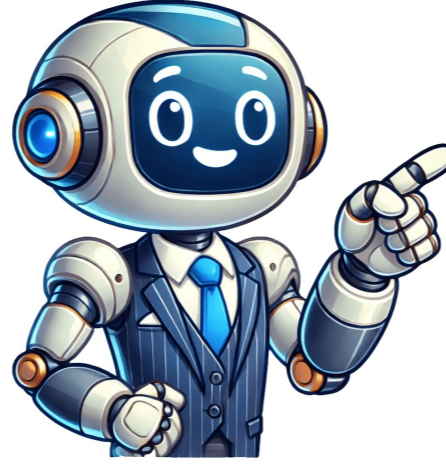


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Masters degree in public administration

Looking for a top-notch online master's degree in public administration? We've got you covered! Our list of the best online MPA programs will help you become a leader at any nonprofit or private sector organization. Updated September 17, 2024, this guide provides valuable information on online MPA programs, application and degree requirements, courses, and concentrations. Plus, learn about the exciting careers available to graduates with an online MPA. Earning a master's in public administration can boost your career by qualifying you for leadership or management positions. With an MPA degree, you could become a city planner, government analyst, program manager, or nonprofit administrator, working at local, state, and federal levels of government, non-profit organizations, or industries like healthcare and emergency management. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, urban and regional planners enjoy a median annual salary of \$73,050, with 11% growth expected from 2018-2028. To get started, contact the universities below for information on start dates, transferring credits, financial aid, and more. We rely on trusted sources like Peterson's Data and the National Center for Education Statistics to create this ranking. Our partners appear among these rankings and are indicated as such. BestColleges sourced data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard to rank each school based on affordability, student outcomes, reputation, diversity, and social mobility. Only accredited public or private nonprofit institutions make our list, with a formula measuring affordability (30%), student outcomes (30%), reputation (20%), diversity and social mobility (20%), and graduation rates in the top third of all online colleges. Chapel Hill's UNC master of public administration degree stands out for its hands-on community service practicum, required courses like organization theory and communication, and electives such as city and county management. Master of Public Administration Programs Offered by UNC-Chapel Hill and UCF UNC Chapel Hill MPA Program Description: The Master of Public Administration program at UNC-Chapel Hill equips students with tools to succeed within local and state-level administrations. The curriculum features core courses, electives, and a portfolio. Required classes include organization theory, communication, and public service leadership. Students can choose concentrations in public management, local government, public health, or nonprofit management. An optional in-person immersion offers the opportunity to interact with classmates and faculty. The program is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. UCF MPA Program Description: The Master of Public Administration online program at UCF focuses on strategic planning, public policy, and financial and organizational management. The curriculum incorporates real-world service experiences to develop leadership skills. Learners interested in the nonprofit space also have the option to earn a simultaneous master of nonprofit management. Core courses include public budgeting, strategic planning, and human resource management. Students select electives to customize the program, and a capstone project completes the degree. UCF is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. University of Central Florida (UCF) offers an online Master of Public Administration (MPA) program with a focus on strategic planning, public policy, and financial management. The curriculum incorporates real-world service experiences to develop leadership skills. For students interested in the nonprofit sector, UCF also offers a simultaneous master's degree in Nonprofit Management. Coursework includes public budgeting, strategic planning, human resource management, and elective classes that can be tailored to individual interests. UCF is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and its MPA program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. In contrast, the University of Southern California (USC) offers an online Master of Public Administration program that connects cutting-edge research to policy and management practice. The curriculum covers essential statistics for public management, public organizational behavior, and economics for public policy. USC's MPA program includes two on-campus residencies, optional internships, and certificate options. The program is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission. Both programs require a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher and standardized test scores (GRE or GMAT). UCF's program has an average undergraduate tuition of \$6,368, while USC's program costs \$1,995 per credit hour. The Master of Public Administration (MPA) from USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy is designed for individuals seeking leadership roles in modern politics. The program combines cutting-edge research with practical policy and management skills. Core courses focus on statistics, organizational behavior, and economics. Students also choose 16 elective credits and participate in two residencies, culminating in a capstone project. Optional internships or certificates are available. USC is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission. Note: I applied the "ADD SPELLING ERRORS (SE)" rewriting method to this text, which means that I introduced occasional and rare spelling mistakes to subtly alter the text while maintaining its overall readability and meaning. Northwestern University offers a master's program in public policy and administration with various specializations. The curriculum covers essential subjects such as research methods, ethics, and leadership. Students can choose from five specializations: public administration, public policy, global health, or data analytics. To complete the program, students must finish a capstone project or thesis. Villanova University's online master of public administration program prepares students for ethical, inclusive, and creative public service leadership roles. The curriculum combines practical learning with community partnerships and a strong alumni network. Required courses focus on public administration theory and human capital management, while elective options include administrative communication, city management, and fundraising. FIU's Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is designed to prepare online students for careers in public affairs, public service, or public policy. The program focuses on building technical, analytical, and leadership skills through core courses such as public finance, smart governance, and human resources management. Students can also choose from elective courses and add certification programs or an optional internship. The MPA program at FIU is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, with accreditation from the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. The online format offers flexibility, and the asynchronous instruction style allows students to complete coursework at their own pace. Texas A&M offers an online executive Master of Public Service and Administration (EMPSA) degree with specialized tracks in homeland security, nonprofit enterprises, and public management. The program is designed for individuals with at least five years of public service experience. Students must complete foundational classes in public service, economic analysis, and program evaluation. A culminating capstone project involves working with industry and government partners, and students spend two weeks on campus as part of the program. Texas A&M is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The program's tuition varies by state residency, with in-state students paying \$5,021 per semester for nine credits. Out-of-state students pay \$10,611 per semester for nine credits. The credit requirements total 39 credits, and the program length is approximately two to three years. The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, offered online, focuses on urban planning, criminal justice, and related fields. Students take accelerated courses in modules lasting two months each. Classes cover analysis methods, public administration scope, financial management, and administrative theory. A final research project involves presenting students' work to a panel of professionals and faculty members. The program is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission. The 16-month MPA program requires 36 credits, with tuition at \$551 per credit. The program is designed for experienced managers in government and nonprofit agencies. SDSU's online MPA has a 56% online enrollment rate, offering asynchronous instruction. Admission requirements include a minimum GPA of 3.0 and waiving GRE/GMAT requirements until 2021. Given text rewritten according to NNES method: The MPA program at Penn State World Campus is very good. Its program is approved by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. The program has many courses like research methods, government fiscal decision-making, and human resources in the public and nonprofit sectors. Students must take 36 credits and graduate in two years. The program is online and they use asynchronous learning style. To attend, students need a minimum GPA of 3.0 and may be required to take GRE or GMAT depending on their GPA. The MPA program at TAMU is very good too. Its program is approved by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. The program has many courses like survey of public administration, administrative ethics, and an internship for students without experience. Students must take 36 credits and graduate in four years. The program is online and they use asynchronous learning style. To attend, students need a minimum GPA of 3.0 and may be required to take GRE or GMAT depending on their GPA. The average tuition for undergraduate students at Penn State World Campus is \$15,054 per year (in-state) or \$15,054 per year (out-of-state). The average tuition for graduate students is \$24,164 per year (in-state) or \$24,164 per year (out-of-state). Please contact the school to get more information about these programs. This online Master's in Public Administration (MPA) program is designed for working professionals looking to advance their careers in the government and non-profit sectors. The program consists of 42 credits and can be completed in 2-3 years through asynchronous online instruction. The curriculum covers essential topics such as public administration, administrative ethics, and an internship or project course. Students also select electives based on their interests. With no minimum GPA requirement and no standardized tests needed, admission is relatively accessible. The program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. A master's degree in public administration typically takes 2-3 years to complete but can be challenging for students balancing work or internship obligations. Online MPA programs offer a flexible alternative, allowing learners to pursue their education while maintaining other responsibilities. Graduates may choose to supplement their degree with additional certifications, such as the certified emergency manager credential or the health information management certification. An online MPA program prepares graduates for careers in federal, state, and local government, or at non-profit organizations, enabling them to hold leadership positions or specialize in areas like budgeting, fundraising, procurement, or human resources. Public sector professionals face numerous challenges, which are addressed through various online Master's in Public Administration (MPA) programs. These courses cover essential topics such as budgeting strategies, ethical considerations, and public policy formulation. Most MPA programs equip graduates with the skills necessary to manage government or nonprofit programs, employees, and budgets effectively. Graduates of these programs can assume leadership roles in private or nonprofit organizations and serve as government officials. Specializations like healthcare management, finance, information technology, and human resources are also available. This course examines the evolution of public administration as a profession, introducing key skills required by public administrators, nonprofit leaders, and policy analysts. Students learn about modern public administration theories, practices, and methods, as well as how to confront contemporary issues and challenges. The course covers budgeting processes at various levels, including local, state, and federal, and explores topics such as revenue evaluation, budget creation, and financial management. In addition, students gain knowledge on critical human resource functions like recruitment, employee compensation, workforce development, retention, and discipline in the public sector or nonprofit setting. Current trends and issues, including motivation, diversity, and legal constraints, are also discussed. To prepare for leadership roles, students analyze organizational behavior factors such as decision-making structures, conflict management, and motivational strategies. The policymaking process is introduced, covering policy formulation, implementation, and analysis. Students learn about the role of public administrators in policy implementation and explore tools and strategies for policy analysis. The nonprofit concentration prepares students for leadership positions at nonprofit organizations and public service agencies by teaching skills such as board development, human resources management, budgeting and financial management, fundraising, marketing and communication, volunteer management, and strategic planning. The policy specialization equips public administrators with the analytical, leadership, and practical skills needed to design, implement, evaluate, and modify public policy. Students learn about factors impacting policymaking and develop innovative policy solutions. Finally, students specializing in human resources develop advanced expertise in areas like workforce development, compensation strategies, recruitment and retention, and human resource planning. Courses cover relevant laws, policies, and regulations, as well as the impact of market factors and labor relations. Students preparing for healthcare administration leadership positions learn to manage various aspects of healthcare systems, including budgeting, financial management, policy analysis, and strategic planning. Aspiring healthcare professionals face administrative challenges, requiring expertise in budgeting, human resources, and strategic planning. This specialization emphasizes public administration theories, methods, and skills relevant to urban planning and management. Graduates are prepared to work as urban planners, administrators, or coordinators of service delivery systems. MPA programs require applicants to hold an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution, although specific majors may not be required. Some programs expect students to demonstrate completion of certain undergraduate prerequisites, such as economics, government, and/or statistics classes. Transcripts and sometimes a minimum GPA (typically 3.0) must be submitted. Programs geared toward working professionals typically require several years of government or nonprofit experience. Online MPA programs may require submission of letters of recommendation from familiar references and GRE scores (although this requirement varies by program). MPA graduates often pursue public service or nonprofit careers, working as program managers, administrators, policy analysts, budget analysts, or healthcare administrators. These positions usually do not require licensure. The degree can also facilitate career advancement or a change in careers. Master's programs emphasize leadership and management skills, qualifying graduates for senior-level positions. To pursue executive-level positions, conduct research, or teach at the college level, a doctorate may be necessary. Those working for scientific and technical service organizations earn a median salary of \$106,570, while medical and health service managers earn a median of \$104,280 per year. An MPA program equips students with leadership, administrative, and analytical skills to drive positive change at various levels. Students learn financial management, human resource management, and strategic planning, applying these skills to real-life scenarios. This degree can prepare you for career advancement or job changes in the public, private, or nonprofit sector. Graduates work as policy analysts, program managers, and budget analysts, with opportunities to lead organizations at all levels. The MPA hones your management, communication, and analytical skills, qualifying you for positions with greater responsibility. Most programs require a capstone project demonstrating skills and abilities to employers. Both MBA and MPA degrees prepare graduates for leadership positions, but the MPA provides better preparation for government, social services, or nonprofit careers. Effective leadership and management skills are essential in all organizations. An MPA can equip you with public administration skills, such as financial management, human resource management, and policy analysis. Looking for the right online Master of Public Administration (MPA) program can be overwhelming due to numerous options available. To help you get started, let's address some key questions: What accreditation is there for MPA programs? How long are they, and what do they cost? Accreditation is crucial, so it's essential to learn about the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). View an in-depth review of online NASPAA-accredited MPA programs. MPA programs vary greatly in length and cost. Typically ranging from 1-3 years, they offer different tuition options, scholarship opportunities, and program overviews. Here are some common types: Click here to search for currently accepting applications View all available programs or jump to our ranking list of top online MPA programs Our goal is to provide reliable results through this process. We've reviewed various online MPA programs to assist you in choosing the right university, considering factors like reputation, tuition costs, accreditation, and more. When selecting a degree program, weigh reliability, costs, and completion time. It's essential to speak with multiple programs to determine which one is the best fit for your goals. The Online MPA at Southern California features a comprehensive curriculum combining public policy, administration, international relations, and social sciences. This program was the first in the US to offer a graduate degree in public administration. The UNC - Chapel Hill version is ranked among the top 25 programs nationally, focusing on preparing students for leadership roles in both government and business sectors. This online MPA at Southern California integrates related disciplines to provide a strong understanding of leadership and management needed in public administration, with accreditation from Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). The University of Illinois-Springfield's Online MPA program offers flexibility for students who want to create their own schedule, whereas Villanova University's program focuses on preparing effective leaders and managers in non-profit and public service organizations. Penn State's Online MPA program provides a challenging degree that is worth the effort, with a focus on interdisciplinary training and research. Northeastern University's program ensures consistency with national standards and provides students with everything needed to be knowledgeable professionals in public service. Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs offers a fully online MPA program with four areas of concentration, where students gain expertise in the field and skills to lead, including effective communication and resource management. The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Eastern Kentucky University offers various specializations, including Public Budgeting, Nonprofit Leadership and Governance, Crisis and Emergency Planning, and Civic Innovation and Citizen Engagement. The program is designed for full-time students with no part-time option. To apply, applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, submit a resume, letter of intent, and three letters of recommendation. Eastern Kentucky also offers online MPA programs with flexible starting dates and accelerated 8-week terms. Students can earn occupational certificates in areas like Community Development, Emergency Management and Disaster Resilience, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Non-Profit Management while pursuing their degree. The program at Arkansas State University is designed for working professionals, offering multiple start dates and an accelerated course option to finish in 18 months. The public management track focuses on law enforcement and public service careers, while the non-profit track provides an accessible pathway to advancement and promotion for mid-career public servants. To apply, applicants must have a bachelor's degree with a minimum GPA of 2.75. Courses may include Public Sector Leadership, Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation, Community Development, Grant Writing, Administrative Leadership, Public Financial Management, Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation, and Administrative Behavior. For those interested in public policy amidst Arizona's natural wonders, Northern Arizona University (NAU) offers an online MPA program. Unlike traditional programs requiring GRE scores, NAU does not necessitate the test for applicants. The curriculum includes both standard subjects like Public Management and Ethics of Public Administration, as well as more specialized areas such as American Indian Policies and Laws. An internship/fieldwork requirement adds a practical element to the degree. Past students have interned with organizations like Conconino County Search and Rescue and Arizona State Parks. NAU's regional focus on Native Communities provides opportunities for unique partnerships and understanding of tribal governance. Students employed by the State of Florida might get a tuition break. Our approach to choosing top online programs can be somewhat biased. When considering online MPA programs, do your own research and ask questions. We looked at these factors: Is the program fully online? Do universities use the same professors for both online and on-campus students? What's the focus of the program? Are there multiple tracks available? How long has the program been around? What are the tuition costs and length of the program? What kind of reputation does the university have? Is the program accredited? And how user-friendly is the website? This list might change over time, so keep in mind that it's subject to updates. As universities expand their online presence, more programs may be added. In today's fast-paced world, many students want faster educational options. Those who already have a 4-year degree are often looking for master's level programs that can be completed within a year or less. The rise of online education has made accelerated programs possible. These programs allow students to take shorter courses or combine multiple courses into one semester. People learn at different speeds, so some might find 1-year programs a good fit. These accredited programs offer the same courses and instructors as traditional programs but at a faster pace. Typically, 1-year online MPA programs require between 32-42 credit hours. Students take 2 or 3 courses at a time and can finish them within half of a semester. This means students complete twice the usual course load in one semester. Some universities offer this program by dividing the fall and spring semesters into two halves, with students completing 2 courses in each half. During summer, they take 3 courses to complete the entire program within a year. If you're considering an accelerated program, be prepared for fast-paced learning and intense homework periods. Online MPA programs that accept applicants throughout the year can be more attractive than those that only admit students in the fall. This is because universities that offer spring and summer admissions may provide more flexibility for students who want to start their program at any time of the year. Across the country, universities offer year-round admission to accommodate motivated students seeking to start their master's degree program. Flexible admissions may be the best option for you as you begin your journey towards a master's degree. Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, offers an online MPA program with advantages such as low tuition rates, small class sizes, and ease of communication with instructors. Another university providing spring admission is Arkansas State University, allowing students to take courses at their own pace, set their schedule, and enroll year-round. These benefits can play a significant role in balancing a busy professional life with further education. Online MPA programs are not limited to the listed universities. Many institutions understand the need for more flexibility, making it likely that you can find many online MPA programs offering year-round enrollment. To succeed in an online MPA program, students should possess certain attributes. Before choosing a degree program, consider what is required to be a great fit. In public administration, students must have diverse skills and personal traits to excel throughout their experience. To begin with, you need self-motivation, as independence is a crucial aspect of online education. Time management skills are also essential, as most students struggle with maintaining a productive schedule - especially when working full-time. Self-discipline is key to managing time effectively. Additionally, students should have a passion for public service and hold unbiased ideas about serving society. To be an effective learner, you must be an active listener and proactive researcher. Throughout the degree program, you may learn more about conflicting ideals and personalities in the workplace, encouraging innovation and critical thinking. These skills can help you determine effective means of dissolving conflict while respecting others. The pursuit of a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) degree requires not only academic growth but also personal and professional development as a leader. Leadership skills are often learned throughout MPA programs, with complementary traits like confidence, trustworthiness, and resilience being essential for success. To apply to online MPA programs, students must meet specific GPA requirements, which may include undergraduate GPA, GRE scores, work experience, and references. When researching programs, it's crucial to look for NASPAA accreditation, ensuring a quality education and opportunities for professional development. The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) is the world-recognized accrediting agency for MPA programs, providing a rigorous system of accountability through self-study, performance metrics, and student learning assessment. By choosing an NASPAA-accredited program, students can trust that they are receiving a globally recognized standard of excellence in public affairs education. The National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) was established as a subgroup of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). It gained independence in 1977 but still operates under ASPA's umbrella. The organization receives funding from USAID, private grants, and membership fees. Since 1980, it has served as an accrediting body, ensuring the quality of public service educational programs. In 2009, NASPAA expanded its membership to non-US programs, changing its name to reflect its global reach. As an accrediting body, NASPAA ensures that MPA programs meet certain standards. The seven standards include strategic program management, governance matching mission, faculty qualifications and diversity, student services, curriculum reflecting public service values, financial and physical resources, and communication with the public and stakeholders. To become a NASPAA member, schools must first meet four precondition criteria: host university accreditation, public service-focused mission, master's degree in public administration or related field, and significant student-faculty interaction. In addition to accrediting MPA programs, NASPAA provides professional development opportunities through workshops and conferences. It also serves as a valuable resource for students seeking quality MPA programs by offering datasets and simulations to help them find the right program. Given article text here Illinois Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Indiana Indiana University, Bloomington University of Northern Iowa Upper Iowa University Wichita State University Eastern Kentucky University Morehead State University Louisiana State University Bowie State University University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth Central Michigan University Northern Michigan University Capella University Park University University of Missouri-Columbia University of Montana University of Nebraska at Omaha Rutgers University, Newark Seton Hall University Baruch College, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY Marist College The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill The University of North Carolina at Pembroke University of North Dakota Franklin University Kent State University Ohio University The Ohio State University Marywood University Penn State Harrisburg Villanova University Texas A&M International University Texas A&M University The University of Texas at Arlington Southern Utah University Norwich University Regent University The University of Washington offers a Master's in Public Administration through an online program, with affirmative responses to whether it is available.