

MPA CONCENTRATIONS

The work that people do in the public service is vast. To meet this need, the MPA program offers three areas of concentration so students can tailor their learning to meet their particular requirements. The concentrations offered by the program are:

Public and Non-profit Administration

Students in this concentration will prepare for, or advance in, careers as administrators in public or nonprofit organizations. Coursework covers the critical elements of administration—budgeting, strategic planning, human resources and information systems, public law, leadership and ethics, multicultural competencies, and more—as well as the unique nature and needs of nonprofit and government organizations.

Public Policy

Students in this concentration will prepare for, or advance in, positions as policy analysts, budget analysts, or evaluators. Students in this concentration will complete two Public Policy Concentration courses (Foundations of Public Policy and Advanced Research Methods), plus one or more elective courses in specific policy areas. Elective courses will be offered in areas such as health policy, poverty policy, education policy, environmental policy, energy policy, and possibly others. Students with an interest in other policy areas may study them through individual learning contracts with MPA faculty.

Tribal Governance

The goal of this concentration is to develop administrators who can assist both tribal governments and the public agencies with which the tribes interact. Students in the Tribal Concentration go through the entire program as a cohort and finish in two years. Students take a Core course and a Concentration course each quarter. Courses are taught in an intensive format, meeting four weekend sessions each quarter (two sessions for Core course and two sessions for the Concentration course). Each session is 20 hours long and meets Friday afternoons and all day on Saturday and Sunday.

Students in this concentration complete a series of five 4-credit courses focusing on issues of critical importance to tribes. Other MPA students can enroll in these Tribal Concentration courses as electives on a space-available basis.

Degree Requirements for Public and Non-profit Administration Concentration	
1 st and 2 nd Year Core*	24 credits
Electives	32 credits
Capstone	4 credits
Total Credits	60 credits

Degree Requirements for Public Policy Concentration	
1 st and 2 nd Year Core*	24 credits
Foundations of Public Policy	4 credits
Advanced Research Methods	4 credits
Electives	24 credits
Capstone	4 credits
Total Credits	60 credits

Degree Requirements for Tribal Governance Concentration	
1 st and 2 nd Year Core*	26 credits
Tribal Concentrations	20 credits
Electives	10 credits
Capstone	4 credits
Total Credits	60 credits

***Pre-requisite Note:** Before students are allowed to register for the second year core courses, they must complete a 4 credit “Introduction to Statistics” course and a minimum of 4 credits of “Economics” which includes both macro and micro-economics. The student must earn a minimum grade of “C” in these courses. Credit for these courses must have been earned within the previous five years.

