MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: CONCENTRATION IN AGING IN SOCIETY

Graduate Advisors: Shea, Takagi

Admission to Program

Apply online through Cal State Apply (https://www2.calstate.edu/apply). The Office of Graduate Admissions no longer accepts paper applications to graduate programs. Submit the following materials by uploading them to the Cal State Apply online application:

1. **Statement of purpose** to the SF State MPA: Concentration in Aging in Society Program. This statement of purpose should address the following prompts in a coherent essay of 3 – 4 pages, double-spaced:
   - Life experiences that have contributed to your interest in public administration. We are especially interested in reading about any direct experience with one or more of the following:
     - Civic engagement in any way (e.g., as an organizer, as a professional tasked with engaging constituents, or as a member of a community being engaged by public or nonprofit organizations)
     - Issues related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) as they relate to older adults in any setting (e.g., school, work, community, social or health care programs). Experiences may include having been subject to discrimination or exclusionary policies or practices, advocating or organizing for change, or working to adopt or implement DEIB initiatives - especially those focused on older populations.
     - Working#or volunteering#in public or nonprofit agencies#or#other#organizations that primarily serve older populations in the public realm (e.g.,#program management,#consulting, auditing, law, government relations).
   - Career goals and professional interests or#aspirations, including#what informs them.#We are especially interested in reading about your goals, interests, or aspirations related to#one or more of the following:
     - Related policy areas (e.g., age discrimination, economic security, elder justice, health and long-term care, workforce).
     - Subfields at the intersection of aging issues and public or nonprofit administration (e.g., affordable housing, age-friendly cities, caregiver support, home and community services, in-home support and care management, intergenerational programs, lifelong learning).
     - Civic engagement, advocacy,#or community organizing to promote positive#and inclusive aging and protect vulnerable older adults (e.g., initiatives, policies, programs, research).
     - Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, including#any#dimensions of#diversity#or#equity#(e.g., economic, environmental, gender, health,#racial) and their lifelong impacts on aging populations.
     - How the MPA: Concentration in Aging in Society degree will be helpful and consistent with your career goals and aspirations
     - Why the MPA: Concentration in Aging in Society degree program is a good fit for you and your career / professional goals.#We are especially interested in reading about your alignment with any of the public service values#SF State's MPA Program elevates:#accountability, civic engagement, effectiveness, equity, inclusivity, social justice, and sustainability.
     - Why now is the right time in your career to#seek#the MPA: Concentration in Aging in Society degree.
2. **Your current resume.**
3. **Two (2) letters of recommendation.** These should be from individuals who know the applicant 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 applicant's work.

Important information and instructions on using the CalState Apply (https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/apply) online application system.

Applicants must meet all **university admission requirements (https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/minimum-admission-requirements)** to be accepted into the MPA: Concentration in Aging in Society program. Applicants are judged on a competitive basis.

Potential applicants who are still completing their undergraduate work should strengthen their preparation for the program by completing courses in public administration, economics, politics, public policy, and research techniques, or with coursework focused on older populations. Those without relevant work experience can strengthen their application with related internships or volunteer positions.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Lead and manage in public governance.
   a. Apply a wide range of knowledge about public service.
   b. Apply a wide range of knowledge about an elective area within public service.
   c. Provide evidence of the professional skills necessary for public service.
2. Participate in and contribute to the public policy process.
3. Analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions.
4. Articulate and apply a public service perspective.
5. Communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.
   a. Write effectively and concisely for an audience of professionals.
   b. Present effectively to small and large groups.
   c. Work effectively in groups and teams.
6. Communicate and work to ensure social justice, equity, and other public service values highlighted by the program.

Concentration in Aging in Society - Specific Program Learning Outcomes

- C-PLO-1: Apply interdisciplinary perspectives to analyze diverse factors influencing aging and the well-being of older adults.
- C-PLO-2: Exercise innovation in professional practice to address the needs of aging populations in public program design and implementation

- C-PLO-3: Lead advocacy and policy efforts that emphasize the interests of aging populations

Written English Proficiency Requirement

The University requires that written English proficiency be assessed at two different levels.

Level One

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

Level Two

Culminating Experience paper - a Master's Thesis or the Strategic Assessment Memo from the Capstone course - 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 (https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/graduate-education/academic-policies-procedures/#ATC), students are required to:

- Complete any other conditions specified by the program.
- Consult regularly with a program advisor.
- Complete all courses with a grade of B- or better. Maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 overall.

Culminating Experience Requirement

Students in the MPA Concentration in Aging in Society program can choose between two options for their culminating experience:

Most students choose to take the capstone course (P A 890). The course challenges students to integrate and apply the full range of knowledge, skills, and abilities developed throughout the program. At its core is the Strategic Assessment Memorandum (SAM), a written comprehensive examination grounded in real-world case analysis. Students step into the role of leader, dissecting complex situations and crafting sharp, actionable strategies.

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 maintain continuous enrollment until the thesis is completed.

Program-Specific Fellowships and Scholarships

Willie L. Brown, Jr. Graduate Fellowship

The Willie L. Brown, Jr. Graduate Fellowship is a two-year fellowship awarded on a competitive basis to MPA students who have experienced hardships or barriers in their pursuit of higher education. Applications open each fall for fellowships beginning the following spring semester. The Fellowship includes a one-year internship placement at a San Francisco City/County agency and a second year of applied research and professional development, including near-peer monitoring and supporting undergraduate fellows. Graduate Fellows receive a stipend of $11,000/year $10,000/year plus $3,000 in professional development funding in year 2.

Cho Public Service Scholarship

The Cho Public Service Scholarship is 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.

For more information regarding scholarships, visit https://financialaid.sfsu.edu/scholarships

Master of Public Administration (MPA): Concentration in Aging in Society – 39 units minimum

Core: Foundations (12 units)

Code	Title	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

Core: Management Perspectives (12 units)

Code	Title	Units
Select four:		
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)

Code	Title	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.

Concentration Requirements (12 units)

Code	Title	Units
GRN 705	Aging in a Multidimensional Context	3
GRN 715	Age and Social Policy Analysis	3
GRN 725	Aging and Diversity	3
GRN 735	Ethical and Legal Issues in Aging and Social Services	3

Culminating Experience Requirement (3 units)

Select One:

Code	Title	Units
P A 890	Capstone Course in Public Administration	3
P A 898	Master's Thesis	3