

The University of Georgia AB/MPA program

General Information and Background

The Master of Public Administration program (MPA) in the Department of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Georgia (UGA) has joined with the UGA Honors Program to offer the AB/MPA joint degree program. This unique program allows undergraduate honors students to simultaneously complete a master of public administration degree while completing their undergraduate degree. Students who enter college with several Advanced Placement courses completed can typically finish the AB/MPA in the traditional four-year time frame.

Program of Study

Applicants must be considered for and receive admission to each program separately. Typically, students begin taking MPA classes in their sophomore and junior years, and apply to be fully admitted to the MPA program in their junior year. As part of the Honors Program, students are eligible to take a total of four graduate classes (up to 12 credit hours) that can be counted toward their undergraduate degree. These four classes will also be counted toward their MPA degree. Until a student has been formally admitted to the MPA program, they can only take 6000 and 7000 level classes.

AB/MPA students must complete all the requirements for the MPA program. For detailed information about the requirements and the MPA program in general, please visit www.uga.edu/padp. Students may follow a generalized curriculum or specialize in one of the following areas:

Health Policy and Administration
Higher Education Administration
Local Government Administration
Nonprofit Administration

Public Budgeting and Finance Administration
Public Management/Organization Theory
Public Personnel Administration
Public Policy

Internship Requirement

The MPA program requires an internship for students who have not had significant public management experience. The internship requires a minimum of 300 hours of work either full-time or part-time. Internships must take place in public sector organizations, such as government or nonprofit agencies. Students will not receive course credit for completing an internship and cannot count as an internship any experience for which they received course credit.

Application Procedures

During their junior year, interested students should take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and complete the UGA Graduate School application process. Students must apply and have been admitted before they take their 13th credit hour in the MPA program.

Usefulness of the Dual Degree

AB/MPA graduates may find career opportunities at all levels of government and in the nonprofit sector. Careers include:

Budget Analyst
City Planner
Financial Legislative Specialist
Human Resources Consultant

Legislative Analyst
Management Analyst
Personnel Analyst
Policy Analyst

Public Health Advisor
Volunteer
Administrator/Director
Voter Education Coordinator