MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (POL / POLS)

Note: The University of Manitoba department/program code POLS replaces the former code 019. Students cannot hold credit in POLS XXX0 and the former 019.XXX having the same course number (eg. POLS 3950 and 019.395).

Joint Discipline Committee:
Chair - The University of Winnipeg   Dr. Linda DeRiviere

Associate Chair - The University of Manitoba   Dr. Royce Koop

This Master's program is offered jointly by the Department of Political Science of The University of Winnipeg and the Department of Political Studies of the University of Manitoba. Unless otherwise specified by particular agreements attached to its creation, the program is governed by the general procedures and regulations devised by the two universities for joint Master's programs.

The objective of the joint MPA program is to provide students, both full- and part-time, with a sound knowledge of public administration. The approach is interdisciplinary, although courses in Political Science/Political Studies are emphasized. The core program exposes all students to a common set of courses designed to encourage both innovative and integrative perspectives. An emphasis on public administration allows interested students to obtain knowledge of both the theory and the practice of government organizations, including knowledge of the political, economic, social and other contexts in which they operate. The program offers opportunities for specialization in a range of policy areas such as health care, human resource management, social welfare, aboriginal government, and organizational change. **This is a joint program with the University of Manitoba that is supervised by the Joint Discipline Committee (JDC)** consisting of members of the faculties of the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba. The program is governed by the general procedures and regulations devised by the two universities for Joint Masters Programs.

Admissions (Deadline January 15)

Applicants for admission to the program must be the following:
a) a person holding a recognized 4-year General or Advanced Bachelor's degree (BA, BSc, BES, etc.) with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last two years (60 credit hours) of undergraduate coursework; or
b) persons holding a recognized 4-year Honours Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last 60 credit hours of coursework; or
c) persons who do not hold an undergraduate degree, but who have attained positions of marked responsibility in either public or private sector management, and who have a demonstrated record of outstanding performance in their career. Admissions in this category will normally be restricted to one or two students per academic year.

Applicants are expected, but not required, to have some formal course background in public administration and economics. Each student is required, at the time of making application for admission to the program, to submit a statement of career objectives (approx. 200 words). Should the number of qualified applicants exceed the number of places available in the program, selection will be made on the basis of academic background and standing, work experience and career objectives.

Program of Studies

In the program, all students complete 36 credits: 24 credits of core courses and 12 credits of elective courses. Of the 36 credits, students must complete 18 credits at the 7000 level. There is no thesis option; no transfer credits are accepted. Near the end of their program of study, students complete the Capstone Seminar and produce a major paper. Students must attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in the whole program in order to graduate. Students are required to attain a grade point average of 3.0 in the core courses. Students who fail to attain this grade point average will normally be required to withdraw from the program. The minimum passing grade in any course in the MPA program is a C+. Students who fail to attain this grade may repeat the course (with permission of the JDC) or take an equivalent substitute course. Students who fail to attain a grade of C+ in more than 6 credit hours of courses (or equivalent) on more than one occasion are normally required to withdraw from the program. The maximum time length to complete the MPA Program is six years.

Co-operative Education Option in Public Administration

Director: Dr. Malcolm Bird (The University of Winnipeg)

The Co-operative Education option in the Master of Public Administration program combines full-time academic study with the benefits of practical work experience, largely in the public sector. A full-time student who has completed one academic year in good academic standing will be eligible to engage in full-time employment. The program requires the successful completion of 2 work-terms of a minimum of 13 weeks each. The work terms provide students with practical experience, enriched knowledge in an area of policy specialization, industry-standard remuneration, and guidance in career choices.

Application and Eligibility

Application for the Co-operative Education option in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is part of the normal application process for the MPA program as a whole. The Co-operative Education option is restricted to those who apply for full-time study in the MPA. Students who are accepted into the MPA with a Co-operative option must, in their first academic year, successfully complete two required non-credit courses in addition to their full-time academic course load.

Work Terms and Continuance
On entry to the MPA program, applicants accepted for the Co-op option must arrange their program with the Director of Co-operative Education in the MPA program and take part in a competitive job-matching process conducted in an Employers' Forum. Students who are eligible for Co-op, but who are not matched with a Co-op work term, will be able to continue in the regular MPA program. Co-op students who have successfully completed one full academic year of course work, and the required non-credit courses, and who have satisfied the MPA requirements for continuation in the program, will be eligible to engage in their first work term placement.

Each work term is a minimum 13 weeks duration and each work term carries 3 hours of course credit for which registration is required. Co-op students are considered to have full-time student status while engaged in a work term placement. Co-op students must successfully complete two work terms in addition to their academic program. Work terms are evaluated based on job performance and assigned written work (project or practicum). The final grade for each work term will be pass/fail.

Co-operative Education Work Term Courses
Students in the Co-operative Education option must take 6 credit-hours from:
POLS 6500   Co-operative Education Work Term I
POLS 6510   Co-operative Education Work Term II

Core Courses (24 credit-hours)
GPOL-7700(3) Theories and Issues in Public Administration
GPOL-7710(3) Public Policy Process and Issues
GPOL-7720(3) Governance and Administration
GPOL-7730(3) Principles of Public Finance for Policy Analysis
GPOL-7740(3) Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis
GPOL-7750(3) Qualitative Methods and Communication for the Public Sector
GPOL-7760(3) MPA Capstone Seminar
GPOL-7770(3) Professional Development

Further Coursework
With the approval of the Chair of the JDC, and other approval as may be required, courses may be chosen from the following list or from, for example, offerings in Economics, Geography, Management, Psychology, Sociology, etc.

POLS 7330(3)   State-Civil Society Relations
POLS 7340(3)   Canadian Government
POLS 7350(3)   Canadian Democracy
POLS 7470 (3)   Strategic Human Resource Management in Government
POLS 7720(6)   Comparative Government
POLS 7550(3)   Contemporary Issues in Canadian Politics
POLS 7610(3)   Political Theory and Contemporary Issues
POLS 7910(6)   Multivariate Research Methods
GPOL-7331(6)   Directed Readings in Public Administration
GPOL-7335(3)   Directed Readings in Public Administration
GPOL-7341(3)   An Indigenous Approach to Program Evaluation: Theory & Practice
GPOL-7380(6)   Special Topics Seminar in Public Administration
GPOL-7385(3)   Special Topics in Public Administration
GPOL-7505(3)   Politics of Urban Development

Graduate (7000-level) courses are described here:

COURSE LISTINGS

Please use the appropriate Timetable on the website to find out which courses will be offered in an upcoming term, or consult with the MPA Program Chair.

GPOL-7331(6) Directed Readings in Public Administration
GPOL-7335(3) Directed Readings in Public Administration
GPOL-7341(3) An Indigenous Approach to Program Evaluation: Theory & Practice
GPOL-7380(6) Special Topics Seminar in Public Administration
GPOL-7385(3) Special Topics in Public Administration
GPOL-7505(3) Politics of Urban Development
GPOL-7700(3) Theories and Issues in Public Administration
GPOL-7710(3) Public Policy Process and Issues
GPOL-7720(3) Governance and Administration
GPOL-7730(3) Principles of Public Finance for Policy Analysis
GPOL-7740(3) Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis
GPOL-7750(3) Qualitative Methods and Communication for the Public Sector
GPOL-7760(3) MPA Capstone Seminar
GPOL-7770(3) Professional Development

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GPOL-7331(6) DIRECTED READINGS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (D) The program of reading and consultation will be arranged between the Instructor and the student, and if taken for credit toward the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, will need the consent of the Joint Discipline Committee of that program. The student will be required to write a major paper and take an oral examination with a second reader based on it.
PREREQUISITES: Permission of the instructor and Department, and of the Joint Discipline Committee for the MPA, if taken for program credit.

GPOL-7335(3) DIRECTED READINGS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (D) The course will consist of a program of reading and consultation arranged between the student and the instructor. The student will be required to write a paper and take an oral examination with a second reader based on it.
PREREQUISITES: Permission of the instructor and Department, and of the Joint Discipline Committee for the MPA, if taken for MPA program credit.

GPOL-7341(3) AN INDIGENOUS APPROACH TO PROGRAM EVALUATION: THEORY & PRACTICE (S3) This is an experiential learning course that introduces students to the purpose and practice of Indigenous evaluation, as well as some of the analytical tools used by evaluators, both Indigenous and mainstream. An Indigenous approach to evaluation is a strengths-based exercise. It is committed to respecting the community's values and traditional ways of knowing. Students will be given practical experiences in preparing data collection instruments, gathering data from program participants and other stakeholders, and interpreting the data. The course will also explore how an Indigenous approach to evaluation can be merged with the objectives of mainstream funders and other external stakeholders.
CROSS-LISTING: GDP-7724(3)

GPOL-7380(6) SPECIAL TOPICS SEMINAR IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (S3) The course will concentrate on a topic of primary relevance to students of public administration. Examples of such topics are: the role of public bureaucracy in Canadian federalism; the regulatory process in Canada; the role of the Crown corporation; issue in health care policy; public administration in Manitoba; gender and public policy. The course may be repeated for credit when topic varies.

GPOL-7385(3) SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (S3) The course concentrates on a topic of primary relevance to students of public administration. Examples of such topics are: the role of public bureaucracy in Canadian federalism, the regulatory process in Canada, the role of Crown corporations, issues in health care policy, public administration in Manitoba, and gender and public policy. The course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies.

GPOL-7505(3) POLITICS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (S3) Urban development, understood as the growth and change of the urban built form and environment, has a tremendous impact on the lives and livelihoods of residents who reside in urban areas. As a result, urban development and planning is one of the most important policy areas for municipal government, and a significant source of political conflict at the local level. This course compares and contrasts the politics of urban development in cities in North America and abroad, by examining the forces (actors, institutions, and the economy) that shape the development and planning policies of cities**.**

RESTRICTIONS: Students may not receive credit for both this course and POL-4505(3) or the former POL-4334(6) or GPOL-7335(6).

GPOL-7700(3) THEORIES AND ISSUES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (S3) Integrating theory and practice helps to better understand the challenges facing public administration. Topics covered include: changing approaches to management, human resource and financial management, reporting, accountability, citizen engagement, and network governance.

GPOL-7710(3) PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS AND ISSUES (S3) An introduction to the idea of policy analysis, including key foundational concepts and significant theories, models, and approaches; how and why the policy process operates as it does (empirical) and how some think it should operate (normative) and why; and specific policy issues.

GPOL-7720(3) GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (S3) An introduction to theories of organization and bureaucracy linked to administrative practices in the public sector. Governance models (Traditional Public Administration, New Public Management, Multi-level Governance) in the Canadian, provincial, and local context are explored.

GPOL-7730(3) PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC FINANCE FOR POLICY ANALYSIS (S3) An introduction to basic economic theories and tools used in public sector economics, which may include the economics/politics of taxing policies, externalities, theories of intergovernmental grants, major Canadian government spending programs, and new developments.

GPOL-7740(3) QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR POLICY ANALYSIS (S3) An introduction to quantitative methods, including: research design, data collection techniques and tools, basic statistical analysis, tests of statistical significance, contingency tables, multiple regression; with an emphasis on reading tables and graphs and understanding statistical assumptions.

GPOL-7750(3) QUALITATIVE METHODS AND COMMUNICATION FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR (S3) Communication coupled with an understanding of qualitative research approaches are key to success in public administration. Topics include: research design, policy research, referencing, evaluating writing and research, and presenting for results.

GPOL-7760(S3) MPA CAPSTONE SEMINAR (S3) Students pursue individual supervised projects that allow them to integrate theory and practice in an original topic in public administration and/or public policy, drawing on their skills and knowledge gained throughout the program. These projects will be presented in a colloquium at the end of the semester.

GPOL-7770(3) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (S3) Students will build employment-related skills such as interpersonal communications, presentation, leadership, career development, and software-related expertise. They will bridge theory and practice through participation and reflection in community events and workshops.