Master of Public Administration and Juris Doctor

M.P.A.-J.D. Combined Program

The joint 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 (http://www.law.ku.edu) and the 2-year M.P.A. program offered by the School of Public Affairs and Administration (http://www2.ku.edu/7Ekupa). Students must complete 116 total credit hours: 78 credit hours in the School of Law (42 required and 36 elective), 26 hours in the School of Public Affairs and Administration, and 12 hours of electives of which only 3 hours may be law courses.

Of the 25 required hours in public administration, 6 hours are earned during the internship in the fourth year. The internship may not be taken concurrently with course work. At the conclusion of the internship year, each candidate must successfully pass a final written examination administered by public administration. The J.D. degree is awarded at the completion of the total required credit hours other than those associated with the internship. The M.P.A. degree is awarded upon successful completion of the internship and final examination. All course work counted toward any master’s degree requires a B average for the award of the degree. Specifically, students should understand that if they elect 6 or fewer hours of law requirements, the grades received in those law courses are incorporated into the M.P.A. grade-point average, which must be 3.0 for the award of the M.P.A.

For admission a student must meet requirements of both programs. Dual admission requires submitting separate sets of application materials as required by the respective programs. The M.P.A./J.D. program is open to those who have earned baccalaureate degrees and whose undergraduate academic records indicate that they have the capacity to complete these programs.

Since the total course work, excluding the internship, is 109 hours, students pursuing the joint degree should plan to enroll in course work for 2, and in some instances 3, summers.

M.P.A. Admission

The academic prerequisites for regular admission to the M.P.A. program are

1. Completion of a bachelor’s degree, preferably with a background in the social sciences, including basic college algebra and statistics courses.
2. A grade-point average of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) for all previous university or college work (in certain circumstances, when the GPA is slightly below 3.0, other factors, such as strong Graduate Record Examination scores or exceptional letters of recommendation may be considered).

Admission is competitive and limited. For all applicants, a completed application includes

1. Online Graduate Studies application (http://www.graduate.ku.edu).
2. A nonrefundable application fee, submitted online with the application form. For domestic applicants, the application fee is $55; for international applicants, the application fee is $65.
3. 1 official transcript from the degree-granting college or university and any post-graduate college or university attended.
4. 3 letters of recommendation. If possible, at least 1 should be an academic reference. The MPA reference form, available through the website (https://kupa.drupal.ku.edu/admissions-intern-option), must be submitted with each letter.
5. A 3- to 5-page essay describing your background and career goals and clearly indicating how the M.P.A. degree fits into those goals and addressing any deficiencies in your academic preparation.
6. A current résumé.
7. 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.
8. Graduate Record Examination scores (General test only — verbal, analytical, and quantitative). Not required, but recommended for students who received their bachelor's degree more than 3 years prior to the time of admission.

Additional Requirements for Intern-option Applicants:

- Additionally, an M.P.A. alum or faculty member may be assigned to interview you. That person's comments are placed in and considered a part of your application packet.

Additional Requirements for International Applicants:

- Graduate Record Examination scores (General test only — verbal, analytical, and quantitative). For reporting GRE scores to the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration, the institution code is 6871 and the department code is 4801.
- An official Test of English as a Foreign Language score report. Please note that any international students admitted to a KU program must also be tested by the Applied English Center (http://www.aec.ku.edu) upon arrival, regardless of TOEFL score.

Deadlines

Applications for intern-option applicants must be received by February 1.

Applications for career-option applicants: Deadlines are May 1 and June 15 for fall admission and November 1 for spring admission. Note: No preference is given to applications received by the earlier deadlines. We offer the earlier dates to accommodate applicants who need an earlier decision for planning purposes.

International students: The deadline for international students is February 1.

Submit your graduate application online (http://www.graduate.ku.edu). Send all other requested application materials to

The University of Kansas
School of Public Affairs and Administration
Attn: M.P.A. Admissions
4060 Wescoe Hall
1445 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045-7594

or via email to: padept@ku.edu

Campuses

The M.P.A. degree program is also offered at the following location:

KU Edwards Campus

KU offers a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs on the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, Kansas. The Edwards Campus offers late-afternoon and evening classes, catering to working professionals. For more information, call the Edwards Campus at 864-8400 from Lawrence or 913-897-8400 from other locations.

Topeka, Kansas

Each semester, select courses are offered at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, Kansas.