Mission and Program Overview

The Public and Nonprofit Management (PNM) program is housed within the School of Economics, Policy and Political Sciences (EPPS) at UT Dallas. The program is cohort-based and aims at developing well-rounded graduates who possess not only academic expertise in research and teaching but also skills appropriate for careers in governmental or nonprofit public service. We aim to provide students with advanced conceptual and theoretical training through a rigorous curriculum in the core areas of public administration and management. Students who join the PNM program work with a highly trained and well published faculty with a wide range of expertise.

FAQs

How is your program structured?

The Ph.D. in Public and Nonprofit Management is a cohort-based program. Students enter in the fall semester and remain together through the completion of the core curriculum and the qualifying examination (QE). After passing the QE, the students finish their required coursework and work on their research interests. This structure produces shared experiences and progress through the program that enrich student learning and research skills. Our program admits between 6 and 10 new students each fall.

Can I work while I pursue my PhD?

Most of our doctoral classes are offered at night to accommodate working needs of our students. We have a good mix of full-time and part-time students in the program.

Do you offer assistantships?

Department offers competitive teaching assistantships for PNM doctoral students depending on the availability of funds. In the past, we have been able to fully fund 2-3 students every year. Teaching assistantships are merit-based. Students who wish to be considered for a TA position should indicate their interest when they apply for the program. Our funding package currently includes a full tuition waiver, health insurance, and a monthly stipend of $1,400.

How diverse is your student body?

The PNM PhD student body is very diverse, and includes several MPA graduates seeking to further their academic goals, students who have returned to graduate school after years
in the public and non-profit sector, mid-career employees, and international students. Our international students come from different countries including China, Ghana, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, South Korea, and Zimbabwe.

Where are the students placed after graduation?

Recent graduates from the program have secured jobs in universities such as: Austin College, North Carolina Central University, University of Texas at Arlington, University of Memphis, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, University of Texas at Permian Basin, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Laverne, Texas Woman’s University, and Belmont Abbey College. Our graduates also work for federal, state, local, and non-profit agencies.

Do you provide professional development opportunities?

The program and the university provide generous support for Ph.D. student research and networking opportunities at conferences. Many of our students publish in top journals prior to graduating. In the past 4 years two, UT Dallas Ph.D. graduates have won outstanding dissertation awards from NASPAA and APSA. A third was the runner-up from NASPAA. The program recently sponsored a Ph.D. student to attend the ASPA Young Scholars training in Cape Town, South Africa. We will fund students up to $1,000 for conference travel. We also purchase STATA software for our PhD students and pay for their first-year ASPA annual membership.

What do faculty specialize in?

Faculty specializations include human resources management, public policy, nonprofit management, public budgeting and finance, and program evaluation. We are home to the leading public HR journal, Review of Public Personnel Administration (ROPPA) edited by Dr. Paul Battaglio. You can find more information about faculty members and their research interests here: http://www.utdallas.edu/epps/pa/faculty.html

What are the admissions requirements?

Applicants to the PhD program should have completed a master’s degree in public administration/affairs or social science, although we will consider applicants with other master’s degrees on a case by case basis. Applicants need to have taken the GRE within the past 5 years, and have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher in their graduate studies. International students whose native language is not English may be required to take the TOEFL exam as well. In addition, we require a personal statement, 3 letters of recommendation, past transcripts, and a CV.

When is the application deadline?

All materials must be received by the admissions office by January 15. To apply visit: http://www.utdallas.edu/admissions/graduate/