Pursue top-level leadership with a Master of Public Administration

You recognize the challenges and opportunities in the public and nonprofit administration sector. Now prepare to lead the charge in solving them. Drive reform and progress within nonprofit, government or public service organizations with an MPA. You can earn your degree in as little as 17 months, and you’ll take just one 6-week course at a time. That way, you’ll gain the skills to create and implement public policy while keeping up with your job and family.

In this MPA program, you’ll learn to:

- Communicate with multiple stakeholders, elected officials and the public
- Analyze legislative and judicial processes
- Analyze and manage public financing and budgets
- Understand the unique role of shared decision-making between appointed and elected officials
- Analyze and present data to diverse stakeholder groups
- Evaluate public sector programs for effectiveness

Our MPA curriculum is designed to align with leading industry organizations such as the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA®).

What sets us apart?

When you choose our Master of Public Administration program, you can:

Prepare for leadership
Learn the skills necessary to manage and lead in public and nonprofit organizations and communities.

Gain real-world insight
Explore industry-relevant topics such as project management, budget management and strategic decision-making.

Earn your degree faster
Waive up to nine credit hours if you have FBI National Academy and Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) training.
Projected job growth:  
9%  
According to Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job opportunities

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job growth for general and operations managers is projected to be 9 percent between 2016 and 2026. A Master of Public Administration can help prepare you to be a:

- Chief operating officer
- General manager
- Operations director
- Regulatory affairs director
- Compliance manager

Networking opportunities

Access powerful networking tools through our PhoenixLink™ career services platform. Take advantage of personal career coaching. Search and apply for jobs, or make your resumé visible to employers. And connect with employers and alumni through career fairs and mixers. It's all about connections. And we help you make them.

Learning outcomes

Along with the knowledge and skills related to the University Learning Goals, graduates should gain program-specific knowledge, skills and abilities. Each college or school creates a set of Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) to describe the knowledge, skills or attitudes students will possess upon completion of the program of study. By the time you complete your Master of Public Administration, you should be able to perform these learning outcomes.

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accreditation is your assurance the University meets quality standards.

Institutional accreditation

Regional accreditation is an institution-level accreditation status granted by one of six U.S. regional accrediting bodies. Accreditation by more than one regional accrediting body is not permitted by the U.S. Department of Education.

University of Phoenix is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), hicommision.org. Since 1978, University of Phoenix has been continually accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and its predecessor.
Master of Public Administration

Course length: 6 weeks
Total credits required: 36
Max. number of transfer credits: 9

Requirements and prerequisites

You'll need 36 credits to complete this program. These may be earned from a combination of required and elective courses. Required courses may vary based on previous experience, training or transferable credits.

Transfer credits

Earn your degree faster. Transfer eligible college credits or, if you have a certification such as the the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy or have completed the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) program, you can apply to have relevant experience evaluated for potential college credit. Contact an enrollment representative at 844.YES.UOPX for more information.

Core courses

- HRMPA533: Human Capital Development In The Public Sector
- MPA503: Public Administration Institutions And Processes
- MPA563: Public Budgeting
- COMPA523: Communications For Public Administrators
- MPA583: Public Policy Planning And Implementation
- MPA573: Program Evaluation
- LAWPA513: Law And Public Administration
- MPATM543: Leveraging Technology In The Public Sector
- MPA543: Data Analysis For Public Policy And Management
- MPA593: Public Administration Applied Project
- MPA533: Leading Organizational Change In The Public Sector
- MPA553: Public Finance

NASPAA is a registered trademark of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration.
While widely available, not all programs are available in all locations or in both online and on-campus formats. Please check with a University Enrollment Representative.