

The major in public administration deals with the operations of all forms and levels of government. Students learn about the many skills and challenges associated with implementing public policy in government and also in nonprofit organizations.

Majors in public administration are introduced to the many activities of management professionals who work in local, state, and federal agencies. Public administration courses also frequently cover the activities of nonprofit agencies, such as foundations and charitable agencies.

Introductory courses typically examine the impact of public administration on the daily life of every citizen. Public administrators play a vital role in all aspects--from placing traffic signals to regulating the environment, from protecting the safety of food and drink to providing a wide variety of social services, from determining the content of education to maintaining the peace and security of the nation. Introductory courses also examine the critical role of politics as it influences public administration. In the course of their work, public administrators are in constant touch with citizens, interest groups, and elected officials, thereby creating a lively and exciting interaction. The interplay of federal, state, and local governments, and the business world, also provides an ever-changing environment.

This major applies the principles of good business—management, problem-solving, decision-making, organization, and leadership—to the public sector. Public Administration careers can exist on a state or local level, in federal agencies (such as housing, law enforcement, and labor relations) and non-profit organizations (like health care and social services).

Graduates of public administration programs can find entry-level positions as: assistant city manager, management analyst, budget analyst, personnel specialist, assistant department director, government affairs/government relations specialist. Students who wish to move into upper-management careers, such as that of city manager, may need to complete a graduate degree in public administration.

Transfer Information:

- Bachelor degree programs in Public Administration include specializations in planning, government, public policy, healthcare and criminal justice administration.

Additional Information:

- American Society for Public Administration: www.aspanet.org
- National Academy of Public Administration: www.napawash.org

