Public Affairs

Entering the degree mid-career, Master of Public Affairs students are accomplished managers and executives in their fields with diverse and extensive work experience. In some cases, students already hold an advanced degree or advanced training in a field. The focus of the degree is on policy analysis combined with deep engagement on questions of organizational leadership, innovation, strategy, and adaptation. The MPA curriculum has been strategically designed to not only equip students with the fundamentals to succeed in policy-driven roles, but also to give them the leadership capabilities necessary to excel.

Please visit departmental website for comprehensive information at gspp.berkeley.edu/mpa (https://gspp.berkeley.edu/programs/masters-of-public-affairs-mpa/applying-for-the-mpa/application-criteria)

Unit Requirements: 27 Units

Required Courses:

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PUB AFF 207 The Capstone 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2018
The MPA Capstone Course is designed to enable each MPA student to write their Capstone Analytic Project, which will address a specific policy or programmatic challenge facing a real-world client. The weekly course meetings are structured to help students further hone their creativity, their analytic capacities and their writing and presentation skills as they develop the project through its various stages. Participants work closely together to learn from and help each other. Each student’s final product, their CAP, is a thorough analysis of the client’s problem or challenge that draws on the interdisciplinary methods, approaches, and perspectives studied in the Toolkit class and other classes in the MPA core curriculum. The Capstone: Read More [+]  
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week  
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate  
Grading: Letter grade.  
The Capstone: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF W207 The Capstone 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2017
The MPA Capstone Course is designed to enable each MPA student to write their Capstone Analytic Project, which will address a specific policy or programmatic challenge facing a real-world client. The weekly course meetings are structured to help students further hone their creativity, their analytic capacities and their writing and presentation skills as they develop the project through its various stages. Participants work closely together to learn from and help each other. Each student’s final product, their CAP, is a thorough analysis of the client’s problem or challenge that draws on the interdisciplinary methods, approaches, and perspectives studied in the Toolkit class and other classes in the MPA core curriculum. The Capstone: Read More [+]  
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture and 2 hours of web-based discussion per week  
Online: This is an online course.  
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate  
Grading: Letter grade.  
The Capstone: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF 215 Economics for Public Policy Makers 3 Units
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
This course is designed to familiarize the executive student with the ways in which microeconomic analysis is brought to bear on public policy issues. You will learn (1) to identify the relevant economic questions concerning policy issues of interest to you, (2) to comprehend the economic arguments that bear on these issues, (3) to evaluate these arguments in terms of their strengths and weaknesses, and (4) when to utilize specific tools and methods from microeconomics to address the policy issues. Economics for Public Policy Makers: Read More [+]  
Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 15 hours of lecture per week  
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate  
Grading: Letter grade.  
Economics for Public Policy Makers: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF 225 Policy Communications 1 Unit
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
The Goldman School equips students to speak truth to power. In this course, the goal is to focus on the art and science of persuasive oral communication in policy. This course equips students with the best practices of oral communication and provides them with a safe space to find their voice. We focus primarily on persuasion. Policy Communications: Read More [+]  
Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week  
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate  
Grading: Letter grade.  
Policy Communications: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF 235 Research Methods for Policy Leaders 1 Unit
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
This course presents an introduction overview of quantitative and qualitative research methods and an introduction to the research process in public policy decision-making. Research Methods for Policy Leaders: Read More [+]  
Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week  
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate  
Grading: Letter grade.  
Research Methods for Policy Leaders: Read Less [-]
PUB AFF 245 Inferential Statistics for Policy Makers 1 Unit
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
In this course, we are going to study the use of research methods, statistics, and probability theory in public decision making. We will begin with case studies of important public policy topics where key decisions depend on the interpretation of results from empirical research or on probabilistic assessments of the likelihood of various outcomes. We will then study the basics of probability theory, statistical sampling, hypothesis testing, and inferring causality.

Inferential Statistics for Policy Makers: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Inferential Statistics for Policy Makers: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF 255 Risk and Decision Models 1 Unit
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
This course examines mathematical models useful in policy analysis and management through a series of exercises and hands-on experimentation. It assumes knowledge of basic economics and introductory statistics.

Risk and Decision Models: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Risk and Decision Models: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF 265 Financial Management and Budgeting 1 Unit
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
This course discusses methods for making organizations perform with an emphasis on managerial and financial accounting. Procurement, quality assurance, and performance evaluations of employees are also discussed. Managerial accounting is a set of tools used by managers for planning, implementation, and control. Financial accounting is a set of tools used by managers and outside observers for reporting on and analyzing an organization's financial health.

Financial Management and Budgeting: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Financial Management and Budgeting: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF 283 Leading People and Organizations 2 Units
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
This course is designed to help students develop their skills for leading and managing large groups, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and public advocacy, with the goal of achieving positive social change. Materials include case studies, analyses, and works from several disciplines. This course will provide higher-level topics of leadership strategy, visionary management, and executive communication styles. It will examine specific tools useful to be effective in the public sector and will explore techniques of negotiation that increasingly occupy the time of more prominent and influential public leaders.

Leading People and Organizations: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Leading People and Organizations: Read Less [-]
PUB AFF 285 Ethical Issues for Policy Leaders 1 Unit
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
The objective of this course is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of ethical arguments in the process and substance of policymaking. Those who seek to govern well inescapably confront questions of value in their political, professional and personal choices. The discussion of ethical dilemmas is designed to provoke analytic reflection on the moral challenges and responsibilities for public policymaking in a democracy. The focus is on the many and often competing obligations, commitments and values that should guide public actors, as well as on the public principles that guide the design of good public policy.
Ethical Issues for Policy Leaders: Read More [+] 

Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Ethical Issues for Policy Leaders: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF 287 Innovation, Strategy and Leadership: Making Change in Public Organizations. 2 Units
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
This course focuses on creating and implementing change within public organizations through the application of strategic planning, innovation and leadership. We will discuss where new ideas come from and how they can be generated, evaluated and implemented. The methods developed in other parts of the summer curriculum become the support for proving that new ideas are good ideas (or for finding out that they are bad ideas). We will explore how each method can be useful to a leader (both formal and informal) at various levels within a public organization through case studies and real world examples. The course will introduce leadership themes which will be explored further in PUB AFF 283: Leading People and Organizations.
Innovation, Strategy and Leadership: Making Change in Public Organizations.: Read More [+] 

Hours & Format
Summer: 3 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Innovation, Strategy and Leadership: Making Change in Public Organizations.: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF 290 Special Topics in Public Affairs 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2018
Course examines current problems and issues in the field of public affairs. Topics may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of the semester.
Special Topics in Public Affairs: Read More [+] 

Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate
Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Special Topics in Public Affairs: Read Less [-]

PUB AFF W290 Special Topics in Public Affairs 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
Course examines current problems and issues in the field of public affairs. Topics may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of the semester.
Special Topics in Public Affairs: Read More [+] 

Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of web-based lecture and 1-4 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate
Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Special Topics in Public Affairs: Read Less [-]