MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Master of Public Administration (MPA) Curriculum

The MPA core curriculum combines a globally oriented and comparative approach to national policy-making with rigorous courses in economics, quantitative analysis and management. Students choose from a broad range of concentrations (majors): International Security Policy, International Finance and Economic Policy, Economic and Political Development, Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy, and Urban and Social Policy. Graduates possess advanced analytical abilities and career-oriented professional knowledge and skills, acquired through a curriculum that integrates Columbia University’s unsurpassed academic rigor with extensive experiential learning, including the most diverse capstone workshop program in the field.

For additional information on the Master’s 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 course work 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.

Politics of Policymaking 4
Select one of the following:

- PUAF U6120  - PUAF U6122  Politics of Policymaking: Developing Countries in Comparative Perspective and Politics of Policymaking: Comparative Perspectives - Discussion

Economics 6
Select one of the following:

- SIPA U6300  - SIPA U6301  Microeconomics for International & Public Affairs and Macroeconomics for International & Public Affairs
- SIPA U6400  - SIPA U6401  Microeconomic Analysis for International & Public Affairs and Macroeconomic Analysis for International & Public Affairs

Quantitative Analysis 3

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
- SIPA U6017  Mastering Leadership in Big Moments of Change

Financial Management 3
Select one of the following:

- SIPA U6200  Accounting for International & Public Affairs
- SIPA U6310  Nonprofit Financial Management
- SIPA U6320  Budgeting # Financial Management for Government
- INAF U6022  Economics of Finance

Professional Development .5
Students must complete the required course and one (1) elective
Required:

- SIPA U4040  Professional Development – Building Your Professional Profile

Electives:

- SIPA U4041  Professional Development – Understanding the Global Workplace: Culture, Context, Diversity
- SIPA U4042  Professional Development - Effective Public Speaking at Work
- SIPA U4043  Professional Development - Negotiation Skills in the Workplace
- SIPA U4044  Professional Development - Networking for Mid-Career Advancement
- SIPA U4045  Professional Development - Using the MBTI to Enhance Communication and Teamwork

Capstone Workshop 3
Students must complete one of the following courses:

- SIPA U9000  Capstone Workshop
- SIPA U9001  Capstone Workshop in Sustainable Development Practice

Internship 0-3

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)

Energy and Environment (EE)
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)
- Management
- Regional Specializations
- Technology, Media, and Communications (TMaC)

Sample Program

Year 1

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<th>Fall</th>
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<td>Core - Management Course</td>
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<td>Quantitative Analysis (SIPA U6500)</td>
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<td>Internship Registration (Optional)</td>
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<td>Concentration Course 2</td>
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Year 2

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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.