

Public Administration

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Public Administration

Please note that international students are ineligible to receive a student visa for this program.

Program Format

The program can be completed through a mix of traditional and online courses.

Master of Public Administration at SIUE

The Department of Public Administration and Policy Analysis offers a graduate program leading to the Master of Public Administration (MPA), a professional degree designed to prepare persons for management careers in the public and nonprofit sectors.

SIUE's nationally accredited MPA program serves two types of students: (1) pre-service students who have recently completed a bachelor's degree and wish to use the master's degree to gain entry into a professional career track, and (2) in-service students who have worked for several years in the public or nonprofit sector, but wish to return to the University to enhance or upgrade their skills and knowledge.

Career Outlook

All industries benefit from strong leadership, which makes graduates of MPA programs highly sought after. Historically, graduates of SIUE's MPA program have been very competitive in the job market. Many benefit from the department's strong network with employers in Illinois and the St. Louis metropolitan area. A number of SIUE graduates have become city managers, department heads in the public sector and administrators in the nonprofit sector. MPA alumni are also employed in a number of state and federal agencies, including the Illinois State Police, Illinois Secretary of State Police, Department of Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Justice.

Local and state governments are among the largest employers in the economy and job prospects are favorable. Job growth will stem from the rising demand for services at the local and state level, particularly demand for public safety and health services. Two factors are fueling the growth of these services: an increasing population and the assumption of responsibility by local and state governments for services previously provided by the federal government. Local and state jobs, however, are susceptible to budgetary constraints, which is why advanced degrees are highly recommended in order to compete.

Graduates of the program hold a wide range of positions such as city managers, finance directors, policy analysts, legislative staff, administrators of nonprofit agencies, healthcare administrators, military staff and line commanders, police chiefs, fire chiefs, recreation directors, museum directors, and social service staff and managers.

Graduate Faculty

Graduate Program Director

Drew Dolan, MPA, PhD

Professor

Leadership and Nonprofits

ddolan@siue.edu

John Foster, MPA, PhD

Associate Professor

Quantitative Analysis, Public Budgeting

Nancy Huyck, DPA

Department Chair and Associate Professor

Human Resources

Morris Taylor, MPA, PhD

Associate Professor

Public Policy, Public Safety and

Public/Administrative Law

Andrew Wesemann, MPA, PhD

Assistant Professor

Public Management, Strategic Human Capital,

Nonprofit Administration, Organizational

Psychology



Hands-on Learning

Paid internships are available for qualified students who may serve in various public or nonprofit organizations ranging from local government administration, departments of transportation, states attorney offices and with organizations in the private sector. All internships include tuition reimbursements.

Global Experience

International students seeking administrative training often earn a MPA to seek career advancement in their respective countries or to seek career opportunities in the United States. International students from countries such as Turkey, Mexico, Nigeria and Mongolia, among others, have recently earned their MPA at SIUE.

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- Unconditional admission to the program requires an overall undergraduate GPA of at least 2.7 on a 4.0 scale, or a GPA of 3.0 for the last two years.
- Applicants with an overall undergraduate GPA between 2.5 and 2.7 may be required to take a test administered by the Department of Public Administration to evaluate their writing and analytical skills. Based on the results of this test, the program director may require students to submit scores from standardized examinations such as Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), or Miller Analogies Test (MAT); and/or resumes summarizing their work experience over the last 10 years.
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- Applicants who are denied admission may request a review of their credentials by the department's Student Appeals Committee.
- An undergraduate background in the social sciences or business administration is useful, but not required.

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

Graduation Requirements

Students must receive a passing grade on a comprehensive exit examination. To sit for the examination, students must have a GPA of 3.0 in the MPA core courses and program overall. Students must also submit two papers written during their coursework as evidence of their writing skills prior to taking the comprehensive examination. Students must complete the MPA program with a GPA of 3.0 in the core and in the MPA program overall.

Curriculum

The MPA requires the completion of at least 39 semester hours with a GPA of 3.0 or higher distributed as follows:

Required core courses (21 hours): PAPA 420, 500, 501, 510, 530, 540, 550 with a minimum 3.0 GPA in the core courses

Area of emphasis courses (18 hours): Chosen from an approved list of public administration courses in areas such as general administration, public management, nonprofit management, human resource administration, safety and security, and leadership. Students may also design their own area of emphasis with the consent of their advisor.

Unclassified graduate students may take PAPA courses only with the permission of either the department chair or the MPA program director.

Contact Information

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