

# DISCOVER

## M.P.A. IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

Department of Public Policy and Administration



### Program of Study

The Master of Public Administration – Public Management degree is designed for those who want to enhance their public sector management skills at the local and regional level and gain insight into public policy issues of particular concern to these officials.

The occupational backgrounds of M.P.A. students cover a wide spectrum of career paths in the public, not-for-profit, and private sectors. The great array of career paths represented in this program is one of its invigorating aspects and contributes in important ways to the learning taking place both inside and outside the classroom.

This program is oriented, in its setting, structure, and culture, toward accommodating those who want to learn alongside other working professionals. A program strength is the caliber of the student body and, as a result, the quality of “peer learning.” For this reason class sizes are kept small, 20-25 students (on average).

### The Curriculum

Students can earn an M.P.A. – Public Management degree by successfully completing seven administration core courses (21 semester hours), and four concentration elective requirements. This concentration requires an internship experience of three semester hours for students without sufficient work experience.

In-class courses generally meet one night a week during the fall and spring semesters and twice a week in our summer sessions. We also offer classes virtually and online. All of the administration core courses are available during the fall and spring semesters. WCU also offers two summer sessions, and some of the administration core courses are available during these times as well. The public management concentration courses may be available during the fall, spring, or summer semesters.

### Degree Requirements

#### I. Public Administration Core (21 semester hours)

- **PPA 500** Foundations in Public Service
- **PPA 501** Research Methods in Public Administration
- **PPA 502** Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
- **PPA 503** Public Budgeting and Finance
- **PPA 504** Public Human Resources Management
- **PPA 505** Public Sector Organization Theory
- **PPA 506** Foundations in Nonprofit Administration

#### II. Public Management Concentration (12 semester hours)

Choose from:

- **PPA 510** Topics in Public Administration
- **PPA 511** Technologies for Public Administrators
- **PPA 512** Communication for Public Administrators
- **PPA 513** Law for Public Administrators
- **PPA 514** American Public Policy
- **PPA 515** Social Equity and Public Administration

#### III. Capstone Seminar (3 semester hours)

- **PPA 600** Capstone Seminar in Public Administration

#### IV. Internship or Professional Seminar (3 semester hours) required for students without sufficient, professional public sector work experience

- **PPA 601** Public Policy and Administration Internship  
OR
- **PPA 602** Professional Seminar in Public Administration

### Admission Requirements

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies:

- Completed graduate application, including statement of how the M.P.A. furthers the individual's professional goals (apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad))
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended at both the undergraduate and graduate levels
- Two letters of reference from current or former supervisors who can attest to the applicant's management potential
- Resume

### For More Information

Write: Department of Public Policy and Administration  
Business and Public Management Center  
50 Sharpless Street  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2438

E-mail: [mpa@wcupa.edu](mailto:mpa@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/mpa](http://www.wcupa.edu/mpa)

#### Or contact the Office of Graduate Studies:

Write: Office of Graduate Studies  
McKelvie Hall

102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcugrad)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at  
<http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/>.

## About Graduate Studies

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, enrolling more than 2,200 graduate students. Programs may be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate

degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the largest member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs. Today, more than 16,000 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,900 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks. Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Delaware. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

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## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

McKelvie Hall | 102 West Rosedale Avenue | West Chester, Pennsylvania 19383

Telephone: 610-436-2943 | Fax: 610-436-3277 | Email: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu) | Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

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