MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Graduate Advisors: Gen, Joaquin, Shea, Stowers, Wang

Admission to Program

The graduate admission application to San Francisco State University is a two-part process. You must submit Part One and Part Two of your graduate admission application simultaneously by the deadline to be considered for admission.

Part one:

Apply online through CSU Mentor for a Graduate Program (http://www.csumentor.edu/AdmissionApp/grad_apply.asp). The Office of Graduate Admissions no longer accepts paper applications to graduate programs.

Send all required documents noted on your online SF Gateway Portal “To Do List” to the Division of Graduate Studies:

Graduate Admissions
SF State University
1600 Holloway Ave, ADM 250
San Francisco, CA 94132

Part two:

Submit the following materials directly to the Public Administration Program:

1. Statement of purpose to the SF State MPA Program. This statement of purpose should describe the following information in a coherent essay (in no more four pages, double spaced):
   - Life experiences that have led you to an interest in public service (public or nonprofit)
   - Background in the public service, including any work or volunteer experience you might have in public or nonprofit agencies
   - Areas of specific interests in the public service, including what has led you to these specific interests
   - Career and professional goals and aspiration
   - How the MPA degree will be helpful and consistent with your career goals and aspirations
   - Why this is the right time in your career to come into a MPA program and seek the degree
   - Why the SF State MPA degree program is a good fit for you and your career / professional goals

2. Your current resume.

3. Two (2) letters of recommendation. These should be from individuals who know the candidate well and can address their potential for succeeding in graduate school. The letters do not have to be from faculty members at an academic institution, they can be from supervisors or others familiar with the candidate’s work.

Send the documents requested in Part TWO directly to the Public Administration Program:

Public Administration Program
835 Market Street, 6th Floor, Suite 679
San Francisco, CA 94103

Applicants must meet all university admission requirements to be accepted into the MPA program. Applicants are judged on a competitive basis.

Potential applicants who are still completing their undergraduate work should strengthen their preparation for the program with courses in public administration, economics, politics, public policy, and research techniques as well as experience working in either the public or nonprofit sectors.

Written English Proficiency Requirement

The University has a requirement for written English proficiency that is to be assessed at two different levels.

Level One

Satisfactory performance on the Statement of Purpose should be achieved in order to gain admission to the degree program.

Level Two

Master’s thesis or strategic assessment memo from P A 890 must be written at a level commensurate with professional standards in the field.

Advancement to Candidacy

Approval of a student’s proposed course of study advances a student to candidacy. Completion of the Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) requirements qualifies the student to apply for the award of the master’s degree. Besides meeting University requirements for advancement to candidacy, students are required to:

- Complete prerequisites and any other conditions specified by the program.
- Complete at least 6 units of work in graduate courses.
- Maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA in all course work and in courses specified in the Advancement to Candidacy.
- Consult regularly with a program advisor.

Upon advisement, upper division and graduate courses in other disciplines may be accepted if they contribute to a coherent program related to the student’s educational objectives.

Courses that are required for the major must be completed with a grade of B- or better. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained.

Culminating Experience Requirement

Students in the public administration program can choose between two options for their culminating experience:

Students may choose to take a capstone course (P A 890) and complete a written comprehensive examination, the Strategic Assessment Memorandum (SAM). The capstone course focuses on synthesizing the knowledge, skills, and abilities learned in the program through the analysis of case studies from the field. Students complete their portfolio, analyze case studies, and present their strategic assessment of what managers operating in those cases should do to resolve them. The strategic assessment memo is the written presentation of each student’s analysis and plan for that case.

Students may also choose to undertake a traditional social science research project, the Master’s Thesis (P A 898) option. Working with a faculty committee, students write a prospectus, have it approved the
semester before undertaking the research, and write the thesis. After initiating this option, students must enroll each additional semester in the 499 CEL course until the thesis is completed.

Public Administration Program Portfolio
San Francisco State University Public Administration students graduate with a portfolio of work products and evaluations of that work, which demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired in the public administration program. The required components of the portfolio are core competencies and skills crucial for the success of nonprofit and public administrators. Students publish selected course work along with explanations of their accomplishments in the degree program and use it to connect with others in the field.

Eugene I. Pearl Memorial Scholarship
The Eugene I. Pearl Memorial Scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis to students specializing in urban administration. This scholarship reimburses students for the cost of their textbooks.

Cho Public Service Scholarships
Cho Public Service Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis for incoming and continuing students. Students are selected on the basis of outstanding academic achievement, outstanding community service, and potential for excellence in the public and nonprofit sectors.

Merritt Community Capital Scholarship
The Merritt Community Capital Scholarship Fund in Public Administration is awarded on a competitive basis to students interested in the fields of affordable housing, finance, development, and management. Affordable housing is an integral component of public administration and community development strategies, and the career development of committed affordable housing professionals are vital to the continued success of our current housing delivery and management systems.

For more information regarding scholarships, visit AcademicWorks (https://sfsu.academicworks.com).

Public Administration (MPA) – 39 – 42 units
Core Requirements (12 units)
P A 700  Foundations of Governance and Management 3
P A 705  Design and Consumption of Research 3
P A 706  Applied Data Analysis 3
P A 715  Policy Process and Civic Engagement 3

Management Perspectives (12 units)
Select 12 units from the following:
P A 720  Organization Design and Change Management 3
P A 722  Performance Management and Planning 3
P A 724  Economic Perspectives 3
P A 725  Managing Human Capital 3
P A 727  Program and Service Delivery 3
P A 730  Resource Allocation and Management 3

Internship Requirement (0 - 3 units)
P A 803  Public Affairs Internship 3

Internship requirement may be waived upon evidence and approval of previous or concurrent educationally appropriate work experience in public policy or administration.

Emphasis or Electives on Advisement (12 units)
See below.

Culminating Experience Requirement (3 units)
Select one of the following:
P A 890  Capstone Course in Public Administration 3
P A 898  Master’s Thesis 3

Emphases
Nonprofit Administration (12 units)
P A 744  Nonprofits, Public Policy and Society 3
Select 9 units from the following:
- P A 740  Public Service Management 3
- P A 741  Emerging Trends in the Public Service 3
- P A 745  Perspectives on Nonprofit Management 3
- P A 746  Application of Organizational Learning in Nonprofits 3
- P A 750  Financial Management in the Public Service 3
- P A 753  Decision Making in the Public Sector 3
- P A 754  Comparative Perspectives in the Public Service 3
- P A 755  Information and Knowledge in the Public Service 3
- P A 757  E-Government 3
- P A 762  Leading Change Across Sectors 3
- P A 775  Program Evaluation 3
- M S 800  Museum Management, Law, and Ethics 3
- M S 860  Fundraising in Museums 3

Public Policy (12 units)
P A 770  Policy Analysis 3
P A 775  Program Evaluation 3
Select 6 units from the following:
- P A 750  Financial Management in the Public Service 3
- P A 753  Decision Making in the Public Sector 3
- P A 776  Environmental Policy 3
- P A 777  Criminal Justice Administration 3
- P A 783  Urban Housing Policy 3
- USP 433  Urban Transportation 3
- USP 570  Urban Health Policy 3
- USP 560  Urban Poverty and Policy 3

Public Service Management (12 units)
P A 740  Public Service Management 3
Select 9 units from the following:
- P A 750  Financial Management in the Public Service 3
- P A 753  Decision Making in the Public Sector 3
- P A 754  Comparative Perspectives in the Public Service 3
- P A 755  Information and Knowledge in the Public Service 3
- P A 757  E-Government 3
- P A 762  Leading Change Across Sectors 3
- P A 775  Program Evaluation 3
Urban Administration (12 units)
P A 780 Urban Administration 3
Select 9 units from the following: 9
  ECON/USP Urban Economics 535
  GEOG/USP Urban Transportation 433
  GEOG 666 Geography of Garbage: Recycling and Waste Reduction
  GEOG 667 Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment
  GEOG 668 Politics, Law, and the Urban Environment
  GEOG 858 Seminar in Environmental and Land Use Planning
  P A 741 Emerging Trends in the Public Service
  P A 750 Financial Management in the Public Service
  P A 755 Information and Knowledge in the Public Service

Environmental Administration (12 units)
The elective emphasis in Environmental Administration is offered jointly by the Public Administration Program (School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement) and the Department of Geography & Environment. Students should take P A 776, one other course from the list of MPA courses below, and two courses from the list of Geography courses below.

P A 776 Environmental Policy 3
Select 9 units from the following: 9
  P A 781 Sustainable Development in Cities
  ENVS 470 Climate Politics and Policy
  ENVS 570 Applied Local Sustainability
  GEOG 433 Urban Transportation
  GEOG 435 Geography of Global Transportation
  GEOG 600 Environmental Problems and Solutions
  GEOG 647 Geography of Water Resources
  GEOG 658 Land-Use Planning
  GEOG 651 San Francisco Bay Area Environmental Issues
  GEOG 652 Environmental Impact Analysis
  GEOG 751 Environmental Management
  GEOG 820 Human and Social Geography
  GEOG 858 Seminar in Environmental and Land Use Planning

Criminal Justice Administration (12 units)
P A 777 Criminal Justice Administration 3
Select 9 units from the following: 9
  C J 505 International Criminal Law (GE)
  C J 515 Extremism as Crime