



Making a Difference

USF School of Public Affairs



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA



**UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA**

A PREEMINENT RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

USF School of Public Affairs

SPA.USF.EDU

Public Administration

A Professional Master's Degree from the
USF School of Public Affairs



SERVING THE PUBLIC INTEREST: OUR MPA PROGRAM

Accredited and Connected.

Our Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) and has been in existence since 1979. The program has produced hundreds of graduates who currently serve or lead public sector organizations locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, and provides our students with a powerful alumni network.

Whatever Your Career Aspirations.

Whether you're seeking your first job in government, looking for a career change, or preparing yourself for a promotion, a USF MPA will help get you ready for the challenge. In addition to core competencies, we offer specialized classes in budgeting and public finance; policy design and quantitative analysis; information management; and organizational behavior and leadership to help you succeed no matter the path you take for public service.

Making a Difference Internationally.

We also welcome international students. We can equip you with the very latest public management tools and techniques and prepare you to make a difference in your home country.



OUR UNIQUE EMPHASIS ON EXPERIENTIAL, HANDS ON LEARNING

Real-World Student-Led Projects.

Our MPA is far more than theory. The Tampa Bay area offers all of the public sector opportunities and challenges that come with a thriving, diverse community. Our curriculum takes full advantage of these opportunities and incorporates real-world projects in the classroom to provide our students with hands-on experience.

Exciting Internship Opportunities.

As part of our emphasis on experiential learning, we require students to complete an internship unless they meet the requirement for qualified public service experience, which is determined at the discretion of the MPA Program Director. Through partnerships cultivated throughout the Tampa Bay area, we can provide plenty of exciting internship opportunities. For example, we have students interning at the cities of Safety Harbor and Zephyrhills, the Ronald McDonald House Charities Tampa Bay, Senior Connection Center, and a host of local governments.

Mentoring, Collaboration, and Networking.

We've established strong relationships and partnerships with local public sector leaders, many whom have their MPA from USF. They serve on our program's Advisory Board, volunteer to mentor our students, and provide professional networking, collaboration, and placement opportunities.

WHY NOW? OPPORTUNITIES COULDN'T BE BETTER!

There's no better time to complete your MPA, as job prospects couldn't be better. National, state-wide, and local employment projections indicate thousands of openings in the public sector at every level of government, non-profits and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private companies that support the public sector.

LEARN FROM A WORLD-CLASS FACULTY

Our faculty is dedicated to public service and to our profession, and we are all committed to student success...in the classroom and in life.

- **Stephen Aikins, PhD;** Associate Professor: A Fulbright scholar and a CPA with expertise in public budgeting, public finance, public information management, and political economy.
- **John Daly, PhD;** Associate Professor: A Fulbright scholar with expertise in local government, public sector human resources and labor relations, human security, and organizational theory.
- **Tamara Dimitrijevska-Markoski, PhD;** Assistant Professor: Expertise in performance measurement and management, local governments, and collaborative service delivery.
- **Jocilyn Martinez, PhD;** Assistant Professor of Instruction: Expertise in local government, public service and leadership, and project management.
- **Stephen Neely, PhD;** Associate Professor and MPA Program Director: Expertise in public policy design and analysis, survey design and methodology, and quantitative analysis.
- **Ratna Okhai, PhD;** Assistant Professor: Expertise in network governance and emergency/crisis management.
- **Christa Remington, PhD;** Assistant Professor: Expertise in nonprofit management and emergency management.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Individuals interested in applying for our MPA program must meet the following requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- GRE scores of 153-V, 146-Q, and 4.0-AW (applicants with an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.0+ are exempt)
- Two letters of recommendation (preferably from both an academic and professional reference)
- Statement of intent/career goals
- Resume or curriculum vitae

Visit our [MPA Admissions page](#) for additional information, including application deadlines and requirements.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Our MPA degree requires a total of 39 credit hours of graduate coursework, comprising of 9 required core courses (27 credit hours), 3 elective courses (9 credit hours), and a mandatory 3 credit hour internship requirement. The internship requirement may be waived for those who can demonstrate at least 5+ years of senior public sector management experience. The following are the core courses:

PAD 5700 Research Methods

PAD 6060 Public Organizational Theory

PAD 6227 Public Budgeting

PAD 6275 Political Economy

PAD 6307 Policy Design & Implementation

PAD 6417 Human Resources Management

PAD 6703 Quantitative Analysis

PAD 6710 Government Technology for Decision-Making

PAD 6056 Practice of Public Management (Capstone)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

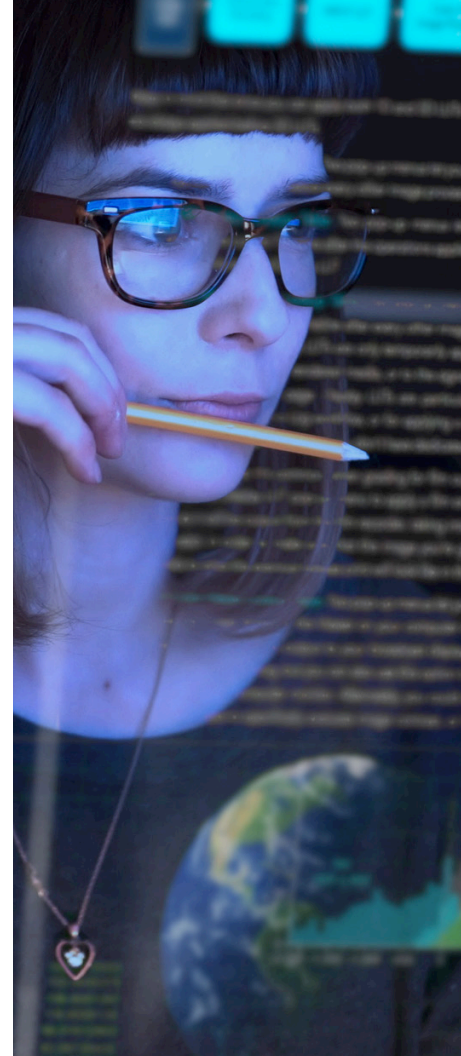
We also offer cutting-edge Graduate Certificates that are open to both graduate degree-seeking and non-degree seeking students.

Public Management (18 credit hours). Our “mini-MPA” gives students a well-rounded foundation in the basic theory and practice of public management. This certificate is ideal for the mid-career professional who is ready to move up.

Management of Non-Governmental & Non-Profit Organizations (18 credit hours). Learn how to organize, fund, and manage non-profit and non-governmental organizations. This certificate is ideal for those in the non-profit sector.

Data Science for Public Administration (15 credit hours). Data Science is one of the most in-demand disciplines in the public sector. Learn how to leverage “big data” to support public policies and programs.

Students who complete any of the above Graduate Certificates with a GPA of 3.50, or higher, can apply and be admitted to the MPA program without the GRE requirement. Once admitted, all courses completed in the certificate program may be eligible for transfer into the MPA program. Visit our [Graduate Certificate Programs page](#) for additional information, including application deadlines and requirements.





SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our School offers three scholarship awards and a Graduate Assistantship position.

Jamil Jreisat Scholarship. Named after (and established by) Professor Emeritus Dr. Jamil Jreisat, this scholarship is awarded annually to 1-2 deserving MPA students.

Joan Pynes Memorial Scholarship. In memory of the late Professor Dr. Joan Pynes, this scholarship supports graduate students interested in the management of non-governmental and non-profit organizations.

James E. Blanton III Veterans Scholarship. In memory of Dr. J. Ellis Blanton's son—James E. Blanton III—this scholarship is awarded to MPA student veterans who honorably served in a branch of the U.S. military or the National Guard.

MPA Graduate Assistant. One position is available to a fully admitted MPA student. To qualify for the tuition waiver that accompanies the assistantship stipend, the student must be enrolled full-time.

USF also offers a number of financial/funding opportunities to graduate students. Visit our [Graduate Funding page](#) for additional information.

For More Information

Visit [USF's School of Public Affairs website](#), where you'll find all you need to know about our MPA program, as well as how and when to apply.

You can also contact our MPA Program Director, Dr. Stephen Neely, via email at srneely@usf.edu.



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