

4+1 PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (BA-MPA)

Last Updated: November 11, 2019

PART I: PROGRAM HISTORY

A. Statement of purpose

The Biden School of Public Policy and Administration (Biden School) proposes a new 4+1 program with the Master of Public Administration (MPA) and the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (BA-PS). This accelerated program would parallel the successful 4+1 programs of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) with the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy/Bachelor of Science in Organizational and Community Leadership/Bachelor of Arts in English.

The Political Science BA students electing the 4+ 1 Program will complete the existing 18-credit minor in Public Policy involving UAPP 110: Changing the World; UAPP 225: Crafting Public Policy; and UAAP 325 Public Policy Analysis; and in consultation with an advisor from Public Policy will take three additional courses selected from the public policy curriculum.

Political Science majors may apply to the 4+ 1 program after completing 60 credit hours. This is typically in the Fall semester of their Junior Year. The completed application will be reviewed by the admissions committee for the MPA.

Students admitted to the 4+ 1 program will complete all requirements for the BA in Political Science prior to the start of their fifth year of study.

B. Date of permanent status

We expect to accept students into the 4+1 program beginning in Academic Year 2020-21, with the first graduates expected in Academic Year 2022-23.

C. Degrees offered

The program jointly confers the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (BA-POSC) or Honors Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (HBA-POSC) and the Master of Public Administration (MPA).

The Political Science major may be completed without a concentration - providing a broad overview of the field - or with a concentration in one of the following areas: American Politics, Global Politics, Politics, Groups and Identity or Politics, Law and Theory.

MPA students may choose from one of the following specialization areas: Nonprofit Management, Public Management, Public Policy Analysis, Emergency Management, or a Student-Designed Specialization. In addition to the MPA core requirements, students are required to complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework in their chosen area of specialization. Course availability varies by semester, and students' selections should be made in consultation with their academic advisor.

PART II. ADMISSION

A. Admission requirements

Current undergraduate students enrolled in the BA in Political Science or Honors BA in Political Science program are eligible to apply to the accelerated BA-MPA program **after completing 60 credits**, which is typically the Fall of their junior year.

Admission decisions for the BA-MPA program are made by an admissions committee of Biden School 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.*

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-MPA 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 MPA program. No provisional admissions will be granted.

F. Other documents required

The BA-MPA student application materials include:

- A completed University of Delaware graduate application. Student should select spring of the upcoming year (junior year) as the application term.
- Three letters of recommendation (at least one from a faculty member in the student's undergraduate program).
- A current resume.
- A comprehensive UD unofficial undergraduate transcript.
- A statement of personal interests and objectives that clearly identifies the applicant's educational objectives and explains how admission to the program will facilitate his or her professional interests.
- Biden School Supplementary Information Form: This form provides information about the student's academic program, area of interest, financial assistance, affiliation with other institutions and programs, and how they heard about the Biden School.
- GRE scores: Applicants must take the GRE by December of their junior year. The GRE requirement may be waived by the appropriate graduate program director for those with a GPA of 3.5 and above.
- 4+1 form required by the Graduate Office that must be completed at the time of the application. <http://www1.udel.edu/gradoffice/forms-new/4+1.pdf>. This form requires signatures from Political Science and the MPA departments.

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-MPA program must complete the degree requirements of the BA in Political Science and the degree requirements of the MPA. We propose that 15 credits be

“double-counted” across the two degrees, as we do with other 4+1 programs in the Biden School, which would eliminate one semester of full-time graduate study.

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

The MPA curriculum and Political Science major requirements are repeated here for reference.

1. Curriculum - MPA

The **Master of Public Administration (MPA)** degree requires 36 credits: a core of 24 credits, specialization courses of 9 credits, a 1 credit internship, and a 2-credit capstone course.

Core Courses (24cr)

UAPP684	Performance Management & Program Evaluation (3)
OR	OR
UAPP702	Research Methods in Urban & Public Policy (3)
UAPP689	Information Technology and Management of Public & Nonprofit Organizations (3)
UAPP690	Seminar in Public Administration (3)
UAPP691	Quantitative Analysis in Public & Nonprofit Sectors (3)
UAPP693	Economics in Public & Nonprofit Sectors (3)
UAPP694	Financial Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors (3)
UAPP696	Human Resources in Public and Nonprofit Organizations (3)
UAPP697	Leading Organizations in Public and Nonprofit Sectors (3)
UAPP860	Internship Seminar (1) The Internship Experience is a requirement for those with fewer than two years of professional work experience in a public or nonprofit setting. An Internship Experience waiver requires the approval of the Internship Coordinator.
UAPP699	Capstone Project (2)

MPA Program Specializations (9cr)

In addition to the MPA core requirements, students are required to complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework in their chosen area of specialization. Course availability varies by semester, and students' selections should be made in consultation with their academic advisor.

Students may choose from one of the following specialization areas:

Nonprofit Management:

The 3-credit 'threshold course' is UAPP 673: Governing Nonprofit Organizations. Students in the Nonprofit Management specialization also take at least 6 additional credits from other recommended courses. Recommended courses include those listed below (semester course is typically offered in parentheses). However, in consultation with their advisor students may fulfill the specialization by taking a wide range of courses both inside and outside of The Biden School.

- UAPP 641: Topics in Nonprofit Management and Leadership: Responsibility & Social Impact (spring)
- UAPP 644: Grantsmanship and Proposal Writing (fall)
- UAPP 672: Nonprofit Organizations: Scope, Framework, and Dynamics (spring)
- UAPP 674: Strategic Fundraising and Marketing for Nonprofits (spring)
- UAPP 761: Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Problem Solving (fall)

Public Management:

The 3-credit 'threshold course' is UAPP 684: Performance Management & Program Evaluation. Students in the Public Management specialization also take at least 6 additional credits from other recommended courses. Recommended courses include those listed below (semester course is typically offered in parentheses). However, in consultation with their advisor students may fulfill the specialization by taking a wide range of courses both inside and outside of SPPA.

- UAPP 652: Geographic Information Systems in Public Policy (fall)
- UAPP 661: Comparative Public Administration and Policy (spring)
- UAPP 668: Government Budgets and Fiscal Federalism (fall)
- UAPP 687: State Government Policy and Management (spring)
- UAPP 761: Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Problem Solving (fall)

Public Policy Analysis:

The 3-credit 'threshold course' is UAPP 701: Public Policy. Students in the Public Policy Analysis specialization also take at least 6 additional credits from other recommended courses. Recommended courses include those listed below (semester course is typically offered in parentheses). However, in consultation with their advisor students may fulfill the specialization by taking a wide range of courses both inside and outside of SPPA.

- UAPP 657: Health Policy (fall/spring)
- UAPP 663: Decision Tools for Policy Analysis (fall)
- UAPP 702: Research Methods in Urban and Public Policy (fall)
- UAPP 704: Advanced Quantitative Methods (spring)
- UAPP 707: Public Policy Analysis (spring)

Emergency Management:

The 3-credit 'threshold course' is DISA650: Overview of Disaster Science and Management, and students also take at least 6 additional credits from recommended courses.

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

DISA651 - International Comparative Analysis of Disasters (3cr)
DISA670 - Issues in Disaster Response (3cr)
DISA680 – Disaster Science and Management Seminar
UAPP652 – GIS in Public Policy

Student-Designed Specialization:

The student-designed specialization allows students, with the approval of their faculty advisor and the MPA director, to formulate a specialized program of study related to their unique academic and professional interests. Proposals for a student designed specialization must demonstrate a clear and relevant relationship to the field of public administration/management, organizational leadership, public policy, or advocacy in the public interest and must identify at least 9 credits of specialization-related graduate course work.

This specialization prepares students for a wide array of career options and may be a good choice for those contemplating continuing their graduate education beyond the master's level.

Internship (1cr)

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

UAPP860 – Internship Seminar (1cr)

Note: The Internship Experience is a requirement for those with fewer than two years of professional work experience in a public or nonprofit setting. An Internship Experience waiver requires the approval of the Internship Coordinator.

Capstone (2cr)

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

UAPP699 - Capstone Project in Public Management and Policy (2cr)

2. Bachelor of Arts – Political Science (BA-POSC) requirements

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

The Political Science major requirements (30 cr) include:

Core Courses (12 cr - minimum)

- POSC 150 - Introduction to American Politics (3cr.)
- POSC 240 - Introduction to Global Politics (3cr.)
- POSC 300 - Research Methods for Political Science (3cr.)
- One of the following:
 - POSC 220 - Introduction to Public Policy (3cr.)

- POSC 270 - Introduction to Comparative Politics (3cr.)
- POSC 285 - Introduction to Political Theory (3cr.)

Restricted Electives (18 cr - minimum)

Eighteen credits distributed as follows:

- Nine credits from courses at the 400-level.
- Nine credits from courses at the 300 or 400-level.
- Three credit hours of [POSC 464](#) (approved Internship), [POSC 466](#) (Independent Study), or [POSC 468](#) (Undergraduate Research) may count once towards completion of the required 18 hours of upper division coursework.
 - [POSC 464](#) and [POSC 468](#) fulfill the DLE requirement.
- A student must take at least one course numbered at the 300 or 400-level in three of four fields listed below ([Please refer to the list of approved elective courses in each field](#)):
 - American Politics
 - Comparative Politics
 - International Relations
 - Political Theory

Electives

After required courses are completed, sufficient elective credits must be taken to meet the minimum credit requirement for the degree.

Total Political Science major credits = 30 credits in POSC minimum; 45 credits maximum

3. Degree Modifications for BA-MPA Students

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

Table 1. Curricular Changes to BA-Political Science for BA-MPA Students

Current for BA-Political Science	Proposed for BA-MPA
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<p>Core Courses (12 cr - minimum)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSC 150 - Introduction to American Politics (3cr.) • POSC 240 - Introduction to Global Politics (3cr.) • POSC 300 - Research Methods for Political Science (3cr.) • One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSC 220 - Introduction to Public Policy (3cr.) • POSC 270 - Introduction to Comparative Politics (3cr.) • POSC 285 - Introduction to Political Theory (3cr.) 	<p>Same</p>
<p>Restricted Electives (18 cr - minimum) Eighteen credits distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nine credits from courses at the 400-level. ○ Nine credits from courses at the 300 or 400-level. ○ Three credit hours of POSC 464 (approved Internship), POSC 466 (Independent Study), or POSC 468 (Undergraduate Research) may count once towards completion of the required 18 hours of upper division coursework. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ POSC 464 and POSC 468 fulfill the DLE requirement. ○ A student must take at least one course numbered at the 300 or 400-level in three of four fields listed below (Please refer to the list of approved elective courses in each field): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ American Politics ▪ Comparative Politics ▪ International Relations ▪ Political Theory 	<p>Same</p>
<p><i>University Requirements</i></p>	<p><i>University Requirements</i></p>

ENGL110 – Seminar in Composition (3cr)	Same
First Year Seminar (FYS) (0-4 credits)	Same
Discovery Learning Experience (DLE) (3cr)	Same
Multicultural Requirement (3cr)	Same
University Breadth Requirements (12cr)	Same
Political Science Capstone	Same
<i>College Breadth Requirements</i>	<i>College Breadth Requirements</i>
NOTE: The College Breadth requirements are in addition to the University Breadth requirement. Up to three credits from each of the University Breadth Requirement categories may be used to simultaneously satisfy these College of Arts and Sciences Breadth Requirements.	Same
GROUP A: Creative Arts and Humanities (Nine Credits)	Same
GROUP B: History and Cultural Change (Nine Credits)	Same
GROUP C: Social and Behavioral Sciences (Nine Credits)	Same
GROUP D: Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology (Ten Credits)	Same
<i>College of Arts and Science Skill Requirements</i>	<i>College of Arts and Science Skill Requirements</i>
Second Writing Requirement (3cr)	Second Writing Requirement (3cr)
Math Requirement (3cr)	Math Requirement (3cr)
Foreign Language Requirement (0-12)	Foreign Language Requirement (0-12)
<i>Concentration Requirement</i>	<i>Concentration Requirement</i>

Six courses (18 credits) from approved list of courses, with at least three courses taken at the 400-level	Six courses (18 credits) from approved list of courses, with at least three courses taken at the 400-level
Total in major (30cr)	Same
Additional Requirements	Additional Requirements (for the graduate)
N/A	<p>Minor in Public Policy (18cr)</p> <p>The students electing the 4+ 1 Program will complete the 18-credit minor in Public Policy involving</p> <p>UAPP 110: Changing the World 3 UAPP 225: Crafting Public Policy 3 UAAP 325: Public Policy Analysis 3</p> <p>In consultation with an advisor from Public Policy, the student will choose 9 credits of 600-700 level courses required for the MPA.</p>
N/A	<p>In consultation with a graduate advisor the student will complete two of the following courses. Advisor will determine what is appropriate for courses in junior and senior undergraduate years.</p> <p>UAPP 684: Performance Management 3 Or UAPP 702: Research Methods 3 UAPP 689: Information Technology 3 UAPP 690: Seminar in Public Admin. 3 U APP 691: Quantitative Analysis 3 UAPP 693: Economics in Public 3 UAPP 694: Financial Management 3 UAPP 696: Human Resources 3 UAPP 697: Leading Organizations 3 UAPP 699: Policy/Management Brief 2 UAPP 860: Internship 1</p> <p>Three courses in graduate specialization 9</p>
After required courses are completed, sufficient elective credits must be taken to meet the minimum of 124 credits for the BA in Political Science. (Number of credit varies)	Free electives sufficient to equal a minimum of 124 credits for the BA degree in Political Science (Number of credit varies)
Total for BA degree (124cr)	Total for BA degree (124cr)
	Dual Counted Credits (15cr)
	To be completed in Graduate Program Year Completion of curriculum requirements for the MPA degree (21cr)

Explanations:

- Students must complete the Minor in Public Policy introductory course sequence (UAPP110, UAPP225, UAPP325) before admission to the program.
- 15-credits would be double-counted from the MPA program for the BA electives, to be specified on the “short form” application.

4. For HBA-MPA (Honors) Students

Current undergraduate students may pursue an honors degree in Political Science (HBA-PP). All undergraduate requirements would remain the same for honors students applying to the HBA-MPA program.

B. Advisement and Evaluation of Students

During the B.A. in Political Science undergraduate portion of the program, students will be assigned a faculty member teaching in Political Science as their advisor. They will work with an advisor in Public Policy to complete the minor in that program. After the student is admitted to the 4+ 1 program, students will be appointed an MPA advisor who is responsible for ensuring that students follow an appropriate plan of study. The student's advisor is responsible for monitoring student progress and performance on a regular basis until the completion of all degree requirements. The student prepares a plan of study that is approved by the advisor and that plan becomes the basis for monitoring progress throughout the program.

Once a student is admitted to the 4+ 1 program at the end of each semester the grades of all students are reviewed by the director and the faculty. All students in the 4+ 1 program are expected to maintain a 3.0 cumulative index on a 4.0 scale to remain in good standing in the program. In cases of substandard performance, actions are initiated in accord with general University guidelines regarding warning, probation, and termination. A decision to recommend to the Office of Graduate Studies to terminate a student requires the review and confirmation of the majority of the Biden School of Public Policy & Administration faculty. In addition to these procedures, at the end of each academic year the program faculty convenes to review the progress and performance of students in the program and to take appropriate action in cases of substandard performance.

C. Timetable

1. Academic Load

Students in the BA-MPA 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 MPA student working 20 hours per week is 9 credits per semester; 12-15 credits if working fewer hours.

Students would apply to the BA-MPA program after the completion of 60 credits, which is typically in the fall of the 3rd year. MPA courses would be introduced incrementally to the

student's program for the remainder of their 3rd and 4th years. Full-time MPA 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 MPA program director, in concert with assessment of other MPA students.

2. Typical Plan of Study for BA-MPA Students

In the freshman and sophomore years and the first semester of the junior year, students follow the BA in Political Science curriculum as outlined in the undergraduate catalog. In addition, they will complete the Minor in Public Policy as it currently exists. Students apply to the 4+ 1 program in the fall of their junior year (after completing 60 credits) and admitted students begin the accelerated and combined program in the spring of their junior year.

Students will work closely during their junior and senior undergraduate years with an advisor from the MPA program to select the appropriate graduate courses. Substitutions may be made by the Director of the MPA graduate program.

3. Satisfactory progress

The Biden School follows university policies¹ 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-MPA program will be assessed according to the learning goals for the BA-POSC and MPA programs. No unique assessments are expected for the BA-MPA program.

PART V. FINANCIAL AID

BA-POCS 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-MPA program.

PART VI. DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

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

¹ <https://grad.udel.edu/policies/graduate-academic-policies/#>