Public Policy, M.P.P.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Learn more about the Master of Public Policy.

About the Program

The Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) degree provides training for individuals who seek careers in the public sector or in private and non-profit organizations that work on a continuous basis with government agencies. The M.P.P. curriculum is designed to provide students with the technical and analytical skills to be able to develop and assess proposed public policies and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and activities that governments at the federal, state, and local levels undertake. The M.P.P. also develops students’ appreciation for the political and institutional contexts in which issues reach the policy agenda and policies are formulated, adopted, implemented, and evaluated.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 3 years; part-time students may apply for extensions, if needed

Campus Location: Center City for in-person instruction or Online with a combination of asynchronous and synchronous evening components

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: Students complete the degree program through classes offered after 5:00 p.m. The degree program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

Interdisciplinary Study: Courses are taken in Political Science, Economics, Geography and Urban Studies, and other disciplines as needed. Students may also pursue the M.P.P. as a dual degree with the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.). Applicants for the dual degree must apply to each program separately and should consult the M.P.P. website for further details.

Areas of Specialization: Students use their electives to specialize in a specific policy area or skill set.

Job Prospects: Students in the M.P.P. program plan to seek entry-level jobs in government agencies as civil servants or in private and non-profit organizations that work with federal, state, and local governments, or may already have experience in government, private, or non-profit organizations and seek training and credentials to further develop their careers.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Prior to applying for admission, students sometimes want to take courses as non-degree students. Students are permitted to take up to 9 credits on a non-matriculated basis. If admitted to the program, students may have that coursework, with a grade of “B” or better, apply toward the M.P.P. degree. Individuals who wish to take courses as non-matriculated students must first obtain the approval of the Director of the M.P.P. program to determine if the individual stands a reasonable chance for admission to the program. Next, the prospective student must visit the Office of Continuing Studies with transcripts from all institutions attended, including the one that conferred the undergraduate degree, to be enrolled in the coursework.

Financing Opportunities: M.P.P. students are not eligible for departmental assistantships, but may apply for a limited number of partial scholarships available from the program.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

Fall:
  • March 1 – Application and Scholarship Deadline
  • April 15 – Late Application Deadline
  • June 15 – Final Application Deadline

Spring:
  • November 1 – Application Deadline
  • December 6 – Late Application Deadline

Applications are processed as they are received. Late applications may be considered for admission.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program. Applicants should indicate their preference for in-person or online instruction on the application form.

Letters of Reference:

Number Required: 3
From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be obtained from college/university faculty members familiar with academic competence. For applicants with extensive administrative experience, two of the letters may come from supervisors or colleagues in the agency or organization where the applicant has been employed. Letters must be on official letterhead or include the recommender's full contact information: mailing address, phone, and email.

Bachelor’s Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A baccalaureate degree is required. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in undergraduate work is expected for consideration of the application to the program.

Statement of Goals: Approximately 500 to 1,000 words include your interest in Temple's program, your future career goals, and your academic and work experience.

Standardized Test Scores:
Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master's degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

* TOEFL iBT: 100
* IELTS Academic: 7.0
* PTE Academic: 68

Resume: Current resume required.

Transfer Credit: Graduate coursework in public policy or public administration may be transferred from outside the University, provided that the credits were obtained no more than five years prior to the student's matriculation at Temple; the grades are "B" or better; and the course(s) for transfer are equivalent to those in Temple's curriculum. The maximum number of credits a student may transfer is 6.

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements: Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 36

Required Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 5102</td>
<td>Economic Decisions and Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GUS 5165</td>
<td>Community Based Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLCY 8001</td>
<td>Statistics for Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLCY 8118</td>
<td>The Policy-Making Process</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PLCY 8119</td>
<td>Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLCY 8123</td>
<td>Bureaucracy and Public Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PLCY 8127</td>
<td>Public Policy Project</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLCY 8128</td>
<td>State and Local Budgeting</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Internship in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
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Culminating Events:

Seminar Paper:
The Public Policy Project, completed in PLCY 8127, is undertaken in the student’s last term in the M.P.P. program. Students produce an original, full-length policy analysis for a client. Students attend a weekly seminar to report on their progress at each stage in the development of their policy analysis, receive feedback from other seminar participants, and provide advice to other students in the seminar.

Contacts

Program Web Address:
https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/public-policy-mpp-la-ppol-mpp

Department Information:
Public Policy Program
837 Anderson Hall
Submission Address for Application Materials:
https://apply.temple.edu/CLA/Pages/Welcome.aspx

Department Contacts:
Admissions:
Gary Mucciaroni
Director, M.P.P. Program
mpp@temple.edu
215-204-6195

Samantha Apgar
Assistant Director, M.P.P. Program
samantha.apgar@temple.edu
215-204-7817

Courses

PLCY 5001. Nonprofit Organization and Management. 3 Credit Hours.
The course focuses on the organizational features, management, and evaluation of non-profit organizations. It is primarily for individuals who currently work in or with non-profit organizations or who may be interested in employment within them. To help prepare these practitioners, the course focuses less upon the development of theory and purely academic topics and more on the application of theory and the real-world goals, challenges and behavior of non-profit organizations. At the same time, the course offers a broad perspective on how non-profits are established, managed and evaluated that goes beyond merely describing their nuts-and-bolts operations. Ph.D. students and others with an academic interest in non-profit organizations will gain an in-depth understanding of why these organizations exist and how they behave.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

PLCY 5002. Non-Profit Fundraising. 3 Credit Hours.
Fundraising is a crucial element of leading and managing non-profit organizations. Most non-profits do not have readily available sources of revenue built into the logic of their organization (such as the power to tax in the case of public sector organizations and the profit motive in the case of business enterprises). Therefore, teaching students how to locate, attract and cultivate donors and how to acquire and manage financial resources is of the utmost practical value. This course covers the fundraising process from start to finish, beginning with identifying potential donors and ending with evaluating a fundraising campaign.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C- in PLCY 5001 (may be taken concurrently)

PLCY 5003. Financial Management for Non-Profit Organizations. 3 Credit Hours.
Managing finances is an essential skill of nonprofit managers because their organizations cannot attain most of their goals without remaining in sound financial health. This course provides a foundation in nonprofit finance and accounting concepts and techniques. It highlights the similarities and differences along a variety of dimensions between nonprofits and for-profit and public sector organizations. The specific topics covered include: distinguishing among different kinds of budgets, budgetary planning and making spending and revenue projections, cash flow management, endowment management, capital financing, expenditure control and audits, how to read different financial statements and reports.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C- in PLCY 5001 (may be taken concurrently)
PLCY 5004. Leadership in Public Sector and Non-Profit Organizations. 3 Credit Hours.
This course focuses on the tasks of leadership in public sector and nonprofit organizations, leadership behavior and how leaders succeed or fail to promote the mission and goals of their organizations. Among the topics covered are types of leaders, the constraints of organizational context and culture on leaders’ influence, decision-making processes and practices that help to avoid mistakes, developing organizational priorities and strategies, building effective teams, handling ethical quandaries, and how to measure leaders’ effectiveness.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C- in PLCY 5001 (may be taken concurrently)

PLCY 5085. Internship in Public Policy. 3 Credit Hours.
Students in the MPP program must serve in an approved internship of approximately 16 hours per week during the fall or spring semester (or approximately 32 hours per week during a summer session). Students earn 3 credits for paid and unpaid internships. The internship may be in a federal, state or local agency in the executive or legislative branches of government or in a private or non-profit firm that works closely with such an agency to fulfill the agency's mission.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Degree Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Degrees: Master of Public Policy.
College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: Liberal Arts.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C in PLCY 8119 (may be taken concurrently) or POLS 8119 (may be taken concurrently) and PLCY 8123 (may be taken concurrently) or POLS 8123 (may be taken concurrently)

PLCY 8001. Statistics for Public Policy. 3 Credit Hours.
Introductory applied social statistics for public policy. Topics covered include descriptive measures, elementary probability theory, hypothesis testing, and correlation and regression analysis. This course explores inductive statistics including: probability and sampling, multivariate contingency tables, analysis of variance, correlation and regression analysis.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

PLCY 8118. The Policy-Making Process. 3 Credit Hours.
This course explores the process through which federal and state governments in the United States formulate and implement public policies. Major political and institutional actors that influence policy-making are covered, including public opinion, interest groups, legislatures, bureaucracies and chief executives, and courts. The course covers how problems are recognized and get “framed” by advocates and policymakers and how they reach the agenda, how alternatives are formulated and adopted, the implementation and evaluation of policies and programs, and how the performance and structure of existing policies feed back into the process as policies undergo expansion, revision or termination.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: Liberal Arts.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

PLCY 8119. Policy Analysis. 3 Credit Hours.
This course is an introduction to policy analysis for MPP students. Policy analysis involves collecting and analyzing information pertinent to public policy issues and solutions and communicating them clearly to a client, which is usually a policymaker or administrator of a program. Policymakers need analyses that clearly define and describe the nature and severity of an issue, assess the feasibility and estimate the costs and benefits of alternative solutions for addressing them, and (often) recommend one or more courses of action over others.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: Liberal Arts.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

PLCY 8120. Topics in Public Policy. 3 Credit Hours.
Explores in-depth a particular public policy issue area (such as education, health, public finance, etc.) or a thematic topic (such as leadership and public policy, ethics and public policy, etc.). Topic(s) covered varies with instructor.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
PLCY 8123. Bureaucracy and Public Management. 3 Credit Hours.
Bureaucracies and the public managers who inhabit them are of critical importance for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies. This course provides students with an overview of bureaucratic agencies as key actors who shape public policy and performance. One focus of the course is how the institutional features of bureaucracies as large, complex organizations and of the broader political system in which they operate shape agencies' behavior. The other major focus is on how the leaders, managers and staff work together to shape bureaucratic cultures, missions and operating procedures and how these, in turn, determine whether the agency is capable of carrying out policies effectively and in accord with legislative mandates.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

PLCY 8127. Public Policy Project. 3 Credit Hours.
A semester-length project that students take in their last semester in the MPP program. They produce an original, full-length policy analysis for a client. Students attend a weekly seminar to report on their progress at each stage in the development of their policy analysis, receive feedback from other seminar participants, and provide advice to other students in the seminar.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Degree Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Degrees: Master of Public Policy.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C in POLS 8001 and (PLCY 8119 or POLS 8119)

PLCY 8128. State and Local Budgeting. 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the economic and political aspects of the budgetary process in government, particularly at the state and local levels. Topics covered include the major sources and types of revenue, discretionary and non-discretionary spending, managing deficits and debt, forecasting fiscal conditions, capital budgeting, pension management, and other issues.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

PLCY 8131. Innovation in Government. 3 Credit Hours.
Innovation is considered a critical component of both private industry and the academic research community, but the concept is also highly relevant for government. While its outcomes may look differently in a government setting and focus more on efficiencies and social benefit rather than new products or services, innovation remains a critical part of any successful government. Without setting the stage for innovation and purposefully managing it, government lacks capacity for improving constituent services, engaging purposefully with its neighborhoods and residents, and developing more efficient and cost-effective internal processes.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C in (PLCY 8118 (may be taken concurrently) or PLCY 8123 (may be taken concurrently))