

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MPA

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	Yes

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	42 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	16 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	21 credits must be completed in graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	Students must earn a BC or above in all core curriculum coursework. A grade of C is the minimum grade permitted

in elective courses that count toward a La Follette School degree.

Assessments and Examinations n/a

Language Requirements No language requirement.

REQUIRED COURSES

Students must complete 42 credits, including six core courses, a one-credit professional development seminar, plus eight elective courses. An internship can count for up to three elective credits. The program generally takes two years.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundational MPA Courses		
Seven required courses are the foundation of the MPA degree program. Students must complete the following:		
PUB AFFR 800	Public Affairs Professional Development Workshop	1
PUB AFFR 818	Introduction to Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis	3
PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI/ URB R PL 874	Policy-Making Process	3
PUB AFFR 880	Microeconomic Policy Analysis	3
PUB AFFR 873	Introduction to Policy Analysis	3
PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI/ URB R PL 878	Public Management	3
PUB AFFR 869	Workshop in Public Affairs	3
Recommended Electives in Public Affairs		
Students build proficiency beyond the core requirements through elective courses that include but are not limited to:		23
PUB AFFR 520	Inequality, Race and Public Policy	
PUB AFFR 819	Advanced Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis	
PUB AFFR 827	Administrative Internship	
PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI 871	Public Program Evaluation	
PUB AFFR/ A A E/ENVIR ST/ POP HLTH 881	Benefit-Cost Analysis	
PUB AFFR 974	Topics in Public Affairs	
Total Credits		42

Recommended Two-Year Plan of Study

Recommended progression: Courses below are those required for the degree indicated in the semester in which they are required. Students fill in with electives in consultation with their advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
Fall Year One (10-13 credits)		
PUB AFFR 800	Public Affairs Professional Development Workshop	1
PUB AFFR 818	Introduction to Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis	3

PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI/ URB R PL 874	Policy-Making Process	3
PUB AFFR 880	Microeconomic Policy Analysis	3
Elective/s		
Spring Year One (12 credits)		
PUB AFFR 819	Advanced Statistical Methods for Public Policy Analysis	3
PUB AFFR 873	Introduction to Policy Analysis	3
PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI/ URB R PL 878	Public Management	3
Elective		
Summer (optional 1-3 credits)		
PUB AFFR 827	Administrative Internship	1-3
Fall Year Two		
No specific courses required; students select electives in consultation with their advisor. Common options include:		
PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI 871	Public Program Evaluation	3
PUB AFFR/ A A E/ENVIR ST/ POP HLTH 881	Benefit-Cost Analysis	3
PUB AFFR 974	Topics in Public Affairs	3
Spring Year Two (9 credits)		
PUB AFFR 869	Workshop in Public Affairs	3
Electives		

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING (MPA/MS URPL)

The La Follette School of Public Affairs and the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture offer a double degree Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning and a Master of Public Affairs. Students completing the double degree must follow the double degree plan. The Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture requires 46 credits for the Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning. The La Follette School requires 42 credits for the Master of Public Affairs. Per UW-Madison's Graduate School: Double Degrees (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1205/>) policy, an overlap of 25% of credits is permitted (11 credits can count toward both degrees). Students can graduate with both degrees by completing 77 credits in three years.

Graduate coordinators for both programs have sample curricular plans that they will share with prospective or current students to assist with successful completion of all degree requirements.