UT Dallas MPA Fast Facts

What is the Degree Program title?

Master of Public Affairs (MPA). The Master of Public Affairs degree is equivalent to a Master of Public Administration degree in all aspects other than the name. The MPA degree at UT Dallas is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Affairs, Policy, and Administration (NASPAA): [https://accreditation.naspaa.org/resources/roster-of-accredited-programs/](https://accreditation.naspaa.org/resources/roster-of-accredited-programs/)

What is the MPA Program’s mission?

The Master of Public Affairs program advances excellence in public service. The program accomplishes this mission through three sets of activities aimed at preparing its students to serve as capable and ethical stewards of the common good. It imparts essential knowledge, competencies and perspectives to a diverse array of future and current professionals in government and nonprofit organizations. It supports the wider community through in-service professional and leadership training, policy and management analysis services, and production of new knowledge through practice-centered research.

What is the Program’s size?

Total MPA program enrollment typically ranges from 60 to 80 students.

How many semester credit hours are required to complete the Program?

36 credit hours are required to complete the Program. A 3-credit hour internship is required in addition to the 36 credit hours for students without professional experience in the public or nonprofit sector.

What are the Program’s admission requirements?

Applicants should submit the following items through the on-line application system at [http://www.utdallas.edu/admissions/graduate/](http://www.utdallas.edu/admissions/graduate/):

- A graduate school application form.
- An admission essay (a personal statement outlining the applicant’s background, education and professional objectives).
- A resume.
- Transcripts of an undergraduate degree with at least a 3.0 grade point average.
- Three letters of recommendation.
Is there a FAST track option for the MPA program?

The Program offers the FastTrack program to help qualified undergraduate students enter the MPA program. FastTrack students may take 15 hours of MPA courses in their senior year. These courses count toward both their undergraduate degree and the MPA degree.

What is the student composition of the MPA program?

In the 2014-2015 academic year, 55 percent of the MPA program were women, 30 percent were ethnic or racial minority students, and about 15 percent were international students. About half of the MPA students were part-time students.

What is the completion rate for the MPA program?

The expected time to completion for full-time students is five semesters. Actual completion rates vary by cohort. The average five-semester completion rate for cohorts admitted in 2008, 2009, and 2010 was 50 percent. The average ten-semester degree completion rate for same cohorts was 72 percent.

What are the employment sectors of MPA graduates?

MPA employment sectors vary by cohort. Data from a survey of the 2014-2015 graduation cohort suggest that 48 percent of the graduates were employed by local governments, 12 percent – by the nonprofit sector, 6 percent - by the national government, 6 percent by the state government, 6 percent went to pursue another degree, and 22 percent were employed in other sectors of the economy, including the private sector. The survey response rate was 70 percent (17 out of 24 graduates).