

REQUIRED COURSES FOR THE MPA

PPA 500. Foundations of Public Policy and Administration (3) Concepts of the discipline; fundamentals of public organization theory, policy formulation and analysis, and administrative and management processes; management of the public interest; and ethics in government.

PPA 555. Public Budgeting (3) Public Budgeting (PPA 555) focuses on the formulation phase in the budget cycle. The course presents the major concepts and skills associated with budget preparation for all levels of government. Topics include: budget processes and structures, fundamental principles of public finance, economic growth and fiscal impacts, basic principles of government accounting, budget formats, performance measurement, fiscal condition and stress, revenue sources and structures, estimation and forecasting, capital budgeting and evaluating public projects, and fiscal federalism.

PPA 577. Public Sector Human Resources Management (3) The historical development of the civil service/merit system and how this impacts public personnel systems; laws which affect the operation of a personnel system; analysis of the various components of a personnel system; impact of labor negotiations on personnel systems; importance of written policies and procedures; and role of the personnel system as a change agent.

PPA 660. Seminar in Organization Theory and Behavior (3) Organizational change, effectiveness and allocation processes in public agencies. Theoretical models of open systems, rationalist, conflict, coalition and decision-making theories will be investigated with the aim of presenting a unified set of propositions about organizations. Leadership and small group theory.

PPA 670. Policy Issue Analysis (3) This course introduces theories and approaches to policy analysis and a working knowledge of the skills involved in that practice. The core of the course follows the policy analysis cycle and includes: problem recognition, problem definition, development of alternative solutions, analysis of alternatives, selection of policy options, policy implementation and evaluation.

PPA 696. Research Methods in Public Administration (3) Application of relevant research techniques to problems in public sector management and analysis. This course focuses on the design, development, and implementation of public sector research projects. The course is centered around the tools and techniques of research and their application in the development of a formal research design. Topics covered include: theories of research strategy, research

design development, hypothesis design and testing, qualitative and quantitative data acquisition methods, survey research, initial data analysis techniques, statistical analysis, research results reporting and presentation, and evaluation research applications. Note: It is suggested that students take PPA 696 early in their MPA program in order to accrue maximum benefit in subsequent courses.

PPA 697. Directed Research (1-3) Prerequisites: Consent of Center graduate advisor, advancement to candidacy. The definition, presentation and discussion of selected problems in public administration.