A graduate education at the internationally respected and top-ranked Humphrey School of Public Affairs will help advance your skills in public affairs leadership, policy and program analysis, and analytical reasoning to address complex public problems. If you are looking for career advancement or rejuvenation, or a way to deepen your capacity to bring effective solutions to public problems, the Master of Public Affairs (MPA) is the ideal degree program for you.

Designed for working professionals with 10 or more years of experience, you can tailor the MPA to meet your specific career objectives and goals, while leveraging expertise and broadening perspective. The mid-career degree program offers maximum flexibility, with classes offered evenings, days, summers, and some weekends.

You can complete the MPA in one calendar year by attending full time (fall, spring, summer, in that order). You also have the option to complete the degree program over two or three years, which allows you to maintain full-time employment.

DEGREE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Effectively increases your professional value while assisting you in changing careers or advancing to the next level in your current profession
- Emphasizes development of critical thinking and analytical skills through team-oriented, interdisciplinary approach
- Offers world-class faculty members recognized for their deep commitment to students and their public affairs scholarship
- Nonprofit management program ranked second in the nation by U.S. News & World Report

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs taught me how to systematically tackle social issues about which I am passionate. The school also introduced me to the concept of ‘integrative leadership’ and the need to build relationships across disciplines and sectors in solving complex problems.

Matthew Johnson
POSITIONS HELD BY MPA GRADUATES

Career options span all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the corporate and nonprofit sectors.

SENATOR
State of Minnesota

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Merrick Community Services, St. Paul

PRESIDENT AND CEO
Achieve Minneapolis

SENIOR RESEARCHER/PROJECT MANAGER
Heritage Institute for Policy Studies, Mogadishu, Somalia

COUNSELOR
General Delegation of Quebec in Mexico, Guadalajara, Mexico

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
Minnesota Department of Transportation, St. Paul

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Minnesota State Council on Disability, St. Paul

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ENGAGEMENT
Blandin Foundation, Grand Rapids, Minnesota

REGIONAL LABOR ADVISOR
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Denver, Colorado

VALUABLE NETWORK OF COMMUNITY + WORLD LEADERS

- MPA students bring a wealth of life and work experience to the classroom, creating an intellectually engaging and challenging learning environment.
- Students come from a broad range of countries and backgrounds, and include elected officials, directors and managers of nonprofit organizations, educators, lawyers, community organizers, government administrators, union officials, and business professionals.
- Studying with professionals from other fields and lines of work broadens your view of societal problems and potential solutions, and interacting with students from other nations gives you a new perspective on policy issues.

CORE CURRICULUM

- Leadership—explores personal leadership capacity in organizational, community, and policy systems through reflection and engagement with provocative readings covering global issues
- Policy and program analysis—introduces multiple policy and program analysis approaches to addressing public problems and using research-based evidence to design interventions and implement systems change
- Research methods and analysis—develops analytical reasoning using qualitative and quantitative methods to quantify effects of public problems and design effective solutions
- Capstone workshop—students serve as consultant team to demonstrate MPA core skills of research, analysis, leadership, systems change, collaboration, and communications in recommending evidence-based interventions addressing a public problem presented by a public or nonprofit client

REQUIREMENTS

- 16 required credits (leadership, policy and program analysis, research methods and analysis, capstone workshop)
- 14 credits, chosen in consultation with your adviser(s), which provide a set of courses that give you the knowledge base and skills you need and want to achieve your unique current and future career goals
- Credits can be chosen from across the University, including courses in business, law, education, economics, health policy, political science, global studies, environmental studies, and many others

PREREQUISITES

- A four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. university or foreign equivalent at time of enrollment
- At least 10 years of post-baccalaureate professional work experience is preferred and highly recommended. Pre-baccalaureate experience may be considered for applicants with a significant gap between completion of high school and the bachelor's degree.
- Sufficient prior academic preparation as demonstrated in a four-year bachelor's degree
- If English is not your native language, you must pass the TOEFL or IELTS exam with a minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based), 100 (internet-based, minimum 22 on each section), or 7 for the IELTS. TOEFL or IELTS scores must be less than two years old.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Resume
- Personal statement
- Undergraduate transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- TOEFL/IELTS scores (required for most non-native English speakers)

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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