

# PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MPA

The mission of the Master of Public Administration program is to strengthen the public service in a democratic and diverse society by educating students to manage and lead public and nonprofit institutions effectively, ethically and democratically.

## Program Related Information

### Program Contact

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**Program Website (<https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/public-administration/academics/mpa.php>)**

### Fast Track Program

The School of Public Administration has developed a Fast Track program for highly qualified and motivated students providing the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in an accelerated time frame. With Fast Track, students may count up to nine (9) graduate hours toward the completion of their undergraduate program as well as the graduate degree program.

Program Specifics:

- This program is available for undergraduate students pursuing any of the following who wish to pursue a Master of Public Administration degree:
  - Students majoring in emergency management from the UNO School of Public Administration
  - Students pursuing the Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies
- Students should have senior status and must be within at least 30 undergraduate credits yet to complete their undergraduate degree. Exceptional students who do not meet this requirement may be considered.
- Students must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.5.
- Students must complete the Fast-Track Approval form and obtain all signatures and submit to the Office of Graduate Studies prior to first enrollment in a graduate course
- Students will work with their undergraduate advisor to register for the graduate courses.
- Students must consult with the MPA advisor prior to enrollment in one of the courses listed below.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 is required to remain in good standing.
- Students remain undergraduates until they meet all the requirements for the undergraduate degree and are eligible for all rights and privileges granted undergraduate status including financial aid.
- Near the end of the undergraduate program, formal application to the MPA program is required. The application fee will be waived, the applicant will need to contact the Office of Graduate Studies for a fee waiver code.
  - Admission to Fast Track does NOT guarantee admission to the graduate program.
  - For this program, if students maintain at least a grade of B+ in courses taken, they will be recommended for admission to the MPA program.

- The admit term must be after the completion term of the undergraduate degree.

The following courses may be taken under the Fast-Track program:

- PA 8050: Foundations of Public Service
- PA 8090: Organizational Theory and Behavior
- PA 8100: Advanced Management and Leadership for Public and Nonprofit Organizations (Note: This course may only be taken if both PA 8050 and PA 8090 are completed).

## Admissions

General Application Requirements and Admission Criteria (<http://catalog.unomaha.edu/graduate/admission/>)

### Application Deadlines

- Spring 2026: October 1
- Fall 2026: June 1

### Other Requirements

- The general prerequisite for admission to the MPA program is a four-year bachelors' degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA in the junior and senior years (last 50-60 credit hours)
- English Language Proficiency:** Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, **OR** a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
  - Internet-based TOEFL: 80, IELTS: 6.5, PTE: 53, Duolingo: 110
- Statement of Purpose/Admissions Essay:** The essay should be two to four pages (doubled-spaced) and answer the following questions:
  - Please tell us about the factors in your background that will help us understand your interest in a profession in the public or nonprofit sectors.
  - What are your professional goals? Ten years from now, what do you hope to be doing professionally?
  - How can an MPA from UNO help you to achieve these goals?
- Resume:** Include information emphasizing interest in public service
- Letters of Recommendation:** Two letters of recommendation are required. These may be from professional or academic references. Letters should discuss the applicant's readiness to engage in graduate education with associated reading, writing, and research requirements.

Generally, students will be admitted unconditionally if they have a strong undergraduate record, demonstrate good communication skills in their admission essay, receive favorable recommendations, and have goals consistent with the mission of the MPA program.

## Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
The School of Public Administration has seven (7) core courses required for all MPA students. <sup>1</sup>		
PA 8050	FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	3
PA 8090	ORGANIZATION THEORY AND BEHAVIOR	3
PA 8100	ADVANCED MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS	3
PA 8120	ANALYSIS AND DECISION MAKING	3
PA 8400	PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT BUDGETING	3

PA 8300	POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION	3
PA 8530	PLANNING AND EVALUATION	3
<b>Concentrations</b>		
See MPA Concentrations		9
<b>General Elective Courses</b>		
See MPA General Electives below		6
<b>Specializations</b>		
See MPA Specializations below		
At the end of the program, students complete a Capstone Project:		3
PA 8990	CAPSTONE PROJECT IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>39</b>

<sup>1</sup> Must maintain a grade point average (gpa) of 3.2 or above during the first twelve (12) hours of public administration coursework in PA 8050, PA 8090, PA 8100 and PA 8120. Provisional students can earn no grade below a "B" in the first twelve (12) hours of coursework or the student will be dismissed or placed on academic probation. A grade of "C-" or below results in automatic dismissal.

## Exit Requirement

- Capstone - 3 hours PA 8990

## MPA General Electives

Students must complete six hours of elective courses. Any 8000 level public administration course may be taken as an elective (other than the required core and concentration classes). Courses from other departments may also be used as elective courses, but require approval in advance. Students are encouraged to speak with their advisor to select courses.

## MPA Specializations

### Criminology and Criminal Justice Specialization

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Course</b>		
PA 8410	PUBLIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	3
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
CRCJ 8010	NATURE OF CRIME	
CRCJ 8020	SEMINAR IN ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	
CRCJ 8040	SEMINAR IN POLICE AND SOCIETY	
CRCJ 8050	SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONS	
CRCJ 8060	SEMINAR IN THE CRIMINAL COURT SYSTEM	
CRCJ 8080	SEMINAR IN JUVENILE JUSTICE	
CRCJ 8130	SEMINAR IN WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE	
CRCJ 8230	TERRORISM	
CRCJ 9030	SEMINAR ON RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE	
CRCJ 9040	COMPARATIVE CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS	
CRCJ 9090	SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN RESEARCH METHODS	
CRCJ 9150	SPECIAL TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH	
CRCJ 9160	SEMINAR IN COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONS	

CRCJ 9170	ADVANCED SEMINAR ON CORRECTIONS	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>9</b>

Other graduate courses in criminology & criminal justice may be appropriate depending upon the student's interests and background. CRCJ 8090 is not recommended.

### Information Management Specialization

Please note: A module needs to be complete prior to enrolling in the specialization courses.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
PA 8110	MANAGING INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR	3
ISQA 8206	INFORMATION AND DATA QUALITY MANAGEMENT	3
<b>Elective Course</b>		
Select one of the following:		3
ISQA 8196	PROCESS REENGINEERING WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
ISQA 8420	MANAGING THE I.S. FUNCTION	
ISQA/CYBR 8570	INFORMATION SECURITY POLICY AND ETHICS	
ISQA 8736	DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS	
ISQA 8810	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT FUNDAMENTALS	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>9</b>

## Concentrations

### Nonprofit Management Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Course</b>		
PA 8550	INTRODUCTION TO THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR	3
<b>Select two courses from the following:</b>		<b>6</b>
PA 8110	MANAGING INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR	
PA 8160/ EMGT 8060	PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND MITIGATION	
PA 8320	PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION	
PA 8350	SOCIAL POLICY AND INEQUALITY	
PA 8410	PUBLIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
PA 8470	ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP	
PA/EMGT 8430	RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE	
PA 8480	SEMINAR IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	
PA 8520	SEMINAR IN GRANT WRITING	
PA 8540	NONPROFITS AND PUBLIC POLICY	
PA 8710	FUND RAISING IN PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS	
PA 8750	SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH	
UBNS 8000	SEMINAR IN URBAN STUDIES	
UBNS 8020	RACE, ETHNICITY, AND AMERICAN CULTURE	

UBNS 8200	COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & SOCIAL CHANGE
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>9</b>

## Public Management Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Select three courses from the following:</b>		<b>9</b>
PA 8010	THE PUBLIC ECONOMY	
PA 8110	MANAGING INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR	
PA 8160/ EMGT 8060	PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND MITIGATION	
PA 8410	PUBLIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
PA/EMGT 8430	RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE	
PA 8436	MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION	
PA 8470	ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP	
PA 8480	SEMINAR IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	
PA 8520	SEMINAR IN GRANT WRITING	
PA 8566	INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANAGEMENT	
PA 8600	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	
PA 8826	INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & REGULATIONS	
UBNS 8000	SEMINAR IN URBAN STUDIES	

## Public and Social Policy Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Course</b>		<b>3</b>
PA 8330	SEMINAR IN POLICY ANALYSIS	
<b>Select two courses from the following:</b>		<b>6</b>
PA 8010	THE PUBLIC ECONOMY	
PA 8160/ EMGT 8060	PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND MITIGATION	
PA 8320	PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION	
PA 8350	SOCIAL POLICY AND INEQUALITY	
PA/EMGT 8430	RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE	
PA 8410	PUBLIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
PA 8540	NONPROFITS AND PUBLIC POLICY	
PA 8566	INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANAGEMENT	
PA 8740	HEALTH CARE POLICY	
PA 8600	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>9</b>