

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Master of Public Administration Curriculum

The **Master of Public Administration (MPA)** prepares students to tackle complex policy challenges and lead organizations across various sectors. The 21-month program is designed to develop advanced analytical skills, a deep understanding of policy-making processes, and practical management expertise.

The MPA core curriculum combines a globally oriented and comparative approach to national policy-making with rigorous coursework in economics, quantitative analysis, and management. Students can tailor their education by choosing from a broad range of concentrations, including International Security Policy, International Finance and Economic Policy, Economic and Political Development, Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy, and Urban and Social Policy.

Students benefit from Columbia University's unparalleled academic resources and SIPA's extensive experiential learning opportunities. This includes the diverse capstone workshop program, where students work on real-world projects with organizations around the globe. Additionally, selected pathways within the MPA program are STEM-designated, providing an edge in technical and analytical skills essential for addressing today's policy challenges.

The MPA program also emphasizes professional development, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to excel in prestigious agencies and firms in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, as well as in their own entrepreneurial endeavors.

For additional information on the Master of Public Administration program, including information for prospective students and admissions, please refer back to the [MPA program page](#).

MPA Core Curriculum

The purpose of the core curriculum is to ensure that every student in the MPA program receives basic, broad-based, interdisciplinary training in public affairs. This includes graduate-level coursework in economics, statistics, the politics of policymaking, and management. Students are required to take a two-semester course in economics, one course on politics (*Politics of Policymaking*), and one-semester courses in statistics, management, and financial management. *Politics of Policymaking*, economics, and statistics must be taken during the first year. Other core requirements can be distributed throughout a student's program of study. Students also are required to complete *Professional Development* during their first year.

	Points
Politics of Policymaking	4
Select one of the following:	
PUAF U6100	Politics of Policymaking: Global Perspectives on Policy Analysis # Design
PUAF U6110	Politics of Policymaking: American Institutions in Comparative Perspective
PUAF U6120	Politics of Policymaking: Developing Countries in Comparative Perspective

PUAF U6130	Politics of Policymaking: Issues in Comparative Politics	
Economics		6
All students must complete one of the following sequences of economics:		
SIPA U6300 - SIPA U6301	Microeconomics for International and Public Affairs and Macroeconomics for International and Public Affairs	
SIPA U6400 - SIPA U6401	Microeconomic Analysis for International and Public Affairs and Macroeconomic Analysis for International and Public Affairs	
Quantitative Analysis		3
SIPA U6500	Quantitative Analysis I for International and Public Affairs	
Management		3
Select one of the following:		
SIPA U6003	Analysis of Public Sector Organizations	
SIPA U6005	Effective Management in the Public Service	
SIPA U6011	Strategic Management of Nonprofit Organizations	
SIPA U6014	Strategic and Entrepreneurial Management	
SIPA U6015	Sustainability Management	
SIPA U6016	Leading # Managing in Moments of Adversity # Opportunity	
Financial Management		3
Select one of the following:		
SIPA U6200	Accounting for International and Public Affairs	
SIPA U6310	Nonprofit Financial Management	
SIPA U6320	Budgeting # Financial Management for Government	
INAF U6022	Economics of Finance	
Capstone Workshop		3
Students must complete one of the following courses:		
SIPA U9000	Capstone Workshop	
SIPA U9001	Capstone Workshop in Sustainable Development Practice	
Professional Development		.5
Students must complete the required course and one (1) elective		
Required:		
SIPA U4040	Professional Development	
Electives:		
SIPA U4041	Professional Development	
SIPA U4042	Professional Development	
SIPA U4043	Professional Development	
SIPA U4044	Professional Development	
SIPA U4045	Professional Development	
Internship		0-3
All students are required to complete an Internship		
SIPA U9013	Internship	

Total Points **22.5-25.5**

Policy Concentration

All students choose one concentration: a policy field in which they focus their studies at SIPA.

Note: Students who pursue the EPD concentration must satisfy the language proficiency requirement relevant to the concentration. Please refer to the Concentration Director for more information.

Economic and Political Development (EPD)

Climate, Energy, and Environment (CEE)

Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy (HRHP)

International Finance and Economic Policy (IFEP)

International Security Policy (ISP)

Urban and Social Policy (USP)

Specialization

All students also choose one specialization consisting of 3 courses: a skill or area of specialized knowledge to pair with their policy concentration.

Data Analytics & Quantitative Analysis (DAQA)

Gender and Public Policy (GPP)

International Organization & United Nations Studies (IO/UN)

International Conflict Resolution (ICR)

Leadership, Innovation, & Design (LID)

Technology, Media, and Communications (TMaC)

Regional Specializations

Sample Program

Year 1

Fall	Points	Spring	Points
Politics of Policymaking		4 Economics (SIPA U6301 or SIPA U6401)	3
Economics (SIPA U6300 or SIPA U6400)		3 Core - Management Course	3
Quantitative Analysis (SIPA U6500)		3 Internship Registration (Optional)	0-3
Professional Development		0.5 Concentration Course 2	3
Concentration Course 1		3 Specialization Course 1	3
13.5		12-15	

Year 2

Fall	Points	Spring	Points
Core - Financial Management Course		3 Capstone Workshop	3
Concentration Course 3		3 Concentration Course 5	3
Concentration Course 4		3 Specialization Course 3	3

Specialization Course 2	3 Elective Course 2	3
Elective Course 1	3 Elective Course 3	3
15		15

Total Points: 55.5-58.5

MIA and MPA Graduation Requirements Overview

Students must meet the following requirements in order to be approved for graduation:

- Complete 54 credits in residence at SIPA *
- Complete 4 residency units *
- Complete all core, concentration and specialization requirements*
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
- Have no pending grades. All grades must be final. Any notations indicating a pending grade must be converted to a final grade prior to graduating. These include, "IN" (incomplete), "CP" (credit pending) and "YC" (year-long course).
- Complete and submit the [Application for Degree or Certificate](#) by the appropriate deadline.

* Requirement for dual degree students may differ.

In addition to the above please note that grade changes cannot be made post-graduation.

Tracking MIA and MPA Core Requirements:

Students can use the Degree Audit Report (DAR) in [Stellic](#) to track their academic progress.

The DAR is an unofficial guide to the MIA and MPA core.

To request revisions to the Degree Audit Report, please fill out the Degree Audit Report Correction Form and submit the form to the Student Affairs Office.

[Degree Audit Report Correction Form](#)

Concentration/Specialization Declaration:

All students are required to declare a concentration and specialization. SIPA permits MIA & MPA students to change their concentration or specialization after admission. For more information, visit [Changing Academic Programs](#).

Tracking Concentration Requirements

Concentration audit forms are designed to assist students and concentration directors in determining if the concentration requirements have been met. All students must complete one concentration to graduate except for PhD students and those pursuing dual degrees with other Columbia University schools.

Students are required to meet with their concentration director once per semester at SIPA to ensure they are fulfilling the appropriate concentration requirements. Prior to their final semester, students should meet with their concentration director and have the concentration director approve the degree audit form on Stellic.

Concentration audit form deadlines are August 1st for October graduation; November 1st for February graduation; and January 29th for May graduation.