

Application Requirements

Application requirements consist of institutional and program requirements for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Additional information and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/>).

Unless otherwise noted on The Graduate College program page, AI tools can only be used to correct spelling and grammar errors in application materials.

Institutional Requirements

Institutional requirements are the minimum standards for admission to any graduate program at Texas State. These include:

- Completed online application
- Nonrefundable application fee
 - Degree Programs (Doctoral and Master's)
 - \$55 fee, or
 - \$90 for applications with international credentials
 - Post-Baccalaureate Programs (Certificate, Certification, Non-Degree, and Visiting)
 - \$20 fee, or
 - \$60 for applications with international credentials
- Official transcripts from each institution where course credit was granted. Final transcripts showing degree completion are required before the student may register for their second term of enrollment.
- GPA requirements (a higher GPA may be listed in the Program Requirements)
 - Doctoral programs require a 3.00 overall GPA or a 3.00 GPA in your last 60 hours (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa>) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
 - Master's and Specialist programs require a 2.75 overall GPA or a 2.75 GPA in your last 60 hours (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa>) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
 - Post-Baccalaureate programs require a 2.50 overall GPA or a 2.50 GPA in your last 60 hours (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/admissions/policy.html#gpa>) of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses).
- Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university. (Non-U.S. degrees must be equivalent to a four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree. In most cases, three-year degrees are not considered. Visit our International FAQs (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/international/faqs.html>) for more information.)

Approved English Proficiency Exam Scores

Applicants are required to submit an approved English proficiency exam score that meets the minimum requirements below unless they have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a country on our exempt countries list (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/international/language.html#wavier>). Some programs may restrict acceptable tests or

require higher scores than the institutional scores; this will be noted in the Program Requirements.

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall if taken on or before January 21, 2026
- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 4 overall if taken after January 21, 2026
- official PTE scores required with a 52 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and minimum individual module scores of 6.0
- official Duolingo scores required with a 110 overall
- official TOEFL Essentials scores required with an 8.5 overall
- official Texas State Intensive English Program score of 90% or higher in the highest-level course (level 5)

The institution does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

Program Requirements

- Enrollment as a junior in the Bachelor of Public Administration (B.P.A.) major in Public Administration at Texas State University with at least 60 credit hours and a 3.25 overall GPA or better in the last 60 hours of undergraduate instruction.
- Letter of support from the Texas State MPA Graduate Director.
- No GRE required.

**Minimum required: 147
semester credit hours**

General Requirements

The program can be completed at the San Marcos Main Campus (M).

1. The general education core curriculum courses are listed in the degree plan below along with the statewide component code number. See the General Education Core Curriculum (<https://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/general-education-core-curriculum/>) section of this catalog for the Texas State requirements and options in the core curriculum, including Honors courses.
2. Students must select a minor from the approved list of Undergraduate Minors (<http://www.mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/minors/>).
3. The minimum number of credit hours required for this BPA/MPA combined degrees program is 147, including: 111 undergraduate credits, 9 graduate hours as a senior which will count for both undergraduate and graduate studies, and 27 more graduate credit hours.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 36 advanced hours (3000 or 4000 level courses).
5. Nine hours of writing intensive (WI) courses are required for graduation.

Code	Title	Hours
PA 3301	Political Institutions and Public Service	3
PA 3300	Introduction to Public and Nonprofit Administration	3
PA 3330	Public Personnel and Human Resource Administration	3
PA 3310	Public Finance Administration	3
PA 3311	Analytical Techniques	3
PA 3350	Public Policy Process	3

2 Bachelor of Public Administration (B.P.A.) Major in Public Administration/Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) Major in Public Administration (Non-Thesis)

PA 4389	Internship in Public Administration	3
Advanced Public Administration Electives (choose five of the following)		15
PA 3314	State and Local Government	
PA 3316	Metropolitan Politics	
PA 4352	Comparative Public Administration	
PA 3351	Urban Management and Regional Policy	
PA 4340	Issues in Law and Public Policy	
PS 4323	Latina/o Politics	
PA 3340	Administrative Law	
PA 4362	Government, Nonprofit and American Business	
PA 4370	Ethics in American Government	
PA 4389	Internship in Public Administration	
PA 4398	Research in Public Administration	

3303 or ENG 3304), Sociology Course (SOVI 3324, 3328, 3353, or 3365), and Geography Course (GEO 3310, 3320, or 3340)

10. There is no foreign language requirement for those who have completed two years of the same foreign language in high school.

11. Only courses taken once admitted to the 3+2 program will count towards this course of study.

12. To complete the B.P.A./M.P.A program, the student must pass a written and oral examination in last semester of graduate study, per the Graduate College and Public Administration (<https://www.polisci.txst.edu/graduate-programs/master-of-public-administration/prospective-students/pathways-to-graduation/non-thesis/written-comp-exam-guidelines.html>) guidelines for comprehensive exams.

Year 1

6. The Bachelor of Public Administration (B.P.A.) degree with a major in Public Administration requires the following 36 hours of Public Administration courses:

7. Students are strongly encouraged, but not required, to choose their free electives from the following career support areas:

Code	Title	Hours
Local Government		
PA 3316	Metropolitan Politics	3
GEO 3310	Urban Geography	3
GEO 3320	Community and Regional Planning	3
International		
PS 4321	American Foreign Policy	3
PS 4352	International Law	3
PS 4353	International Organizations	3
ECO 3317	International Economics	3
Social Services		
SOCI 3328	Complex Organizations	3
SOWK 2375	Social Services in the Community	3
SOWK 4310	Populations in Social Work	3
SOWK 4355	Policy Practice	3
Legal Services		
PS 3332	Constitutional Law: Basic Structures and Principles	3
PS 3333	Constitutional Law: Individual Liberties	3
PA 4340	Issues in Law and Public Policy	3
CJ 2360	Fundamentals of Criminal Law	3
Health Services		
HA 3308	Healthcare Organization	3
HIM 3380	Quality Management for HIIM	3

First Hours Semester	Second Hours Semester	Hours
Communication Component Code 010	3 Communication Component Code 010	3
Mathematic Component Code 020	3 Language, Philosophy, and Culture Component Code 040	3
POSI 2310 (Government/Political Science Component Code 070)	3 American History Component Code 060	3
Social & Behavioral Science Component Code 080	3 POSI 2320 (Government Political Science Component Code 070)	3
US 1100	1 Life & Physical Sciences Component Code 030	3
Creative Arts Component Code 050 [TCCN HUMA 1315]	3	
16	15	

Year 2

8. Enrollment in PA 4389 (<https://mycatalog.txstate.edu/search/?P=PA%204389>) requires completion of 24 hours of political science and/or public administration courses, a Texas State GPA of 2.25, and a Major GPA of 2.25.

9. Additional BPA requirements include 15 credit hours: HIST 2310 or 2311, and HIST 2320 or 2312, English Literature (ENG 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2359, or 2360), Technical or Professional Writing (ENG

First Hours Semester	Second Hours Semester	Hours
Life and Physical Sciences Component Code 030	3 Component Area Option Code 091	3

ENG 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2359, or 2360 (Component Area Code 090)	3 HIST 2310 or 2311	3
Modern Language	4 Modern Language	4
PA 3301	3 ENG 3303 or 3304	3
	PA 3300	3
	13	16

Year 3

First Hours Semester	Second Hours Semester	
Advanced PA Electives	9 HIST 2320 or 2312	3
Minor	6 SOCI 3324, 3328, 3353, or 3365	3
	Advanced PA Electives	3
	PA 3311	3
	Minor	3
	15	15

Year 4

First Hours Semester	Second Hours Semester	Summer Hours	
PA 3350	3 PA 5310	3 PA 5300	3
GEO 3310, 3320, or 3349 (OR Additional BPA GEO Requirement)	3 PA 5389	3 PA 5350	3
PA Elective	3 PA 5330	3 Prescribed PA Electives [PA 5000 Level]	3
Minor	6 Minor	3 Prescribed PA Electives [PA 5000 Level]	3
	15	12	12

Fifth Year

First Hours Semester	Second Hours Semester	
PA 5320	3 Prescribed PA Electives [PA 5000 Level]	3

Prescribed PA Electives [PA 5000 Level]	3 PA 5340	3
PA 5370	3 PA 5390	3
	9	9

Total Hours: 147

Comprehensive Examination Requirement

The MPA comprehensive exam is a written exam administered in the student's final semester in the program. The committee chair distributes the exam to the student on the **second Monday in February** for Spring semester, or the **second Monday in May** for Summer graduation, or the **second Monday in September** for Fall semester. Students planning to graduate in the summer semester are encouraged to take the comprehensive exam in the spring semester. Given that the summer semester is relatively shorter than the spring or fall semesters and given that some faculty members are likely to teach abroad, summer graduates are encouraged to take the comprehensive exams in the spring semester prior to the summer semester.

- The comprehensive exam serves as a capstone for the MPA program allowing students to demonstrate expertise of subject material. Exam expectations include a literature review, links to the Universal Competencies, research, and application. The comprehensive exam is comprised of a take home three question written exam followed by an oral examination. All three questions will be distributed at the same time. The student has six weeks to complete the responses to the three exam questions. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the completed responses reach the committee no later than 5.00pm on the date specified by the committee. The completed responses to the questions will be returned to the committee chair with a copy to the MPA program director.
- The student is expected to put the exam question in its entirety on top of each answer before submission. The student is expected to answer the questions and provide citations to appropriate scholarly literature, data, and other evidence. Responses to each question should be 8-10 pages, not including citations. Responses must include a brief literature review with a minimum of ten unique citations. Question responses should be double spaced with 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Figures and charts may be provided as appendices and not as part of the 8-10-page written response. Student responses will be run through plagiarism detection software provided by Turnitin. The student is held to the university honor code and plagiarism will result in an automatic failing grade on the exam question.

Courses Offered

Public Administration (PA)

PA 3300. Introduction to Public and Nonprofit Administration.

This course examines the foundational concepts, structures, and functions of public and nonprofit administration in the United States. Students analyze the institutional, legal, and political contexts in which public and nonprofit organizations operate, with attention to organizational structure, management processes, and administrative decision making. The course explores theories and practices of public management, intergovernmental relations, and nonprofit governance. Students evaluate contemporary administrative challenges through case studies and applied analysis, emphasizing evidence based reasoning and comparative perspectives. The course develops analytical skills relevant to understanding how public and nonprofit organizations are designed, managed, and assessed.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3301. Political Institutions and Public Service.

This course analyzes the structure and operation of political institutions and their relationship to public sector governance. Students examine theoretical foundations of political institutions, patterns of political engagement, and ethical frameworks used to assess public sector decision making. Through comparative analysis and case based inquiry, the course evaluates how institutions shape administrative practices and public outcomes. The course emphasizes analytical reasoning, conceptual clarity, and disciplined evaluation of institutional functions rather than advocacy or prescriptive conclusions. Students gain methodological tools for examining political and administrative systems within diverse governmental and organizational contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3310. Public Finance Administration.

This course examines fiscal administration and public budgeting across federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations in the United States. Students analyze theoretical frameworks and applied practices used to manage public revenues and expenditures within governmental and nonprofit contexts. The course evaluates budgeting processes, fiscal policy tools, and financial management systems using case studies, data analysis, and comparative inquiry. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical skills necessary to assess fiscal decision making, resource allocation, and financial accountability in public and nonprofit institutions. Prerequisite: MATH 1312 or MATH 1315 or MATH 1316 or MATH 1317 or MATH 1319 or MATH 1329 or MATH 2321 or MATH 2417 or MATH 2471 or HON 2302A or HON 2302B any with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3311. Analytical Techniques.

This course examines quantitative analytical methods and fundamental statistical concepts, ranging from descriptive measures to inferential procedures. Students analyze datasets using established statistical techniques and appropriate analytical software. The course evaluates methods for data summarization, hypothesis testing, and statistical inference through applied exercises and case based analysis. Emphasis is placed on interpreting quantitative results, assessing analytical assumptions, and communicating findings through professional reports. Students develop analytical skills necessary to evaluate data driven evidence in academic and applied research contexts. Prerequisite: MATH 1312 or MATH 1315 or MATH 1316 or MATH 1317 or MATH 1319 or MATH 1329 or MATH 2321 or MATH 2417 or MATH 2471 or HON 2302A or HON 2302B any with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3314. State and Local Government.

This course examines the structure, organization, and constitutional foundations of state and local governments in the United States, with specific attention to Texas. Students analyze governmental functions, powers, and institutional processes using legal documents, scholarly literature, and comparative examples. The course evaluates how state and local institutions participate in public policy formulation and implementation within federal and state systems. Emphasis is placed on analytical understanding of intergovernmental relationships, institutional authority, and administrative processes. Students develop skills in institutional analysis and evidence based evaluation of state and local government operations. Corequisite: PA 3301 with a grade of "D" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3316. Metropolitan Politics.

This course examines political institutions and policy processes in urban and suburban contexts within the United States. Students analyze metropolitan governance structures, intergovernmental relationships, and policy making processes using scholarly literature and applied case studies. The course evaluates contemporary metropolitan policy issues as examples of how institutional design, political authority, and administrative capacity influence policy formulation and implementation. Emphasis is placed on analytical frameworks that explain governance complexity, coordination challenges, and policy outcomes across metropolitan regions. Students develop skills in institutional analysis and evidence based evaluation of urban political processes.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3330. Public Personnel and Human Resource Administration.

This course examines the legal, institutional, and organizational foundations of personnel management in government and nonprofit organizations. Students analyze laws, regulations, and administrative procedures that shape public sector human resource systems. The course evaluates key personnel functions, including workforce planning, position classification, recruitment, selection, compensation, training, performance appraisal, and labor relations. Through analysis of cases and administrative materials, students assess how human resource practices influence organizational effectiveness and compliance within public and nonprofit contexts. Emphasis is placed on analytical understanding of personnel systems rather than prescriptive management approaches.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3340. Administrative Law.

This course examines the rulemaking, adjudication, and enforcement powers of federal and state administrative agencies within the United States legal system. Students analyze statutes that delegate authority to administrative bodies and evaluate constitutional and statutory challenges to agency action. The course explores the principles and doctrines courts use to review administrative decisions, including standards of judicial review and procedural requirements. Through analysis of statutes, judicial opinions, and administrative materials, students assess how legal frameworks structure agency authority and constrain administrative discretion. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical skills related to legal interpretation and institutional design.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3350. Public Policy Process.

This course examines the theories, processes, and practices involved in public policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Students analyze how public policy is developed within institutional, political, and economic contexts and how policies are carried out and assessed over time. The course introduces analytical frameworks used to study decision-making, agenda setting, and policy outcomes. Substantive examples may include environmental and sustainability policy, energy policy, and selected social and economic policy areas. Emphasis is placed on evaluating policy processes using empirical evidence and established concepts from public policy and political science.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 3351. Urban Management and Regional Policy.

This course examines key concepts and frameworks in regional and urban management and policy. Students analyze how urban administrative practices and regional policy decisions shape the organization, development, and operation of American cities. The course introduces institutional, economic, and governance perspectives used to study metropolitan and regional systems. Through selected case studies and empirical research, students evaluate policy design, management structures, and implementation processes. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical skills to assess urban and regional policy outcomes within different governmental and administrative contexts. Corequisite: PA 3301 with a grade of "D" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4300A. Leadership in Public Administration.

This course examines leadership concepts and practices within the field of public administration. Students analyze leadership theories, managerial roles, and decision-making processes as they apply to public sector organizations. The course introduces organizational, institutional, and administrative frameworks used to study leadership in governmental and nonprofit settings. Through case studies and applied analysis, students evaluate how leadership approaches influence organizational performance, policy implementation, and administrative outcomes. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical skills relevant to leadership challenges in public administration. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics|Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4340. Issues in Law and Public Policy.

This course examines contemporary legal issues and their relationship to public policy development and implementation. Students analyze how legal frameworks interact with policy objectives across different governmental and organizational contexts. The course applies legal and institutional analysis to selected policy areas, which may include environmental law, regulatory approaches to climate related policy, voting and election law, criminal justice policy, firearms regulation, and privacy law. Emphasis is placed on understanding the roles of public agencies and nonprofit organizations in interpreting, administering, and responding to legal mandates. Students develop analytical skills to evaluate legal issues within public policy contexts. Corequisite: PA 3301 with a grade of "D" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4352. Comparative Public Administration.

This course examines the field of public administration with a comparative focus on administrative and public policy systems in the United States and selected countries. It analyzes institutional structures, administrative processes, and policy implementation across different national contexts. Using comparative frameworks, case studies, and scholarly literature, the course evaluates similarities and differences in governance arrangements and administrative practices. Students assess how political, legal, and organizational factors influence public administration across countries, emphasizing systematic analysis rather than normative evaluation. Corequisite: PA 3301 with a grade of "D" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4362. Government, Nonprofit and American Business.

This course examines the role of American business in the public policy process through analysis of interactions among public, private, and nonprofit sectors. It analyzes how political institutions, regulatory frameworks, and policy decisions shape organizational behavior across sectors. The course also evaluates how businesses and nonprofit organizations participate in policy implementation, particularly through contracting and public-private partnerships. Using case studies, policy analysis, and organizational theory, students assess patterns of intersectoral collaboration and influence. Emphasis is placed on evidence-based evaluation of institutional relationships and policy outcomes. Corequisite: PA 3301 with a grade of "D" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4370. Ethics in American Government.

This course examines ethical and cultural questions associated with public service in governmental, nonprofit, and voluntary organizations. The course analyzes major ethical theories and frameworks and applies them to cases drawn from public administration and policy contexts. Topics include healthcare, privacy, accountability, education, research, planning, elections, and policymaking. Through structured inquiry, students evaluate competing ethical arguments, assess institutional constraints, and analyze the implications of ethical decision-making in public organizations. Emphasis is placed on analytical reasoning, use of evidence, and comparison of alternative approaches to ethical issues in public service. Corequisite: PA 3301 with a grade of "D" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4379. Independent Study in Public Administration.

This course provides an individualized program of study through independent reading and research in selected areas of public administration. Students examine a defined topic approved by the instructor and develop a structured plan of inquiry, including a bibliography and research outline. The course emphasizes analytical engagement with scholarly literature, methodological rigor, and systematic evaluation of administrative practices and theories. Through independent investigation, students analyze relevant concepts, assess empirical and theoretical perspectives, and produce a research-based written project that demonstrates discipline-based reasoning and clear argumentation. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4389. Internship in Public Administration.

This course provides structured internship experience in public or nonprofit organizations, emphasizing applied learning in public administration settings. Students examine organizational processes and administrative practices through professional engagement totaling 100-150 hours. Under faculty guidance, students analyze workplace activities, institutional roles, and administrative functions. The course requires completion of a written report evaluating the professional experience using discipline based concepts and analytical frameworks. Emphasis is placed on systematic observation, application of academic knowledge, and critical analysis of organizational operations within public and nonprofit contexts. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 15 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4398. Research in Public Administration.

This course examines foundational concepts and analytical approaches used in the study of public administration. Emphasis is placed on identifying, locating, and evaluating scholarly and professional resources relevant to administrative practice and governance. Students analyze public administration across federal, state, and local levels using discipline based frameworks and academic literature. The course emphasizes research skills, critical use of sources, and systematic analysis of administrative structures and processes. Through structured inquiry, students develop the capacity to assess public administration concepts using evidence based reasoning. Prerequisites: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 4689. Internship in Public Administration.

This course provides structured internship experience in public or nonprofit organizations, emphasizing applied learning in public administration settings. Students examine organizational processes and administrative practices through professional engagement totaling 200-300 hours. Under faculty guidance, students analyze workplace activities, institutional roles, and administrative functions. The course requires completion of a written report evaluating the professional experience using discipline-based concepts and analytical frameworks. Emphasis is placed on systematic observation, application of academic knowledge, and critical analysis of organizational operations within public and nonprofit contexts. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 30 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5199B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing enrollment during the thesis development and completion phase. The course provides an academic framework for sustained faculty supervision as students revise, analyze, and complete an approved thesis project. Students engage in continued literature review, data analysis or interpretation, and refinement of theoretical and methodological approaches consistent with disciplinary standards in political science. Emphasis is placed on evaluating research findings, incorporating faculty feedback, and preparing the final manuscript in accordance with institutional and departmental requirements. Enrollment continues until the thesis has been completed and submitted, ensuring ongoing academic oversight and alignment with degree completion policies.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PA 5299B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing enrollment during the thesis development and completion phase. The course provides an academic framework for sustained faculty supervision as students revise, analyze, and complete an approved thesis project. Students engage in continued literature review, data analysis or interpretation, and refinement of theoretical and methodological approaches consistent with disciplinary standards in political science. Emphasis is placed on evaluating research findings, incorporating faculty feedback, and preparing the final manuscript in accordance with institutional and departmental requirements. Enrollment continues until the thesis has been completed and submitted, ensuring ongoing academic oversight and alignment with degree completion policies.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PA 5300. Introduction to Public Policy and Administration.

This course analyzes public administration and public policy in the United States through systematic study of governance structures and administrative practice. Students examine public institutions, decision-making processes, and organizational arrangements involved in policy formulation and implementation. The course evaluates democratic governance by analyzing accountability mechanisms, administrative procedures, and intergovernmental relationships. Using academic literature, case studies, and empirical analysis, students assess how public policies are administered in practice. The course emphasizes analytical inquiry, methodological rigor, and objective evaluation of public sector operations.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5310. Public Finance Administration.

This course analyzes public finance practices with a focus on budgeting and financial analysis in public sector organizations. Students examine operating and capital budgets, revenue forecasting, and financial planning within administrative decision making contexts. The course evaluates cost benefit analysis, life cycle costing, and other analytical methods used to assess public expenditures. Instruction incorporates applied examples to examine approaches to budget justification, presentation, and implementation. Emphasis is placed on evaluating budgetary tools and techniques using evidence based financial analysis and established public finance frameworks.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5311. Introduction to Statistical Analysis.

This course analyzes quantitative methods used in public administration to support organizational analysis and management decisions. Students examine the use of descriptive and inferential statistics in evaluating public sector operations and administrative performance. The course evaluates data collection procedures, statistical analysis techniques, and interpretation of results within public management contexts. Instruction incorporates applied exercises, empirical datasets, and analytical frameworks drawn from scholarly literature. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical skills necessary for evaluating administrative data and informing decision making processes in public organizations.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5312. Program Evaluation and Administrative Statistical Analysis.

This course examines advanced quantitative methods used in the evaluation of public policies and programs. Students analyze statistical techniques for assessing policy outcomes and program performance within administrative and managerial contexts. The course evaluates data sources, research designs, and analytical models commonly applied in public sector evaluation. Instruction emphasizes empirical analysis, methodological rigor, and interpretation of quantitative evidence using applied examples and scholarly literature. Students develop analytical skills to assess public policies and programs using systematic, evidence based approaches. Prerequisite: PA 5311 with a grade of "B" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5313. Public Sector Economics.

This course examines foundational economic concepts as they apply to the public sector. Students analyze principles of economics used in public policy analysis and public management, with attention to collective action, public choice, resource allocation, and service delivery. The course evaluates how economic frameworks are applied to understand government decision making and administrative outcomes. Using analytical models, empirical examples, and scholarly literature, students assess economic factors influencing public sector performance. The course also examines the structure and financing of national, state, and local governments to support systematic analysis of public sector activities.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5314. Public Administration and Information Technology.

This course analyzes the role of information technology in public administration and governance. Students examine institutional and organizational uses of digital tools, including e governance platforms, enterprise architecture, public management information systems, and electronic procurement systems. The course evaluates how information technology influences administrative coordination, service delivery, and internal management processes. Using scholarly literature and applied case analysis, students assess technological frameworks and their administrative implications. Emphasis is placed on systematic inquiry into how public organizations adopt and manage information technologies within existing institutional and regulatory contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5315. Public Performance Management.

This course analyzes the principles and practices of performance management and measurement in the public sector. Students examine the use of quantitative and qualitative performance indicators in strategic planning, resource allocation, and internal organizational processes. The course evaluates accountability mechanisms, managerial assessment, and formal evaluation methods through analysis of empirical research and applied examples. Emphasis is placed on understanding how performance information is generated, interpreted, and utilized within public organizations. Instruction integrates analytical frameworks and case studies to support systematic evaluation of administrative performance systems.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5320. Organizational Theory, Change, and Behavior.

This course examines classic and contemporary literature on organizational theory and behavior in the public sector. It analyzes the historical development of organizational theory and key concepts such as organizational culture, power, structure, and change. Through critical reading and comparative analysis, the course evaluates how different theoretical frameworks explain organizational behavior and institutional dynamics. Attention is given to the application of organizational theories in the study of governance and public administration. Students engage with scholarly sources to assess how organizational concepts are used to analyze public sector organizations and their roles within broader governance systems.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5330. Public Personnel Administration.

This course examines public personnel functions from a managerial perspective within government organizations. It analyzes core topics such as recruitment and selection, performance evaluation, discipline, collective bargaining, classification, and compensation. Using case studies, policy analysis, and administrative examples, the course evaluates how personnel systems are designed and managed in the public sector. Emphasis is placed on understanding managerial roles, legal and institutional constraints, and organizational processes that shape public workforce administration. Students develop analytical skills to assess personnel management practices and their implications for organizational performance and administrative effectiveness.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5331. Labor Management Relations.

This course examines the historical development of public employee unions and the evolution of collective bargaining in the public sector. It analyzes the effects of collective bargaining agreements on personnel policy development within government organizations. The course evaluates public laws governing collective bargaining procedures and the institutional frameworks shaping labor-management relations. Through analysis of legal materials, policy documents, and applied examples, students assess how collective bargaining influences administrative decision-making and personnel system design. Emphasis is placed on understanding the roles of public managers and institutional constraints in managing labor relations within governmental contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5332. Management Practices in Public Personnel Administration.

This course examines selected topics in public personnel administration, including job analysis, position classification, test construction, performance appraisal, succession planning, and affirmative action policy. Students analyze the institutional functions of personnel offices within public organizations and evaluate their roles in recruitment, workforce planning, and performance management. Through case analysis, policy review, and seminar discussion, students examine administrative practices and assess theoretical approaches to public sector human resource management.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5340. Introduction to Public Law.

This course examines the regulatory environment and legal requirements that shape public administration practice. It analyzes statutory, regulatory, and judicial constraints affecting public officials as they carry out administrative duties. Using online legal research tools, students examine administrative materials such as statutes, regulations, and agency guidance to evaluate public law issues. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical skills for interpreting legal authorities and assessing their implications for administrative decision making. The course prepares students to systematically analyze public law problems within governmental contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5341. Texas Water Law & Policy.

This course examines how state and local agencies in Texas administer groundwater and surface water legal regimes. Students analyze the legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks governing water allocation, use, and management. The course evaluates statutory authorities, administrative processes, and judicial interpretations shaping water governance in Texas. Emphasis is placed on understanding the interaction between state law, local implementation, and agency discretion. Through case analysis and review of administrative practices, students assess how legal structures influence policy outcomes and operational decision-making in water management. The course develops analytical skills in legal interpretation and public administration within a jurisdiction-specific context.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5350. Public Policy Processes.

This course examines the public policymaking process with emphasis on policy formulation and implementation. Students analyze institutional structures, governmental and nongovernmental actors, and the political environment in which policy decisions occur. The course evaluates how political, administrative, and contextual factors shape policy development and execution. Through analytical frameworks and case-based inquiry, students assess the interaction among stakeholders and institutions across different stages of the policy process. The course emphasizes understanding policy processes rather than advocating particular outcomes, and it develops analytical skills relevant to public policy and political science.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5351. Urban Planning and Environmental Planning Frameworks.

This course examines urban transportation systems and land use policy within the context of public planning and urban governance. Students analyze the historical development of urban policy frameworks and evaluate relationships between transportation infrastructure and land use patterns. The course examines policy approaches associated with sustainability as they relate to planning decisions and regulatory frameworks. Through case studies, policy analysis, and seminar discussion, students assess interactions among transportation planning, land development, and public policy across urban jurisdictions.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5352. Comparative Public Administration.

This course examines differences among national administrative systems and the role of international organizations in public governance. Students analyze how institutional structures, administrative traditions, and political contexts shape policy processes across countries. Using comparative case studies, the course evaluates how governments and international bodies address policy areas such as poverty, human rights, health care, and environmental regulation. Emphasis is placed on systematic comparison, institutional analysis, and evidence-based evaluation. By applying analytical frameworks from public administration and comparative politics, students develop the ability to assess how administrative systems influence policy design and implementation across diverse national contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5353. Politics and Policy of Environmental Management.

This course examines public policy approaches to environmental issues related to air, water, waste management, energy use, natural resources, and global environmental governance. Students analyze the historical development of environmental policy and evaluate how political, economic, and institutional factors shape policy design and implementation. Using case studies and policy analysis frameworks, the course examines regulatory mechanisms, implementation strategies, and compliance processes. Emphasis is placed on understanding how environmental policies are formulated, administered, and evaluated across different contexts. The course develops analytical skills relevant to environmental policy, public administration, and regulatory governance.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5355. Environmental Policy.

This course examines the public policy process with emphasis on U.S. environmental policy and administration. Students analyze how political institutions, administrative agencies, and legal frameworks shape policy development and implementation. Using case studies and policy analysis methods, the course evaluates policy approaches to air and water quality, solid and hazardous waste, energy use, natural resource management, climate change, and global environmental governance. Emphasis is placed on understanding regulatory mechanisms, implementation strategies, and administrative capacity. Through systematic inquiry, students develop analytical skills for evaluating environmental policies within domestic and international governance contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5361. Introduction to the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector.

This course examines the history, scope, and functions of the American nonprofit and voluntary sector. Students analyze the development of nonprofit organizations and evaluate their institutional roles within political, economic, and social systems. Using conceptual and theoretical frameworks, the course examines how nonprofit and voluntary organizations interact with government and influence public policy processes. Emphasis is placed on historical analysis, institutional comparison, and evidence-based assessment. Through systematic inquiry, students develop analytical skills for evaluating the role and impact of nonprofit organizations within broader governance and policy contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5362. Alternative Public Service Delivery Systems.

This course examines alternative approaches to the delivery of public services within modern governance systems. Students analyze the use of market mechanisms, contracting, and privatization as policy tools for service provision. Using frameworks from public administration and public policy, the course evaluates how these approaches affect service design, implementation, and accountability. Case studies are used to examine institutional arrangements across policy sectors and levels of government. Emphasis is placed on comparative analysis and evidence-based evaluation of administrative capacity and performance. Students develop analytical skills for assessing alternative service delivery models in public sector contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5370. Public Management and Ethics.

This course analyzes ethical issues in the public sector with attention to institutional contexts and decision-making processes. Students examine theories of ethics and morality relevant to public administration and evaluate how concepts such as administrative discretion, public interest, democratic values, and dissent are addressed in practice. Through case studies and structured analytical frameworks, the course explores ethical reasoning within public organizations. Emphasis is placed on critical inquiry and comparative evaluation rather than moral advocacy. Students develop analytical skills for examining ethical dimensions of public sector actions and institutional behavior.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5380B. Environmental Litigation.

This course examines the legal processes involved in researching, filing, and litigating claims under federal and state environmental statutes.

Students analyze the statutory frameworks and regulatory structures that govern environmental litigation and evaluate how procedural requirements shape legal strategies. Using case law analysis and statutory interpretation, the course examines how environmental litigation differs from other forms of civil litigation. Emphasis is placed on legal research methods, administrative records, jurisdictional issues, and standards of review. Through systematic inquiry, students develop analytical skills relevant to litigation practice and environmental law.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5387. Research Practicum.

This course uses structured group research to examine a contemporary issue in public policy, public management, or public administration.

Students work as part of a faculty-led research team to analyze the issue using discipline-appropriate methods, including literature review, data collection, and analytical assessment. Emphasis is placed on evaluating organizational, administrative, or policy contexts and synthesizing findings into a comprehensive written report. The course focuses on collaborative research processes, analytical reasoning, and professional documentation. Students demonstrate their ability to integrate theory and evidence in a team-based research environment. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5388. Directed Reading and Research.

This course provides an opportunity for advanced, directed reading and research in public policy and public administration under the supervision of a graduate faculty member. Students examine selected topics through independent study, scholarly literature review, and focused research activities tailored to individual academic interests. Emphasis is placed on analyzing theoretical frameworks, policy processes, and administrative structures using discipline-appropriate methods. Students evaluate relevant research questions and produce written work demonstrating analytical rigor and academic synthesis. Course content and emphasis are determined in consultation with the supervising faculty member. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5389. Internship in Government.

This course examines the role of experiential learning in public service through supervised internship placement. Students integrate classroom concepts with practical responsibilities in governmental or public service organizations. The course emphasizes observation, documentation, and analysis of organizational structures, administrative processes, and professional roles. Students evaluate how theoretical frameworks relate to real-world practice through regular reporting and faculty-guided reflection. The internship requirement is designed for students seeking applied experience in public service settings, particularly those with limited prior professional exposure. The course may be repeated once for additional academic credit, allowing for engagement in different organizational contexts. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5390. Applied Research Methodology.

This course introduces students to applied research methods used in public sector analysis. Students examine the principles of the scientific method, research design, measurement, sampling, and qualitative inquiry. The course emphasizes analyzing methodological choices and evaluating their suitability for public sector research questions. Students explore data collection techniques, including survey research, content analysis, and secondary data analysis, to assess their strengths and limitations. Through examples and applied exercises, students develop the ability to design research studies and interpret empirical findings relevant to public administration and policy contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5397. Research Design and Proposal Development for Public Administration.

This course introduces students to academic and professional writing practices used in public administration research. Students examine how to identify and define a public problem, analyze relevant scholarly literature, and develop a clear research purpose statement. The course emphasizes the use of conceptual frameworks to organize and evaluate existing research. Through structured writing assignments, students apply disciplinary conventions and analytical methods to written work. The course prepares students for subsequent applied research by strengthening research design, literature analysis, and formal academic writing skills required for the Applied Research Project. Prerequisite: PS 5390 with a grade of "B" or better and instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5398. Applied Research Project.

This course serves as the capstone experience for students in the Master of Public Administration program. Students examine applied research methods through the completion of an original, empirical Applied Research Project (ARP). The course emphasizes the formulation of research questions, selection of appropriate methodologies, data collection and analysis, and interpretation of findings relevant to public administration. Students evaluate research outcomes through an oral defense and revise their work in accordance with disciplinary standards for professional and scholarly communication. The course integrates faculty guidance and independent inquiry to support rigorous analysis and effective presentation of applied research. Prerequisite: PA 5397 with a grade of "B" or better and instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PA 5399A. Thesis.

This course serves as the initial enrollment for students undertaking a thesis in public administration. It introduces the expectations, structure, and procedures associated with independent thesis research. Students examine the stages of thesis development, including topic refinement, research design, literature review, and methodological planning. The course emphasizes analytical inquiry, scholarly standards, and faculty supervision as central components of the thesis process. Students evaluate research questions and assess appropriate qualitative or quantitative methods relevant to public administration. No thesis credit is awarded through this enrollment; credit is conferred upon successful completion and approval of the final thesis.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PA 5399B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing enrollment during the thesis development and completion phase. The course provides an academic framework for sustained faculty supervision as students revise, analyze, and complete an approved thesis project. Students engage in continued literature review, data analysis or interpretation, and refinement of theoretical and methodological approaches consistent with disciplinary standards in political science. Emphasis is placed on evaluating research findings, incorporating faculty feedback, and preparing the final manuscript in accordance with institutional and departmental requirements. Enrollment continues until the thesis has been completed and submitted, ensuring ongoing academic oversight and alignment with degree completion policies.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PA 5599B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing enrollment during the thesis development and completion phase. The course provides an academic framework for sustained faculty supervision as students revise, analyze, and complete an approved thesis project. Students engage in continued literature review, data analysis or interpretation, and refinement of theoretical and methodological approaches consistent with disciplinary standards in political science. Emphasis is placed on evaluating research findings, incorporating faculty feedback, and preparing the final manuscript in accordance with institutional and departmental requirements. Enrollment continues until the thesis has been completed and submitted, ensuring ongoing academic oversight and alignment with degree completion policies.

5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PA 5999B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing enrollment during the thesis development and completion phase. The course provides an academic framework for sustained faculty supervision as students revise, analyze, and complete an approved thesis project. Students engage in continued literature review, data analysis or interpretation, and refinement of theoretical and methodological approaches consistent with disciplinary standards in political science. Emphasis is placed on evaluating research findings, incorporating faculty feedback, and preparing the final manuscript in accordance with institutional and departmental requirements. Enrollment continues until the thesis has been completed and submitted, ensuring ongoing academic oversight and alignment with degree completion policies.

9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit