Northern Illinois University

MPA Program Requirements

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The MPA degree normally requires the completion of 40-48 semester hours of approved graduate study in the public policy/management core and a selected specialization. The student must complete a minimum of 40 semester hours of course work, exclusive of internship hours. The distribution of hours is as follows:

24	credit hours of core courses
12	credit hours within an area of specialization
4	credit hours of capstone project (PSPA 699)
40	
3-8	credit hours of PSPA 695: Internship in Public Administration (required of those without "appropriate professional experience"

CORE COURSES

PSPA 600 - Scope and Dynamics of Public Administration

Examines the history of public administration and the basic issues which confront it, including administrative responsibility and ethics, and the formulation and implementation of public policy.

PSPA 605 - Organization Theory and Behavior

A survey of selected theory and research on organizations relevant to public administration, with a focus on key organizational functions and ways of defining and responding to organizational problems.

PSPA 607 - Public Service Performance I: Theory and Management

Provides an overview of evidence-based decision making in public service organizations. Performance measurement theory and practices are introduced and explored through case studies and the creation of a research design.

PSPA 608 - Public Service Performance II: Management and Data Analysis

This course follows up on the first course in the series focusing on public service performance, again focusing on management. This course studies the basic theory, techniques, and practice of data collection and analysis so that information can be used to inform management decisions.

PSPA 609 - Human Resources Management in Public Service Organizations

An examination of techniques, methods, and policies concerning the management of personnel in public and nonprofit organizations.

PSPA 610 - Public Budgeting and Financial Management

Examination of the public budgetary process and related financial management techniques.

PSPA 611 - Public Revenue Analysis and Financial Management

An investigation of theories and politics of taxation, features and impacts of alternative revenue generation methods, and financial management topics including procurement and procurement systems, enterprise resource planning systems, and contract management.

PSPA 612 - Information Technology in Public Service Organizations

An introduction to concepts and skills concerning the management of information technology in the public sector. Coverage of topics related to managing information and information technology to support public service delivery.