

## Why Public Administration?

Sound leadership and management are vital to organizational and governmental effectiveness. Mason's **Master of Public Administration (MPA)** program puts you on a path toward a senior-level position in an organization that implements and manages public policies. You will gain a comprehensive understanding of how leadership, management, policy, and politics intersect, along with the tools to enhance your communication, budgeting, and analytic skills. As a graduate of one of the largest MPA programs in the country, you will join thousands of Schar School alumni working in various roles in local, state, and national government, nonprofit management, and other fields. The program is accredited by The National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

### Acting Program Director (Fall 2020) – Dr. Alan Abramson

A complete list of Schar School faculty and their CVs can be found at <http://schar.gmu.edu/faculty>.

## Curriculum Requirements

The MPA program requires **36 - 39 credit hours** of coursework.

### Required MPA Core Courses (18 credits)

- **PUAD 502** Administration in Public and Nonprofit Organizations: The course focuses on structure, functions, and processes of executive branch agencies of national, state, and local governments. Emphasizes nonprofit organizations as co-actors with government in policy-making/policy implementation nexus.
- **POGO 511** Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government: Introduces fundamental statistical analysis for analyzing policy, government, and other social science data. Focuses on problem definition, problem solving, and how to communicate results to general audience under conditions of uncertainty in public sector. Provides the core foundation for advanced graduate work in data analytics using contemporary statistical software packages.
- **PUAD 520** Organization Theory and Management Behavior: The course considers behavior in context of public organization, and consequent changes required in management.
- **PUAD 540** Public Policy Process: The course examines the processes of making public policy, including detection of public issues, consideration of alternatives, and adoption and implementation of solutions. Highlights major actors in policy process, and environment within which they work.
- **Methods Core**: One of the following courses – PUAD 613, 645, POGO 611, or 646.
- **Finance/Budgeting Core**: One of the following courses – PUAD 660, 662, 663, or 664.

### Advanced Core Courses (6 credits)

- **PUAD 700** Ethics and Public Administration
- **PUAD 703** Third Party Governance I

### Advanced Seminar/Practicum Course\* (3 credits)

- **PUAD 792** Advanced Seminar in Applied Public Administration Research

*\*Students with two or more years of related professional work experience may request a waiver of this requirement.*

### Concentration or Elective Courses (12 credits)

Students have the option to focus their four elective courses in one of the following concentration areas:

- |  |                             |                                |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Administration of Justice                  | • Human Resource Management | • Public Management            |
| • Emergency Management and Homeland Security | • International Management  | • Public and Nonprofit Finance |
| • Environmental Science and Public Policy    | • Nonprofit Management      | • State and Local Government   |
|  | • Policy Studies            | • Managing Across Sectors      |

## Admissions Information

For admission consideration to the MPA program, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited university or college.

Application Deadlines	FALL TERM	SPRING TERM
Domestic Students	May 1	December 1
International Students*	May 1	November 1
For Priority Scholarship Consideration	February 1	November 1

\*For admission purposes, please adhere to the International Student Deadlines if you have completed your undergraduate and/or graduate degree outside of the United States.

## Application Requirements

Please visit <https://schar.gmu.edu/how-to-apply> for more information.

- Graduate Application and application fee.** The Graduate Application can be completed online at: <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now>
- A 750-1000 word **written statement** of the applicant's goals for and interest in the program
- A current **resume**
- Unofficial transcript(s)** from all university work  
*Applicants presenting international credentials must provide transcripts, degree certificates or diplomas, and certified translations of the documents into English (if applicable)*
- Two letters of recommendation**  
*At least one letter of recommendation should be from an academic resource*

**\*Please note:** ALL applicants seeking consideration for **merit-based scholarships** from the Schar School of Policy and Government are required to submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.

## Additional criteria for International Applicants:

- TOEFL/IELTS scores** (required for international applicants)  
Minimum required TOEFL scores: 88 with a 20 in each of the four subsections **OR**  
Minimum required IELTS score: 6.5 total

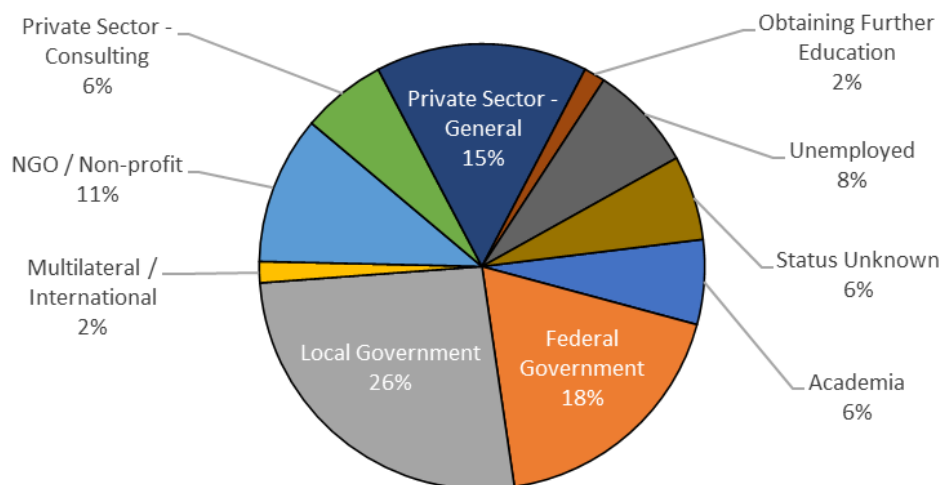
## Financial Aid

To apply for federal assistance, applicants are required to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form which can be accessed online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. For other questions regarding federal assistance, please visit the Office of Student Financial Aid at: <http://financialaid.gmu.edu/>.

## Tuition and Fees for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

In-State Total: \$870.75/credit hour  
Out-of-State Total: \$1,658.75/credit hour

## Public Administration (MPA) Graduates:



\*2018-19 Academic Year