MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Master of Public Administration (MPA) Curriculum

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is an exceptional program that 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 policymaking 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 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 Select one of the following:

- PUAF U6110 Politics of Policymaking: Global Perspectives on Policy Analysis # Design
- PUAF U6112 and Politics of Policymaking: Issues in Comparative Politics - Discussion

Economics Select one of the following:

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

Quantitative Analysis Select one of the following:

- SIPA U6500 Quantitative Analysis I for International and Public Affairs

Management 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 Effective Management in the Public Service

Financial Management Select one of the following:

- SIPA U6310 Nonprofit Financial Management
- SIPA U6320 Budgeting # Financial Management for Government
- INAF U6022 Economics of Finance

Professional Development 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

Capstone Workshop Students must complete one of the following courses:

- SIPA U9000 Capstone Workshop
- SIPA U9001 Capstone Workshop in Sustainable Development Practice
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 (DQA)

Gender and Public Policy (GPP)

International Organization & United Nations Studies (IO/UN)

International Conflict Resolution (ICR)

Leadership, Innovation, & Design (LID)

Regional Specializations

Technology, Media, and Communications (TMaC)

Sample Program

Year 1

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<th>Fall</th>
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<td>Economics (SIPA U6300 or SIPA U6400)</td>
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<td>Quantitative Analysis (SIPA U6500)</td>
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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.