

Master of Public Administration

Administrative Unit

The program is administered by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research through the faculty of Leadership Studies, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Science.

Educational Objectives

The Master of Public Administration with Leadership Emphasis is designed to provide both advanced theoretical perspectives and practical training for governmental, not-for-profit, and community development leaders, with special emphasis on theories and practices of public leadership. To accomplish this goal, the degree aims at two general audiences in the Permian Basin: traditional students with bachelor's degrees looking for training to enter the public service and students already in a governmental or public organization seeking to further enhance their skills. This degree provides both audiences with leadership skills needed for community and economic development in the rural areas of West Texas, particularly those areas in the 17-county area served by the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission.

The objectives of this program are:

- (1) To build a theoretical foundation and practical skills in leadership for public, community, and not-for-profit organizations.
- (2) To develop an awareness of ethical issues in public service.
- (3) To develop a comprehensive knowledge of the historical, social, political, and economic contexts within which public leaders work.
- (4) To develop leadership and administrative skills in public policymaking, budgeting, and personnel.

Admission Requirements

Minimum standards for acceptance into the degree of Master of Public Administration with Leadership Emphasis are established by the Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies and Research of The University of Texas of the Permian Basin. In addition, the Program Coordinator and Program Committee will assess test scores and additional materials (see below) submitted in support of the student's acceptance into the program for a final admittance decision.

In addition to the general requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, applicants for this program are required to submit three letters of recommendation. These letters should be from persons who have knowledge of the applicant's academic preparation and potential in the areas of public and community service.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Public Administration degree consists of a minimum of 36 semester credit hours. This degree requires a "common core" of eight courses, including 3 semester credit hours of internship for those students without significant public service experience (at least 2 years). Students in mid-career may, upon approval from the Program Coordinator, substitute another 3-semester credit hour course.

Students may select from one of 3 specialization areas in public service: Nonprofit Administration, Community and Economic Development, or Political Leadership. Students with special interests may make other course choices with permission of the MPA Program Coordinator. A Specialization Area consists of 4 three-credit hour courses. The Master of Public Administration is a non-thesis degree. A final Applied Research Project in Leadership is required as part of the core courses.

Required Courses:

Candidates for the Master of Public Administration degree must complete 36 credits of graduate work.

MPAL 6301, Public Leadership and Ethics (3 credits)
MPAL 6302, Organizational Leadership and Administration (3 credits)
MPAL 6304, Public Budgeting (3 credits)
MPAL 6305, Public Personnel Administration
MPAL 6320, Leadership and Public Policy (3 credits)
MPAL 6390, Applied Research Project in Leadership (3 credits)
MPAL 6395, Internship in Public Leadership (3 credits)
PSYC 6302, Research Methodology (3 credits)
Or MATH 6301, Statistics (3 credits)

Specialization Areas

Students may select from one of 3 specialization areas, each of which consists of 4 courses (or a total of 12 hours):

1. Nonprofit Administration Specialization

LEAD 4351, Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector (3 credits)
MPAL 6370, Conflict Mediation (3 credits)
ACCT 4304, Not for Profit Accounting (3 credits)
Plus a graduate elective in another discipline

2. Community and Economic Development Specialization

LEAD 4375, Leadership and Community Development (3 credits)
LEAD 6370, Conflict Mediation (3 credits)
MPAL 6310, Local Government Administration (3 credits)
ECON 6301, Economic Analysis (3 credits)

3. Political Leadership Specialization

MPAL 6350, Democracy and Political Leadership (3 credits)
COMM 6369, Rhetorical Leadership (3 credits)
HIST 6351, Texas History (3 credits)
HIST 6347, Twentieth Century America (3 credits)
or HIST 6311, Modern Mexico (3 credits)
or HIST 6355, The American South (3 credits)

Students with special interests may make other course choices with permission of the MPA Program Director.

MPA students may also take MPAL 6389, Selected Topics, as a substitute for a course in the three Specialization Areas with the permission of the MPA Program Coordinator.

COURSE LISTINGS

Core Courses:

MPAL 6301 Public Leadership and Ethics (3)

Theories and readings in public and nonprofit leadership and ethical issues facing public leaders.

MPAL 6302 Organizational Leadership and Administration (3)

Historical, theoretical, and practical applications of developments in public leadership, public policy, and public organizational theory.

MPAL 6304 Public Budgeting (3)

Fundamental concepts, methods, and political/administrative processes of public sector budgeting in the United States (with a state and local emphasis).

MPAL 6305 Public Personnel Administration (3)

Theories and practices of personnel administration in the governmental agency and nonprofit organizational environment. Emphases on civil service systems and volunteer-paid employee relationships.

MPAL 6320 Leadership and Public Policy (3)

Theories and practices in public policy agenda setting and formation, working with other policy actors, implementation of public policies, and policy evaluation.

PSYC 6302 Research Methodology (3)

Foundations of research planning, methodology, analytic techniques, interpretation and reporting of psychological research.

OR

MATH 6301 Statistics (3)

Statistical concepts emphasizing simple and multiple regression, hypothesis testing, and analysis of variance. Prerequisite: one year of college level mathematics.

MPAL 6390 Applied Research Project in Leadership (3)

Individual applied research project focusing on a public leadership and policy problem, under the guidance of a faculty member serving as director.

MPAL 6395 Internship in Public Leadership (3)

Application of theories to work experiences in public and nonprofit agencies.

Prerequisites, 24 hours of MPAL core classes, plus approval of the MPAL Area Coordinator. May not be repeated for more than 6 credit hours toward the MPAL.

SPECIALIZATION AREA COURSES

MPAL 6389 Selected Topics (3) (title may vary)

The study of a selected topic in Public Administration/Leadership. May be substituted for courses in the three specialization areas, with the permission of the MPA Program Coordinator.

MPAL 6391 Contract Study (3)

Advanced independent study or research in public administration.

NON-PROFIT ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIZATION

LEAD 4351 Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector (3)

Leadership and practice in the non-profit sector.

MPAL 6370 Conflict Mediation (3)

Theories and advanced practices of reasoned communication, conflict resolution, negotiation, and mediation for leaders.

ACCT 4304 Not for Profit Accounting (3)

Study of accounting theory and applications related to data accumulation and reporting in governmental, hospital, university and other not-for-profit organizations.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIZATION

LEAD 4375 Leadership and Community Development (3)

The roles and practices of public leaders in community and economic development.

LEAD 6370 Conflict Mediation (3)

Theories and advanced practices of reasoned communication, conflict resolution, negotiation, and mediation for leaders.

MPAL 6310 Local Government Administration (3 credits)

History, theories, and contemporary practices in the organization and management of local governments.

ECON 6301 Economic Analysis (3)

Economic efficiency and the determinants of the major economic aggregates such as growth, employment, and gross national product.

PLUS one other graduate class in a substantive field.

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP SPECIALIZATION

MPAL 6350 Democracy and Political Leadership (3)

Theories and practices of political leadership needed in a democracy, including establishing a shared vision in a changing society and collaborative leadership.

COMM 6369 Rhetorical Leadership (3)

The study of rhetorical strategies to leadership in various historical and communication contexts, such as the American Presidency, War and Peace, Nineteenth Century Media, Business and Industry, etc.

HIST 6347 Twentieth Century America (3)

Examination of historical literature on special topics covering major developments and problems in recent United States history.

HIST 6351 Texas History (3)

Historical issues in the political, economic, social and military development of Texas.

OR

HIST 6311 Modern Mexico (3)

Historical literature relating to major developments and problems of modern Mexico.

OR

HIST 6355 The American South (3)

Historical literature relating to major developments and problems in some aspects of the American South.

OR other classes in History at the 6000-level.