of learning.						
* Cultivates and promotes a safe, caring and supportive learning environment.						
* Treats people fairly, equitably and with dignity and respect						

Overall Recommendation

* Please provide your overall recommendation for this applicant

Choose an option



Evaluator Comments

* Please comment on any of the ratings or provide any additional information that will help the admissions office in the application review process.

0/1000

You're invited!



Information for Prospective Students

CSU, SACRAMENTO
PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

PINTS & POLICY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Discussion starts at 6:00 PM

EAST SAC BIKE DOG

1210 66TH ST.

GUEST: JUSTIN HURST (ALUMNUS)
FOLSOM, CA BRICKYARD CAPTAIN
+ MORE PERFECT UNION



Questions or Comments?

