

ACCELERATED DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY / MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY (BA-MPP)

Last Updated: October 31, 2018

PART I: PROGRAM HISTORY

A. Statement of purpose

The School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) proposes a new accelerated dual-degree program with the Master of Public Policy (MPP) and its existing Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy (BA-PP). This accelerated program would parallel the successful 4+1 program of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) with the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy.

A note on nomenclature: The university prefers us use the “4+1” designation for this type of accelerated dual-degree program. In reality, this program is not a true 4+1 program as typical students would need to take extra credits beyond 10 regular semesters to complete the two degrees in 5 years, if they do not bring in any advanced placement credits. Nevertheless, this program is an **accelerated** version of what would be required should students take the two programs in sequence due to the “double-counting” of credits between the two programs.

⇒ SPPA faculty voted to approve the MPP and the BA-MPP program on September 15, 2017. The BA-MPP program proposal was not acted upon last year given to the need to establish the MPP program first. All substantive aspects of the BA-MPP proposal remain the same as last year, although the document looks different due to the new Graduate Program Statement template. Letters of support from the department, college, honors program, and library are attached.

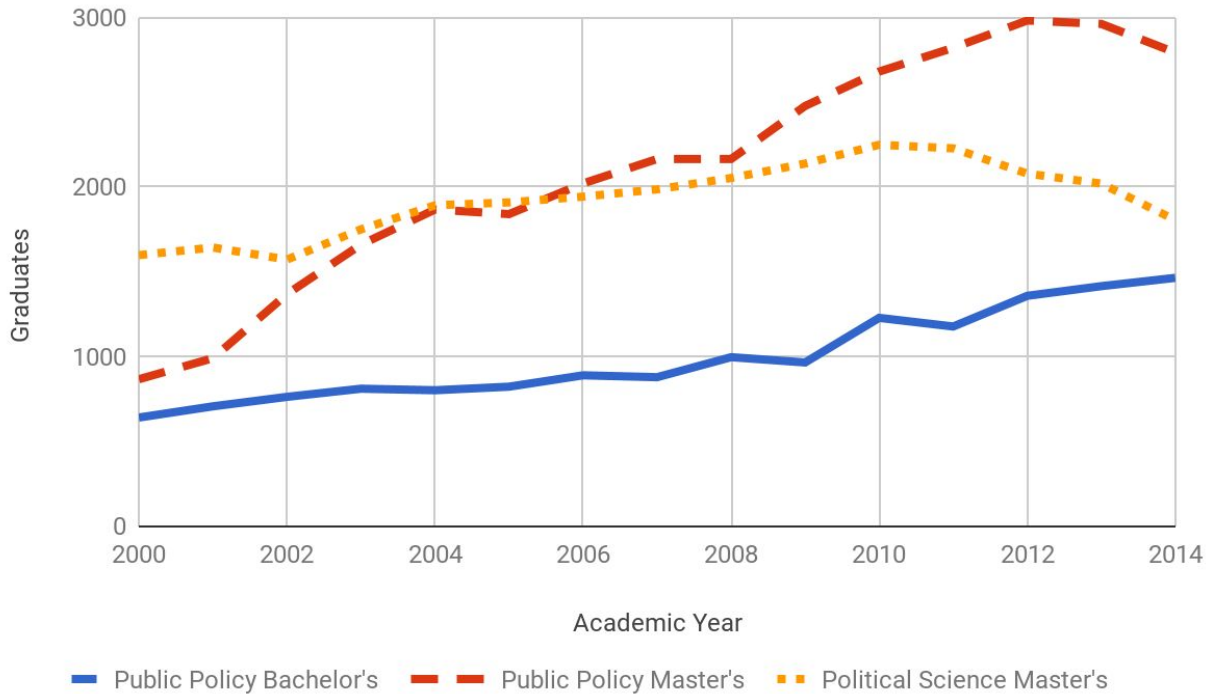
Student Demand

Nationally, graduates from public policy programs at both the bachelors and masters levels have risen steadily since the 2000-01 academic year (see **Figure 1**).¹ By 2006-07, public policy masters programs graduated more students than traditional political science masters programs, and the gap has continued to widen while the trend in political science graduates has stayed relatively flat. All graduate programs in public affairs (including public administration) experienced a slight decline from 2012-13 to 2014-15, but overall the trend for public policy programs is overwhelmingly positive. Both bachelors and masters public policy programs have more than doubled in annual degrees granted since 2000-01.

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<http://www.governing.com/gov-data/education-data/degree-completions-college-graduates-by-field-annual-statistics.html>

Figure 1. Graduates of Public Policy and Political Science Programs Nationally

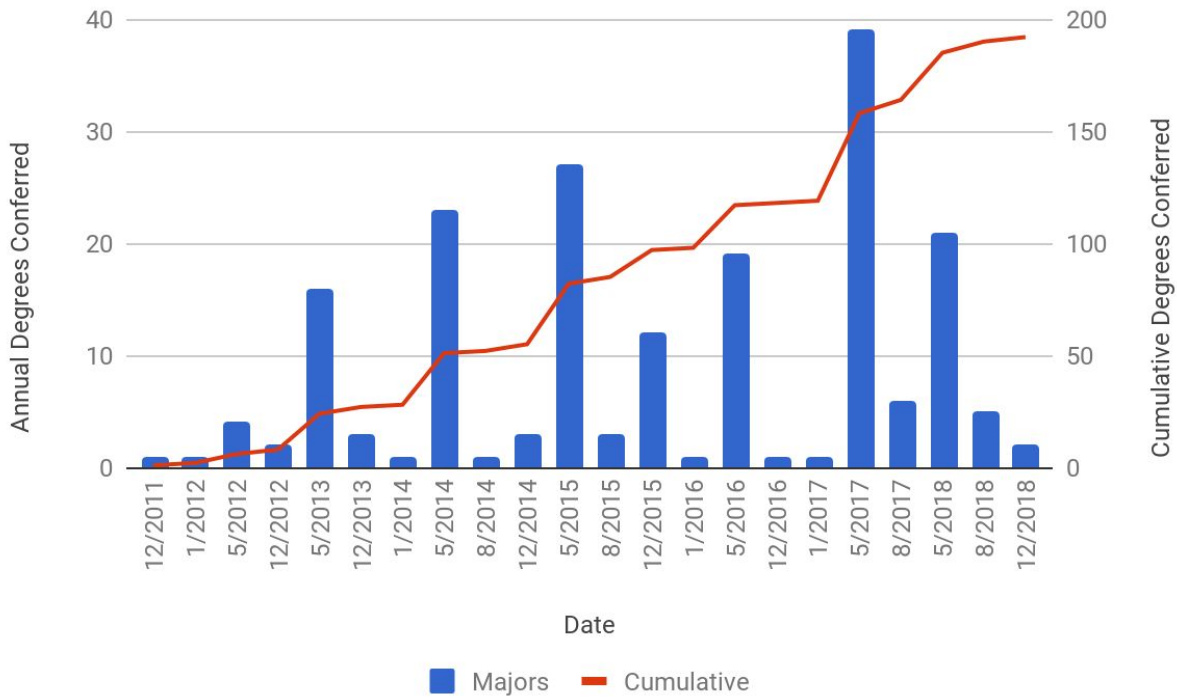


Source: Governing Magazine, using data from Digest of Education Statistics reports and the National Center for Education Statistics.²

The steady growth in public policy bachelor's degree completions is an important consideration for UD. SPPA first began to offer a bachelor of arts degree in public policy in 2009, and expanded to add accelerated bachelor-to-master programs in 2012. Enrollments have grown steadily (see **Figure 2**), illustrating latent demand for interdisciplinary public policy education among UD undergraduate students. Several recent UD BA graduates have completed their masters education at institutions such as American University, University of Maryland, and the London School of Economics. We anticipate that by offering the accelerated BA-MPP program, we can provide a path for more UD undergraduate students to complete their master's degree at SPPA.

² Ibid.

Figure 2. Graduates from UD’s BA in Public Policy Program



Note: includes only majors in Public Policy; another 47 students have graduated with minors in public policy since spring 2013.

B. Date of permanent status

We expect to accept students into the accelerated program beginning in Academic Year 2019-20, with the first graduates expected in Academic Year 2021-22.

C. Degrees offered

The program jointly confers the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy (BA-PP) or Honors Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy (HBA-PP) and the Master of Public Policy (MPP). Neither degree has concentrations or fields of study.

PART II. ADMISSION

A. Admission requirements

Current undergraduate students enrolled in the BA in Public Policy or Honors BA in Public Policy program are eligible to apply to the accelerated BA-MPP program **after completing 60 credits**, which is typically the fall of their junior year.

Admission decisions for the BA-MPP program are made by an admissions committee of SPPA faculty. Students will be admitted based on enrollment availability, their perceived fit within the program, and their ability to meet the following minimum recommended entrance requirements:

- An undergraduate GPA of **3.3 or higher** (on a 4.0 scale)
- GRE scores that are similarly distributed on the quantitative and verbal aptitude portions, with a priority on the demonstration of strong analytical ability. GRE scores are viewed in the context of the applicant's complete record. *GRE may be waived by the admissions committee for applicants with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.*
- International applicants: a minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based) or 100 (TOEFL iBT) is generally required. SPPA does not accept IELTS scores.

B. Prior degree requirements

N/A

C. Application deadlines.

Applicants must submit their completed application through the Graduate Admissions website (<https://grad.udel.edu/apply/>) by **November 1** for the following spring semester start; or **April 1** for the following fall semester start. Applications should designate desired admission into the 4+1 BA-MPP program.

D. Special competencies needed

Students must be enrolled in, or have completed, the introductory course sequence of UAPP110, UAPP225, and UAPP325 by the time they apply to the program.

E. Admission categories

All accepted students would have dual enrollment status in both the Bachelor of Arts program and the MPP program. No provisional admissions will be granted.

F. Other documents required

The BA-MPP student applicants should complete the “short form” for admission, which requires a plan of study that indicates the courses intended to be double-counted between the two programs.

The application requires a written statement of goals and objectives (the personal statement) that clearly identifies the applicant's educational objectives and explains how admission to the program will facilitate his or her professional interests.

Three letters of recommendation must be submitted, including one letter desired from a current or former employer who can speak to the applicant's professional capabilities, and one letter desired from a faculty member familiar with the student's capabilities in public policy study.

Applicants must complete an interview with the MPP Program Director prior to submission.

G. University statement

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Those who meet stated requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths.

PART III. ACADEMIC

A. Degree requirements

Students in the 4+1 BA-MPP program must complete the degree requirements of the BA in Public Policy and the degree requirements of the MPP. We propose that 15 credits be "double-counted" across the two degrees, as we do with the 4+1 Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, which would eliminate one semester of full-time undergraduate study.

All graduate courses must be completed for the MPP degree; there is no difference in graduate curriculum for MPP direct-admit or BA-MPP students.

The MPP curriculum and Public Policy major requirements are repeated here for reference.

1. Curriculum - MPP

The **Master of Public Policy (MPP)** degree requires 42 credits: a core of 27 credits, electives of 9 credits, an internship, and a 6 credit capstone course.

Core Courses (27cr)

*Complete 6 credits of **policy foundations**:*

UAPP701 - Public Policy (3cr)

UAPP707 - Public Policy Analysis (3cr)

*Complete 21 credits of **research methods and tools**:*

UAPP702 - Research Methods in Urban and Public Policy (3cr)

UAPP691 - Quantitative Analysis in Public and Non-Profit Sectors (3cr)

SPPA704 - Advanced Quantitative Methods (3cr)

UAPP693 - Economics in Public and Non-Profit Sectors (3cr)

UAPP709 - Advanced Economics in Public and Non-Profit Sectors (3cr) -- NEW

UAPP684 - Performance Management and Program Evaluation (3cr)

Plus choose one of the following (3cr):

- UAPP663 - Decision Tools for Policy Analysis (3cr) [MAST owner]
- UAPP694 - Financial Management in Public and Non-Profit Sectors (3cr)
- UAPP718 - Survey Research Methods (3cr)
- UAPP755 - Evaluation Models and Approaches (3cr) [EVAL owner]
- UAPP756 - Advanced Seminar in Evaluation (3cr) [EVAL owner]
- UAPP761 - Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Problem Solving (3cr)
- UAPP800 - Research Methods and Data Analysis (3cr)
- SPPA808 - Qualitative Methods for Program Evaluation (3cr)
- HLPR632 - Health Science Data Analysis (3cr)
- MAST672 - Benefit-Cost Analysis (3cr)
- PHIL613 - Research Ethics (0-3cr)³

Electives (9cr)

Each student would design a plan of study in consultation with their assigned faculty advisor, including 9 credits of electives built around the student's substantive policy interests.

Possible areas of interest include but are not limited to:

Urban Policy:

- UAPP605 - Metropolitan Planning and Governance (3cr)
- UAPP606 - Local Economic Development: Policy and Practice (3cr)
- UAPP608 - Poverty, Neighborhoods, and Community Development (3cr)
- UAPP612 - Urban Housing Policy and Administration (3cr)
- UAPP613 - Planning Theory and Urban Policy (3cr)
- UAPP627 - World Heritage Sites (1cr)
- UAPP639 - Community Development Theory, Concepts, and Practice (3cr)
- UAPP703 - Urban Society and Public Policy (3cr)
- UAPP706 - Plan Sustainable Communities and Regions (3cr)
- EDUC659 - Urban Schools in Urban Landscapes (3cr)

Social Policy:

- UAPP640 - International Development Policy and Administration (3cr)
- UAPP649 - Civil Rights Law and Policy (3cr)
- UAPP703 - Urban Society and Public Policy (3cr)
- UAPP823 - Social and Urban Policy (3cr)
- GEOG630 - Food Geographies and Food Justice (3cr)
- HDFS870 - Prevention Intervention and Policy (3cr)
- MALS630 - Human Rights and Liberties (3cr)
- SOCI615 - Race, Class, and Gender (3cr)
- SOCI630 - Juvenile Justice and Inequality (3cr)

³ If used to satisfy the extra methods requirement, must be taken for 3 credits.

SOCI637 - Law and Society in Historical Perspective (3cr)

Education Policy:

EDUC659 - Urban Schools in Urban Landscapes (3cr)

EDUC811 - Topics in Education Policy (3cr)

EDUC839 - Education Policy and Governance (3cr)

ECON820 - Economics of Education Policy (3cr)

HDFS870 - Prevention Intervention and Policy (3cr)

Emergency Management:

DISA650 - Introduction to Disaster Science and Management (3cr)

DISA651 - International Comparative Analysis of Disasters (3cr)

DISA670 - Issues in Disaster Response (3cr)

DISA690 - Natural Hazards (3cr)

CIEG641 - Risk Analysis (3cr)

SOCI667 - Disasters and Society (3cr)

SOCI671 - Disasters, Vulnerability, and Development (3cr)

SOCI837 - Criminology and Systems of Criminal Justice (3cr)

Health Policy:⁴

UAPP653 - Politics and Healthcare (3cr)

UAPP657 - Health Policy (3cr)

For use with any area of interest:

UAPP715 - Media, Citizenship and Public Policy (3cr)

UAPP687 - State Government Policy and Management (3cr)

UAPP668 - Government Budgets and Fiscal Federalism (3cr)

UAPP730 - Topics in Public Policy (3cr)

UAPP666 - Special Problem (1-3cr) - maximum of 3cr applied to degree

UAPP661 - Comparative Public Administration and Policy (1cr)

UAPP724 - Comparative Public Policy (3cr)

***Note:** we deliberately chose not to design an area of interest in environmental policy despite relevant capacity because **separate masters degrees are already offered at UD in Energy and Environmental Policy, Water Science and Policy, and Marine Policy.** All three programs are research-oriented degrees so there may be student interest in adding an environmental track for the professional MPP degree. We will see how that interest develops and design student plans of study accordingly.*

Internship (0cr)

Complete a non-credit-bearing internship, ideally during the summer between years:

⁴ The university and SPPA identified health policy as a desired area of growth - future hires are expected to fill out course offerings in this area, possibly taught by or conjointly with faculty in the College of Health Sciences.

UNIV554 - Graduate Internship Semester (0cr)

Note: can be waived for part-time or mid-career applicants.

Capstone (6cr)

Complete the following capstone experience, typically in the last spring semester:

UAPP714 - Policy Studio (6cr)

2. Bachelor of Arts - Public Policy (BA-PP) requirements

The **Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy** degree requires 124 credits, including all university requirements, College of Arts and Sciences requirements, and major requirements.

The Public Policy major requirements (30 cr) include:

Core Courses (12 cr - minimum)

- UAPP 110 - Changing the World and Public Policy (3cr.)
- UAPP 225 - Crafting Public Policy (3cr.)
- UAPP 300 - Public Policy Field Experience (1 to 9cr.)
- UAPP 325 - Public Policy Analysis (3cr.)

Capstone Experience (3 cr - minimum) - choose 1:

- UAPP 440 - Contemporary Policy Issues (3cr.)
- UAPP 487 - State Government Policy and Management (3cr.) [only for students in the Legislative Fellows program]
- UNIV 402 - Senior Thesis (2 to 4cr.)

UAPP Electives (15 cr - minimum)

- At least six credits must be at the 400-level or higher.
- No more than six credits may be completed in directed study courses (366 or 466; 268 or 468).
- May not count teaching assistant credits toward major (UAPP 390).

Total public policy major credits = 30 cr

Related Work - Electives (15 cr - minimum)

- Courses in any of the following areas: Anthropology, Black American Studies, Communication, Criminal Justice, Economics, Energy and Environmental Policy, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Leadership, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, Sociology, Statistics, Women and Gender Studies.

3. Degree Modifications for BA-MPP Students

Table 1 details the changes to the BA-Public Policy major requirements for BA-MPP students.

Table 1. Curricular Changes to BA-Public Policy for BA-MPP Students

Current for BA-Public Policy	Proposed for BA-MPP
<i>Required (12cr)</i>	<i>Required (12cr)</i>
UAPP110 - Changing the World (3cr)	Same
UAPP225 - Crafting Public Policy (3cr)	Same
UAPP325 - Public Policy Analysis (3cr)	Same
UAPP300 - Public Policy Field Experience (3cr)	Same
<i>Required (3cr) - pick one-</i>	<i>Required (3cr)</i>
UAPP440 - Contemporary Policy Issues (3cr)	UAPP440 - Contemporary Policy Issues (3cr)
UAPP487 - State Government Policy and Management (3cr) [only for students in the Legislative Fellows program]	N/A
UNIV402 - Senior Thesis (2-4cr)	UNIV402 - Senior Thesis (2-4cr)
<i>Electives (15cr)</i>	<i>Electives (15cr)</i>
Take 15cr in UAPP courses	Double-count 15cr from MPP courses
<i>Total in major (30cr)</i>	<i>Same</i>
<i>Related work (15cr)</i>	<i>Same</i>
Plus all university and college requirements	Same
<i>Total for BA degree (124cr)</i>	<i>Same</i>

Explanations:

- Students must complete the BA-Public Policy introductory course sequence (UAPP110, UAPP225, UAPP325) before admission to the program.
- 15-credits would be double-counted from the MPP program for the BA electives, to be specified on the “short form” application.
- Students who begin their undergraduate program *without* advanced placement or college credit would likely need to take courses during 2 winter or summer sessions to complete both degrees in the desired 5 years.

4. For HBA-MPP (Honors) Students

Our current undergraduate students may pursue an honors degree in public policy (HBA-PP). All undergraduate requirements would remain the same for honors students applying to the HBA-MPP program. See attached letter from the honors program.

B. Timetable

1. Academic Load

Students in the BA-MPP program will typically be enrolled full-time throughout both degree programs. Full-time study for BA students is at least 12 credits per semester, typically 15-16 credits. Full-time study for an MPP student working 20 hours per week is 9 credits per semester; 12-15 credits if working fewer hours.

Students would apply to the BA-MPP program after the completion of 60 credits, which is typically in the fall of the 3rd year. MPP courses would be introduced incrementally to the student's program for the remainder of their 3rd and 4th years. Full-time MPP study should commence in the 5th year. Sequencing and timing of courses should be discussed closely and frequently with the student's advisor.

Progress will be tracked each semester by the MPP program director, in concert with assessment of other MPP students.

2. Sample Sequence for BA-MPP Students

A sample sequence is complex to design for BA-MPP students, given that most of our undergraduate students have multiple majors and/or minors, or wish to study abroad at some point. Nevertheless, **Table 2** offers a possible course sequence for BA-MPP students entering the major in the freshman year and with only one undergraduate major.

Table 2. Sample sequence for full-time students in BA-MPP program

Year 1, Fall	Year 1, Spring	Year 2, Fall	Year 2, Spring
UAPP110 (3cr) ENGL110 (3cr) Math (3cr) Language (3cr) Breadth (3cr) FYE (1cr) =16cr	UAPP225 (3cr) Language (3cr) Breadth or Skills (9cr) =15cr	UAPP325 (3cr) Breadth or Skills (12cr) =15cr	UAPP elective (3cr) Breadth or Skills (12cr) =15cr +3-6cr winter or summer Year 2
Year 3, Fall	Year 3, Spring	Year 4, Fall	Year 4, Spring
UAPP elective (3cr)	UAPP701 (3cr)*	UAPP691 (3cr)*	UAPP704 (3cr)*

Breadth or skills [i.e., 2nd writing] (12cr) =15cr <i>(apply to BA-MPP program)</i>	Breadth or skills or BA electives (12cr) =15cr +3-6cr winter or summer Year 3	UAPP707 (3cr)* UAPP300 (3cr) Breadth or skills or BA electives (6cr) =15cr	UAPP693 (3cr)* UAPP440 (3cr) Breadth or skills or BA electives (3cr) =12cr <i>(BA-PP degree awarded)</i>
Year 5, Fall	Year 5, Spring		
UAPP702 (3cr) UAPP709 (3cr) UAPP684 (3cr) Extra methods or MPP elective (3cr) =12cr	UAPP714 (6cr) Extra methods or MPP elective (6cr) =12cr +3-6cr winter or summer Years 4-5 <i>(MPP degree awarded)</i>		

* suggested “double-counted” courses - to be confirmed on the graduate plan of study, as required by the Graduate Office

3. Satisfactory progress

SPPA follows university policies⁵ on student retention and degree progress, which requires maintaining a 3.0 GPA in all graduate courses. Students may be dismissed from the program due to academic underperformance or other circumstances as outlined by the university’s graduate academic policies. A grievance process exists for students to challenge their recommendation for dismissal.

PART IV. ASSESSMENT PLAN

The BA-MPP program will be assessed according to the learning goals for the BA-PP and MPP programs. No unique assessments are expected for the BA-MPP program.

PART V. FINANCIAL AID

BA-MPP students are eligible for all degree-appropriate financial aid, including the possibility of graduate assistantships during the 5th year. No unique financial aid is expected for the BA-MPP program.

⁵ <https://grad.udel.edu/policies/graduate-academic-policies/#>

PART VI. DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

BA-MPP students must follow all expectations of students in both the BA and MPP programs, which include expectations from the School of Public Policy and Administration, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the university at large. Any questions should be directed to the MPP program director or SPPA administrative staff in 184 Graham Hall.