

## **Master of Public Administration: Key Executive Leadership (M.P.A.)**

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Using executive education models, the Key Executive Leadership M.P.A. prepares mid-level public servants to become more effective organizational leaders. Begun in 1975, the Key Executive Leadership Program is a graduate course of study in the skills, knowledge, and values needed by top-level public executives and offers participants the perspectives and competencies necessary for effective performance in high level executive work. The curriculum includes the major activity areas used in certifying candidates for career positions in the Senior Executive Service. Classes are held on selected Fridays and weekends. Participants continue to work at their jobs while completing their studies.

Admission to the Key Executive Leadership Program is competitive and restricted to GS-13s or above (or the equivalent) who exercise significant responsibilities for program management or policy development and are preparing themselves for positions of greater responsibility. The program is oriented to civilian personnel in the federal government, military or other uniformed personnel, state and local officials, and personnel in the nonprofit sector.

With the expectation that graduates of the program will move from managerial to leadership roles within their organizations, the executive M.P.A. curriculum encompasses the principal components of public service education: the leadership of public service organizations, the public policy and organizational environment, and the analysis of issues.

### **Degree Requirements**

- 36 credit hours of approved graduate work  
Students who successfully complete the SPA Key Executive Leadership Development Program may apply to reduce the overall degree requirement for the 42-credit hour M.P.A. by up to an additional 6 credit hours. Students who avail themselves of this provision remain eligible to request the 3 or 6 credit hour waiver for prior professional experience as noted above. At least 30 credit hours must be earned in residence for the M.P.A.
- Comprehensive examination using action learning to solve a real organizational problem
- The research requirement is satisfied by completing two of the following courses with grades of B or better:  
PUAD-623 Executive Problem Solving  
PUAD-625 Analysis and Evaluation  
PUAD-654 Organization Diagnosis and Change

### **Course Requirements**

- 3 credit hours from the following:  
PUAD-621 Topics in Executive Management (1-3)  
PUAD-628 Executive Skill Modules (1-2)  
PUAD-629 Symposium on Executive Management (2)  
PUAD-659 Action Learning for Executives (1.5)
- 27 credit hours from the following:  
PUAD-611 Government and Non-Profit Informatics (3)

- PUAD-620 Public Marketing and Strategic Communication (1.5)
- PUAD-622 Leadership for Executives (3)
- PUAD-623 Executive Problem Solving (3)
- PUAD-624 Budgeting and Financial Management (3)
- PUAD-625 Analysis and Evaluation (3)
- PUAD-626 Legal Issues in Public Administration (3)
- PUAD-627 Politics, Policymaking, and Public Administration (3)
- PUAD-630 Public Managerial Economics (3)
- PUAD-634 Acquisition Management (1.5)
- PUAD-638 Human Resource Management for Executives (1.5)
- PUAD-639 Ethics for Public Managers (1.5)
- PUAD-654 Organization Diagnosis and Change (3)

- an additional 6 credit hours from the courses listed above  
*or*  
9 credit hours of approved coursework taken through OPM's Federal Executive Institute and/or Management Development Centers  
*or*  
6 credit hours may be waived for students who successfully complete the SPA Key Executive Leadership Development Program

## **Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) and J.D.**

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### **Admission to the Program**

Applicants must satisfy the admission requirements of both the Department of Public Administration and Policy (DPAP)/SPA and Washington College of Law (WCL). Admission criteria are the same as those for the M. P.A. However, students who have been admitted to WCL will not be required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Students may begin their studies in SPA after completing one year or the equivalent of full-time study at WCL. Admission to either the M.P.A. or J.D. program does not guarantee admission to the other.

### **M.P.A. Degree Requirements**

- 42 credits hours of approved graduate course work including at least 24 credit hours of M.P.A. course work in SPA, and up to 18 credit hours from WCL
- Written comprehensive examination
- The research requirement is satisfied by completing two of the following courses with grades of B or better:  
PUAD-605 Problem Solving for Managers *or*  
PUAD-601 Methods of Problem Solving I  
PUAD-610 Management Analysis  
PUAD-616 Legal Basis of Public Administration  
PUAD-630 Public Managerial Economics  
LAW-516 Legal Rhetoric I *and* LAW-517 Legal Rhetoric II