

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (M.P.A.)

The Master of Public Administration program is an online degree program designed to empower those seeking a career in public service as well as those already employed who desire to enhance their current career trajectory. The program prepares professionals for work in government at the local, state, or national level as well as nonprofit organizations. Those in the private sector may also find the curriculum valuable.

The MPA degree requires a total of 36 hours of coursework:

- 18 hours of core coursework; and
- 18 hours of concentration coursework.

Students with substantial professional and administrative experience may be eligible to earn 3 internship credits based on their work experience. Requests for such credit will be reviewed and approved by the MPA Program Director.

Prior to graduation, all students must also complete and pass the comprehensive exams, which encompass key learning objectives from the core coursework. Students are expected to complete all core coursework prior to taking the comprehensive exams. Students with one core course remaining may take the comprehensive exams with the approval of the MPA Director. Comprehensive exams are administered during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Students must be enrolled in the university during the semester or summer session in which the comprehensive exams are administered.

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/public-administration/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

Applications to the online Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program are reviewed on a rolling basis, with application deadlines of: August 1st for the fall semester; December 1st for the spring semester; and May 15th for the summer semester. The MPA Program's admission considerations include the following:

1. Graduate Admissions Application (<https://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply/>): The Graduate Studies Application is an institutional application required by SHSU. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining State of Texas residency.
2. Application Fee (http://www.shsu.edu/~grs_www/ApplicationFee.html): An application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at SHSU.
3. Transcripts documenting all prior degrees.¹
4. A current resume or curriculum vitae.
5. A writing sample of scholarly or professional work.
6. A statement of interest that summarizes the applicant's professional goals, how an MPA degree will help the applicant obtain their professional goals, and how the applicant's personal and professional experiences have prepared them for the MPA program. The statement of interest should be between one and two single-spaced pages.
7. Names and contact information for at least two individuals who can speak to applicant's academic and professional potential.
8. Applicants who do not possess a graduate degree from an accredited institution, are expected to have earned a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 from the accredited institution granting the undergraduate degree.
9. Applicants who do not possess a graduate degree and have an undergraduate GPA below 3.0 may submit additional information as evidence of their academic and professional potential. Additional information may include, but is not limited to: a narrative that provides an explanation for the applicant's low GPA and why the GPA is not indicative of the applicant's academic and professional potential or GRE scores. Applicants can submit the GPA narrative as part of their statement of interest.
10. If the MPA Admissions Committee needs additional information for an admission decision, the MPA Admissions Committee Chair may schedule an interview with an applicant or request an applicant provide additional information via email.

Applicants must submit all application materials directly to the Office of Graduate Studies (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/prospective-students.html>) by the relevant deadline. A holistic review of each applicant's file will then be completed with admission to the MPA Program offered to applicants on a competitive basis.

¹ Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admissions committee. However, under university policy, admission decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

MPA Core Courses

All MPA students must complete PADM 5301 and PADM 5302 and 4 other core courses, a total of 18 credits.

Code	Title	Hours
MPA Core Courses		
PADM 5001	Independent Study	3

PADM 5002	Public Service Internship	3
PADM 5301	Scope and Methods of Public Administration	3
PADM 5302	Dynamics of Public Administration	3
PADM 5310	Organizational Theory and Behavior	3
PADM 5311	Public Management	3
PADM 5312	Public Budgeting and Finance	3
PADM 5313	Human Resource Management	3
PADM 5314	Ethics in Government	3

MPA Concentration Courses

All MPA students must complete 9 credits of concentration courses. Select 9 credits from your preferred concentration.

Code	Title	Hours
Concentration Courses		
Emergency Management Concentration		
PADM 5001	Independent Study	3
PADM 5003	Disaster Management Internship	3
PADM 5315	Program Evaluation	3
PADM 5340	Emergency Management	3
PADM 5341	Decision Making in Public Administration	3
PADM 5342	Global Disaster Politics	3
PADM 5343	Disaster Resilience	3
PADM 5359	Special Topics in Disaster Management	3
PADM 5361	Managing Complex Policy Problems	3
Management Concentration		
PADM 5001	Independent Study	3
PADM 5002	Public Service Internship	3,6
PADM 5315	Program Evaluation	3
PADM 5319	Special Topics in Public Administration	3
PADM 5341	Decision Making in Public Administration	3
PADM 5361	Managing Complex Policy Problems	3
PADM 5362	Managing the Nonprofit Organization	3

MPA Elective Courses

Select 3 additional PADM courses (9 credits) that have not already applied to fulfill another program requirement.

MPA Degree Plan

All MPA students must complete 36 credits of courses to graduate. MPA students must complete and pass the comprehensive examinations to qualify for graduation. Students with substantial professional and administrative experience may be eligible to earn 3 internship credits based on their work experience. Requests for such credit will be reviewed and approved by the MPA Program Director.

Code	Title	Hours
MPA in Public Administration		
Required Core Courses		
Complete Both Courses:		
PADM 5301	Scope and Methods of Public Administration	3
PADM 5302	Dynamics of Public Administration	3
Prescribed Elective Core Courses		
Complete any four of the following:		12
PADM 5001	Independent Study	
PADM 5002	Public Service Internship ¹	
PADM 5310	Organizational Theory and Behavior	
PADM 5311	Public Management	

PADM 5312	Public Budgeting and Finance	
PADM 5313	Human Resource Management	
PADM 5314	Ethics in Government	
Concentration Courses		
Choose a concentration and take any three courses from your concentration (9 credits).		9
PADM 5003	Disaster Management Internship ¹	
PADM 5315	Program Evaluation	
PADM 5319	Special Topics in Public Administration ²	
PADM 5340	Emergency Management	
PADM 5341	Decision Making in Public Administration	
PADM 5342	Global Disaster Politics	
PADM 5343	Disaster Resilience	
PADM 5359	Special Topics in Disaster Management ²	
PADM 5361	Managing Complex Policy Problems	
PADM 5362	Managing the Nonprofit Organization	
Elective Courses		
Take any three PADM courses that have not already applied to fulfill another program requirement (9 credits).		9
Total Hours		36

¹ Internships are not required; no more than 6 credit from PADM 5002 and PADM 5003 can apply to MPA degree plan.

² Special topics courses are offered occasionally.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The M.P.A. is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Develop students' analytical and writing skills.
- Develop students' ability to utilize technology to solve problems and accomplish goals.
- Prepare students for professional careers in the 21st century.
- Prepare students to make meaningful contributions to local, state, national, and global communities.