

Master of Public Administration and Juris Doctor

M.P.A./J.D. Dual Degree Program

The dual degree program is designed for the student who intends to combine career preparation in law and public administration. Examples of career objectives for this degree are the practice of law in communities (for example, a city attorney, who may be called upon to perform legal services for a municipality) and for city managers (who may need to deal with legal questions and interact with legal professionals). The program combines into 4 years the normal 3-year Juris Doctor (<https://catalog.ku.edu/law/jd/>) program offered by the School of Law (<http://www.law.ku.edu/>) and the 2-year M.P.A. program offered by the School of Public Affairs and Administration (<https://spaa.ku.edu/master-public-administration-mpa-admissions/>).

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

M.P.A./JD Dual Degree Admission

Students must apply and be admitted to the J.D. in the School of Law and the Master of Public Administration degree separately. Please visit the M.P.A. Admissions page (<https://spaa.ku.edu/master-public-administration-mpa-admissions/>) for complete M.P.A. application deadlines and admission information. Refer to the School of Law website (<https://law.ku.edu/academics/degrees/jd-program/>) for complete information about J.D. application requirements and deadlines.

A completed M.P.A. application includes:

- Online Graduate Studies application. (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>)
- A nonrefundable application fee, submitted online with the application form.
- 1 official transcript from the degree-granting college or university and any post-graduate college or university attended.
- 3 letters of recommendation. If possible, at least 1 should be an academic reference.
- A 750-1250-word reflective essay describing your background and career goals. Clearly indicate how the M.P.A. degree fits those goals. Please describe how your personal background has influenced your decision to pursue a career in public service. For example, you may

discuss any educational, economic, cultural, or social experiences that shape you as a candidate. If there are any academic deficiencies in your record, please address them in your statement.

- A current résumé.
- A writing sample that is at least 5 pages long. It should be a well-cited work in which you critically analyze (not just summarize) an issue.
- Non-native speakers of English must meet Graduate Studies English proficiency requirements (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>).

J.D./MPA Dual Degree Program

Students must complete the J.D./MPA Dual Degree through the completion option of a Lawrence Campus MPA degree or via the MPA Local Government Concentration as an MPA City & County Management Fellow.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requires a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. Only courses completed with a grade of C or higher will count toward the MPA degree. Please see the current Law School Catalog (<https://catalog.ku.edu/law/jd/#requirements-text>) and School of Law Dual Degree page (<http://law.ku.edu/publicadministration/>) for details and degree requirements. While completing the MPA degree requirements, graduate students are expected to understand and follow Office of Graduate Studies policies (<https://policy.ku.edu/office/Graduate-Studies/>) relevant to their student status and academic standing.

Code	Title	Hours
MPA Core Course Work		
PUAD 824	Creating Good Public Policy (MPA Core Course Work)	3
PUAD 835	Managing Public Money	3
PUAD 836	Data Informed Decision-Making	3
PUAD 841	Context, Ethics and Legal Environment of Public Administration	3
PUAD 845	Managing Public Organizations	3
School of Public Affairs & Administration Certificate		12
One School of Public Affairs & Administration graduate certificate (City & County Management, Public/Nonprofit Management, Public Policy, Performance Management, or Urban Planning).		
City & County Management Fellows in the Local Government Concentration complete the City & County Management Graduate Certificate.		
Elective Course Work		9
Graduate course work either from the School of Public Affairs & Administration, or outside the School in chosen in consultation with the program coordinator and approval from the program director.		
City & County Management Fellows in the Local Government Concentration complete the following courses to fulfill MPA electives:		
PUAD 892	Reflections on Practice	
PUAD 894	Professional Development Seminar I: Public Admin Contemporary Issues & Competency Assessment	
PUAD 895	Professional Development Seminar II: Leading to Create a Culture for High Performance	
MPA Final Required Course		
PUAD 899	Excelling in the Practice of Public Administration	1
School of Law Required Course Work		42

School of Law Electives	36
Total Hours	115

School of Public Affairs & Administration Graduate Certificates

The graduate certificate is a way to delve into specific areas of public administration theory and practice. They are structured to provide a condensed version of skills and knowledge to advance in particular professional fields. Certificate options and courses included in the 12-credit hour certificates include:

- City & County Management (<https://catalog.ku.edu/public-affairs-administration/city-and-county-management-gradcert/#degreerequirementstext>)
- Performance Management (<https://catalog.ku.edu/public-affairs-administration/performance-management-gradcert/#degreerequirementstext>)
- Public/Non-profit Management (<https://catalog.ku.edu/public-affairs-administration/public-nonprofit-management-gradcert/#certificaterequirementstext>)
- Public Policy (<https://catalog.ku.edu/public-affairs-administration/public-policy-gradcert/#certificaterequirementstext>)
- Urban Planning (<https://catalog.ku.edu/public-affairs-administration/urban-planning-gradcert/>)

MPA Elective Course Options

Elective Courses allow students to either broaden perspective and explore other sectors of public administration or complete additional course work toward a specific sector of the public service profession. Some options for completing these credits include:

- a second SPAA graduate certificate,
- a graduate certificate outside the program with approval of the Director of Graduate Studies,
- public administration-adjacent courses in other disciplines with approval of the Director of Graduate Studies,
- specific professionalization seminars in local government (for City & County Management Fellows),
- or any PUAD and UBPL graduate-level courses in SPAA.

MPA Degree Final Course Requirement

All MPA degree students complete the 1-credit course PUAD 899 Excelling in the Practice of Public Administration in their final semester of the program. This course serves as a culminating review and reapplication of the core competencies and learning objectives emphasized throughout the MPA curriculum. Students will be eligible for degree conferral upon completion of this course and the other requirements toward the Dual J.D./MPA degree.

School of Public Affairs & Administration Courses

The following courses may be counted as electives toward the student's degree so long as they are not being counted toward completion of a School of Public Affairs & Administration Graduate Certificate.

Code	Title	Hours
PUAD 703	Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector	3
PUAD 708	Collaboration in Public Administration	3

PUAD 825	Urban Policy and Administration	3
PUAD 828	Nonprofit Management and Policy	3
PUAD 834	Human Resource Management	3
PUAD 837	Advanced Public Budgeting and Finance	3
PUAD 839	Topics in Public Administration: _____	3
PUAD 851	Infrastructure Management	3
PUAD 853	Policy Analysis	3
PUAD 854	Innovation and Organizational Change	3
PUAD 857	Performance Management and Governance	3
PUAD 858	Performance Audit	3
PUAD 861	Data Analytics	3
PUAD 862	Emergency Management in the United States: Theory and Practice	3
PUAD 863	Program Evaluation	3
PUAD 892	Reflections on Practice	1-3
PUAD 893	Directed Readings	1-3
PUAD 894	Professional Development Seminar I: Public Admin Contemporary Issues & Competency Assessment	3
PUAD 898	Leading to Create a Culture for High Performance	3
PUAD 930	Research Seminar in Public Administration and Democracy	3
PUAD 931	Research Seminar in Public Management	3
PUAD 932	Seminar in the Intellectual History of Public Administration	3
PUAD 934	Research Methods in Public Administration	3
PUAD 935	Advanced Quantitative Methods for Public Administration	3
PUAD 936	Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation	3
PUAD 937	Qualitative Methods in Public Administration	3
PUAD 939	Topics in Public Administration: _____	1-3
PUAD 943	Constitutional Foundations of Public Administration	3
PUAD 949	Law, Courts, and Public Policy	3
UBPL 701	Directed Readings	1-6
UBPL 705	Urban Economic Theory and Analysis	3
UBPL 710	Housing Policy and Planning	3
UBPL 715	Community and Neighborhood Revitalization	3
UBPL 720	Sustainable Land Use Policy and Planning	3
UBPL 725	Environmental Planning Techniques	3
UBPL 730	City and County Planning	3
UBPL 735	Site Planning and Design	3
UBPL 736	Planning Law and Institutions	3
UBPL 741	Foundations of Compassionate Critical Thinking	3
UBPL 742	Applied Data and Spatial Analysis	3
UBPL 750	Transportation Policy and Planning	3
UBPL 756	Data Driving Transportation	3
UBPL 758	Transportation for Livable Cities	3
UBPL 763	Politics and Planning	3
UBPL 764	Real Estate Development	3
UBPL 767	Creative Placemaking	3
UBPL 777	Equity, Justice, and American Cities	3
UBPL 780	Climate Change and Hazards Planning	3

UBPL 785	History and Theory of Planning	3
UBPL 802	Special Topics in Urban Planning: _____	3

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Lead and manage in public governance.
- Participate in and contribute to the public policy process.
- Analyze, synthesize, think creatively, solve problems, and make decisions.
- Articulate and apply public service perspectives.
- Communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.
- Acquire Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law.
- Develop legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, professional skills, and written and oral communication in the legal context.
- Exercise proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system.