



POLITICAL SCIENCE, PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION, *and* PLANNING

BUFFALO STATE • The State University of New York

DataBook

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Overview

Established in 2011, the Master of Public Administration and Nonprofit Management at SUNY Buffalo State University (hereinafter MPA Program) prepares a diverse body of pre-service and in-service professionals for positions of leadership in local, national, and international public service. The program cultivates values of accountability, ethics, and social equity through learning, service projects, and research. The program contributes to the body of knowledge and advances the quality of governance.

The MPA Program is housed within the Department of Political Science, Public Administration, and Planning (P3). The department is one of 20 academic departments and interdisciplinary units housed within the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) at SUNY Buffalo State University. The MPA is offered at the main campus in the City of Buffalo. All students—whether pre-service or in-service—must meet the same degree requirements, including expected competencies, curriculum, grading standards, and any other program requirements.

Courses are scheduled and formatted to accommodate the schedules of working professionals. Courses are offered in-person during weekday evenings (after 4:30 PM) and Saturday mornings. Courses are offered online during the Summer and the January mini term. All courses are platformed via the Brightspace learning management system. In fact, most courses in the program are offered in a hybrid modality, which leverages the best of the in-person and online instructional settings. Because hybrid courses economize on in-person instructional time, students may enroll in two classes per evening.

With its emphasis on research, statistics, human resource management, strategic planning, and administrative processes, the MPA prepares students for management positions in all sectors. Our MPA alumni work in federal, state, and local government; nonprofit agencies; consulting firms; private foundations; and the business sector. The core curriculum combines the theory and practice of public administration, public finance, human resource management, quantitative and qualitative research, and a thorough grounding in intergovernmental relations.

Degree & Certificate Programs

- **Undergraduate**

Public Administration Minor: The 18 credit-hour Minor in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management (PAD) introduces students from all disciplines to the core elements of public administration and nonprofit management. The minor is designed to prepare students for careers in the nonprofit and government sectors and/or graduate study in public administration and public affairs. Some students who have completed the PAD minor have pursued their MPA at Buffalo State or at other universities.

MPA 4+1 Accelerated Pathway: The MPA in Public and Nonprofit Management 4+1 accelerated pathway offers qualified undergraduate students an expedited and cost-effective opportunity to pursue a graduate degree in Public Administration. The pathway initiates graduate-level coursework at the undergraduate level, providing qualified students with a seamless entry to the master's degree program and an accelerated course of study toward an advanced degree.

- **Graduate**

Master of Public Administration and Nonprofit Management: The program offers three tracks: Public Administration (government), Nonprofit Management, and International Public Management. The Public Administration Track includes courses in city and county management, administrative law, comparative public administration, public policy, and other topical courses designed to prepare students for a career in public service. The Nonprofit Administration Track includes courses in nonprofit governance, fundraising and grants management, and the history of the voluntary sector to prepare students to effectively plan, develop, manage, evaluate, and lead nonprofit programs. The International Public Management Track includes courses in International Public Management and NGO Management & International Development to prepare student for careers with international non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and government agencies working in the international arena.

The program, totaling 36 credit hours, includes seven required core courses (21 credit hours); four courses from a selected track (12 credit hours); and 3 credit hours for the MPA project.

- **Certificates**

Public Management Graduate Certificate: The Advanced Certificate in Public Management provides students with an advanced course of study at the graduate level concentrating on the conceptual, technical, and professional education and skills required for administrative and leadership positions in governmental offices and not-for-profit agencies. The program, totaling 15 credit hours, includes three required core courses (9 credit hours) and two electives (6 credit hours) taken from Public Administration (PAD) graduate courses. Transfer credit may be given for one or both of the elective courses.

Disaster and Emergency Management Graduate Certificate: The Advanced Certificate in Disaster and Emergency Management is a fully online program that covers theory, legal structure, local, state, and federal doctrine, planning, and practice of disaster and emergency management. The program is designed to provide individuals with the conceptual and technical knowledge needed for positions related to disaster and emergency management in public agencies, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, or international humanitarian agencies.

The program totals 15 credit hours that includes four core courses (12 credit hours) and one elective (3 credit hours). Transfer credit may be given for the one elective course.

Admissions

The table below shows applications and admissions figures for Buffalo State’s MPA program.

MPA Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment			
Academic Year	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled
2023-2024	14	8	4

Enrollment & Demographics

Enrollment by degree program:

Enrollment by Degree Program			
Semester	UG Minor	MPA	Total
2023-2024	3	26	29

Enrollment by stated gender based on enrollment across programs (estimated):

Enrollment by Gender	
Female	69%
Male	31%

Enrollment by state (in-state in New York or out-of-state) based on enrollment across all programs (estimated):

Enrollment by State	
In-State	100%
Out-of-State	0%

Outcomes

Degrees Conferred (Graduates)

Number of degrees conferred (graduates) by program:

Degrees Conferred by Program and Year			
Academic Year	UG Minor	MPA	Total
2022-2023	3	11	14

Graduation Rates

The table below shows the MPA graduation rates for the five-year reporting period beginning with the academic year 2018-2019.

MPA Program Graduation				
	Initially Enrolled	Graduated within 2 years	Graduated within 3 years	Graduated within 4 years
Total # of Students in the ARY-5 Cohort	15	40% (6)	60% (9)	66.7% (10)

Job Placement Statistics

The table below shows the job placement of MPA graduates from the end of academic year 2022-2023 within six months of graduation.

MPA Program Job Placement	
US Federal Government	1
US State Government	2
US Local Government (city, county)	3
Government (international, all levels)	0
Nonprofit Organization (domestic)	2
Nonprofit/NGO (international)	0
Private Sector	1
Obtaining Further Education	0
Military Service	0
Unknown	4
Total Number of Graduates	13

The table below shows a list of representative employers of Buffalo State MPA graduates.

MPA Program Representative List of Employers		
Government/Public Sector	Nonprofit Sector	Private Sector
US Department of Veterans Affairs	Jewish Family Services of Western New York	Melvin Capital Management, LP
New York State Senate	Research Foundation for SUNY	M&T Bank
US Department of Labor	Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture	Material Bank
US Department of Homeland Security	Heritage Christian Services	Five Star Bank
Buffalo Public Schools	Catholic Health	Northtown Toyota Volkswagen Scion
NYS Department of Health	Roswell Park cancer Institute	
US Census Bureau	FeedMore WNY	
City of Niagara Fire Department	People, Inc.	
US Customs and Border Protection		

The table below shows representative job titles of MPA graduates.

MPA Program Representative List of Job Titles		
Government/Public Sector	Nonprofit Sector	Private Sector
Management & Program Analyst	Donor Relations Officer	Corporate Claims Officer
Policy Analyst	Program Director of Admissions	Client Consultant II
Veterans Service Representative	Chief Executive Officer	Senior Auditor
Human Resources Specialist	Director of Customized Support	Advanced R&D Scientist
Labor Investigator	Fair Futures Coach	Account Manager Assistant Vice President, Business Flood Analyst

The table below shows a representative list of [capstone projects](#) for Buffalo State MPA students.

MPA Program Representative List of Capstone Projects
Planning for Routine Emergencies: Establishing Collaboration to Increase the ISO Rating of the City of Niagara Falls, NY , Gordon G. Stewart III
Public Utilities' Disaster Response and Management Plans: An Evaluation of National Grid and New York State Electric & Gas , Taylor N. Vishion
President Trump's Executive Order No. 13780: Impact on Refugee Resettlement Organizations in Buffalo , Sarah R. Klotzbach and Jessica DePasquale
The Impact of Lexical Complexity on the Public's Understanding of Governmental Communication , Patrick J. Lyons III
Informal Rulemaking and Democratic Participation FDA – Food Labeling, FCC – Net Neutrality, a Text Mining Study , Casey Shannon
E-Government and the City of Buffalo , Michael J. Ramos
Somali Refugees in Buffalo: The Impact of Language Barrier on the Health Care Access , Khadar Maow
Financial Literacy among Buffalo State College Undergraduate Students , Toni Martinucci

The table below shows a representative list of [internship sponsors](#) for Buffalo State MPA students.

MPA Program Representative List of Internship Sponsors
NYS Assembly Graduate Fellowship NYS Senate Graduate Fellowship Excelsior Service Fellowship Program
Previous Student Placements
2017- 2019
Kayla Carrasquillo Baker: Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY
Naima Yancey: Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Buffalo, NY
2018-2020
Christopher Kuwik: Department of Environmental Conservation, Strategic Planning & Performance Management Unit, Albany, NY

Alexis Willard: Office of the Medicaid Inspector General, Bureau of Compliance,
Albany, NY

2019-2021

Tyler Bridgewater: Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, DPCS Waiver Unit
(Project Management), Albany, NY

Taylor Vishion: Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Emergency
Management, Albany, NY

2021-2023

Taylor Johnson: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation,
Albany, NY

Faculty

Faculty teaching in the MPA program:

MPA Program Faculty				
	Total Faculty	Total Full-time Faculty	Nucleus Faculty	Academically Qualified
All Courses	15	9	6	100%
Courses Delivering Required Competencies	15	9	6	100%