ONLINE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Kent State University’s online Master of Public Administration (MPA) program provides the knowledge and skills to advance your career in the public sector. Using techniques that help you apply what you learn in real time, this program is designed to position you for senior management roles in local, state and regional governments, as well as in nonprofit organizations.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- 100% online program designed for full-time working professionals*
- The only online MPA program in Ohio accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)
- Curriculum designed to incorporate experiential learning throughout the program
- Affordable tuition that is below many other NASPAA-accredited programs
- No GRE required for admission

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university with a GPA of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale)
- Completed online application form
- Statement of purpose
- Three letters of recommendation from professors or employers
- Official transcripts from all prior institutions attended
- Resume/CV
- Writing sample

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- 36 credits total*
- 12 courses
  - 8 required courses, 3 electives and 1 final capstone project
- 3 credits per course
- Courses last 7 weeks each
- Graduate in as few as 2 years
- 3 annual start dates: January, May, August

*Note: Those without substantive full-time administrative experience in a public service organization (as assessed by the MPA program coordinator) must complete at least 3 credit hours of an internship in addition to the 36 credit hours of coursework.
Required courses (27 credits):
- PADM 60371 – Graduate Introduction to Public Administration
- PADM 60375 – Public Personnel Administration
- PADM 60377 – Public Budgeting and Financial Management
- PADM 60379 – Program Evaluation I
- PADM 60381 – Methods in Public Administration
- PADM 60574 – Strategic Planning
- PADM 60470 – Personal Accountability in the Public Service
- PADM 60386 – Public Sector IT Management
- PADM 60475 – Capstone Seminar

Electives (9 credits):
- PADM 60200 – Nonprofit Advocacy
- PADM 60310 – Leadership in the Nonprofit and Public Sector
- PADM 60376 – Labor Management Relations in the Public Sector
- PADM 60382 – Seminar in Public Administration
- PADM 60387 – Electronic Governance
- PADM 60471 – Nonprofit Law
- PADM 60472 – Nonprofit Board Executive Relationships
- PADM 60477 – Nonprofit Financial Resource Development

THE CURRICULUM

WHAT YOU’LL LEARN
The online MPA from Kent State builds critical, graduate-level knowledge and skills in areas including: public budgeting and financial management, strategic planning, information technology in a public service setting, nonprofit organization law and financial characteristics, and ethics in public service. The program integrates experiential learning activities, including conducting interviews, attending fundraisers and producing an actionable strategic plan as a final project.