

Master of Public Administration Degree

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree is designed to prepare students for productive and rewarding careers in public service. The format of the program accommodates students currently employed in the public sector as well as students seeking entry-level positions. The MPA program is designed to complement any undergraduate program of study. Applications for admission will be accepted from any qualified candidates regardless of their undergraduate degree. The MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

Students pursuing the MPA degree in residence at one of Valdosta State University's centers must complete 36 semester hours of coursework, including 24 hours of required core courses and 12 hours in a concentration area approved by the MPA Coordinator. The Human Resource Management track is offered at Moody AFB; the Public Sector Management and the Public Policy tracks are offered exclusively via the Internet.

Selected Educational Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the MPA program students will:

1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the basic technical skills needed to succeed in public or not-for-profit management.
2. Develop a broad outlook and an understanding of ethical factors required of program managers and administrators in public or not-for-profit agencies operating in a multicultural context.
3. Strengthen oral and written communication skills.
4. Gain familiarity with up-to-date information management systems.

Outcome Assessments

1. The comprehensive understanding of basic technical skills essential for successful public or not-for-profit management will be demonstrated by successful completion course work and PADM 7900.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical management in a multicultural context through course papers, portfolio assessment, and employer surveys.
3. Students will demonstrate effective communication skills through written and oral presentations in program course work.
4. Students will demonstrate familiarity with up-to-date information management systems through course examinations, portfolio analysis, exit and alumni questionnaires, and employer surveys.

Prior to admission to any graduate program at Valdosta State University, applicants must first submit a completed application packet to the Graduate School. A completed application packet includes official transcripts from all institutions previously attended, official test scores (GRE, MAT, or GMAT), completed application form, fee, and any additional program requirements submitted by the admission deadline. To be considered for the preferred term, all required materials must be received by the Graduate School no later than the close of business on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to allow adequate time for document submission and to ensure receipt of documents.

Admission Deadlines

- Fall Deadline: July 15
- Spring Deadline: November 15
- Summer Deadline: April 15

Go to the Graduate School website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/welcome.php>) for information on:

- Specific MPA Program Admission Requirements
- MPA Program Retention, Dismissal, and Readmission Policies
- MPA Program Graduation Requirements

To Apply Online, click here (<https://www.applyweb.com/apply/vsug/menu.html>).

Requirements for the Master of Public Administration Degree

(Including On-line Tracks)

Core (Required) Courses		24
PADM 7300	Foundations Seminar in Public Administration ¹	3
PADM 7060	Quantitative Methods for Public Administration	3
PADM 7410	Performance Analysis for Government and Non-Government Organizations	3
PADM 7000	Human Resource Management	3
PADM 7110	Information Management	3

PADM 7140	Governmental Budgeting and Finance	3
PADM 7170	Organizational Theory and Behavior	3
PADM 7900	Capstone Seminar in Public Administration ²	2
PADM 7210	Internship in Public Administration ²	1
Concentration Area		12
All courses for a concentration must be approved by advisor.		
Total Required for the Degree		36

¹ Must be taken during first semester.

² Co-requisite courses; must be taken during the final semester.