

Master of Public Affairs, MPAff

Requirements

The graduate Master of Public Affairs (MPAff) requires a minimum of 42 s.h. of credit. Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all core and concentration area courses and must maintain a Graduate College program grade-point average of at least 3.00.

The required curriculum includes eight core courses, electives (including those taken within a concentration area), a year-long capstone project, and an internship. Courses are offered by the School of Planning and Public Affairs (Graduate College), the departments of Management and Entrepreneurship (Tippie College of Business), Civil and Environmental Engineering (College of Engineering), Educational Policy and Leadership Studies (College of Education), Political Science, Sociology and Criminology, the School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability, the MA in strategic communication program in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), the College of Public Health, and the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center (College of Law).

The Master of Public Affairs requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	19
Concentration Area	9
Capstone	5
Electives	9

Core Courses

Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all core courses except PBAF:6208.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
PBAF:5117	Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration	3
PBAF:5120	Public Policy Process	3
PBAF:6200	Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Policy	3
PBAF:6205	Economics for Policy Analysis	3
PBAF:6208	Program Seminar	1
PBAF:6225	Applied GIS for Planning and Policy Making	3
PBAF:6233	Public Finance and Budgeting	3

Concentration Area

Students complete 9 s.h. in one of two concentration areas: public and nonprofit management or public policy. 6 s.h. must be in planning and public affairs (prefix PBAF) or urban and regional planning (prefix URP) courses numbered 5000 or above. Students further develop competencies in the concentration area by applying the concepts and skills gained in core coursework. All concentration area coursework requires a grade of B-minus or above.

Public and Nonprofit Management

Course #	Title	Hours
This required course:		
PBAF:6240	Public Management: State and Local Perspectives	3
6 s.h. from these:		
JMC:5220	Foundations of Strategic Communication	3
JMC:5225	Digital Strategic Communication	3
JMC:5236	Topics in Strategic Communication	3
JMC:5270	Leadership Communication	3
LAW:8753	Nonprofit Organizations: Structure, Governance, and Strategy	3
LAW:8755	Nonprofit Organizations: Advocacy, Collaboration, and Fundraising	3
MGMT:3500	Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I	3
MGMT:3600	Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness II	3
MGMT:4600	Nonprofit Ethics and Governance	3
PBAF:6238	Public Human Resource Management	1
PBAF:6241	Strategic Management of Public and Nonprofit Organizations	3
PBAF:6282	Grant Writing	2
PBAF:3560	Public Policy and Persuasion	3

Public Policy

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
PBAF:6201	Data Science for Urban Analytics	3
PBAF:6340	Public Policy Analysis	3
6 s.h. from these:		
CEE:3790	Resilient Infrastructure and Emergency Response	3
CEE:4107	Sustainable Systems	3
CEE:5410	Politics and Economics of the Food, Energy, Water Nexus	3
CRIM:3416	Race, Crime, and Justice	3
CRIM:3417	Community Corrections	3
CRIM:3425	Women, Crime, and Justice	3
CRIM:3600	Crime and Public Policy	3
EPLS:6222	Introduction to Educational Policy	3
EPLS:6225	Higher Education Policy	3
EPLS:6228	K-12 Education Finance and Policy	3
HMP:5610	Health Policy	3
HMP:5650	Health Policy Analysis	3
HMP:6710	Federalism and Health Policy	3
JMC:5248	Strategic Political Communication	3

LAW:8433	Environmental Law	3
LAW:8622	International Environmental Law	3
PBAF:5120	Public Policy Process	3
PBAF:6201	Data Science for Urban Analytics	3
PBAF:6340	Public Policy Analysis	3
POLI:3102	The U.S. Congress	3
POLI:3104	Immigration Politics	3
POLI:3118	Interest Groups	3
POLI:3203	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting Behavior	3
POLI:3204	Public Opinion	3
POLI:3518	Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation	3
POLI:3519	Politics of Aging	3
SEES:3420	Sustainable and Green Building Concepts	3
SEES:4750	Environmental Impact Analysis	3
SEES:4770	Environmental Justice	3
URP:5800	Environmental Policy: Theory and Practice	3
URP:6253	Designing Sustainable and Healthy Cities	3
URP:6256	Environmental Policy	3
URP:6258	Systems and Scenario Thinking	3
URP:6260	Transportation Policy and Planning	3
URP:6263	Special Topics in Transportation Planning	3
URP:6266	Transportation, Urban Form, and Sustainability	3
URP:6271	Housing Policy	3
URP:6273	Community Development Through Creative Placemaking	3
URP:6295	Economic Development Policy	3
URP:6297	Financing Economic Development for Poverty Alleviation	3

Capstone

Students take the public affairs capstone courses, typically in their final two semesters. They work on a community, state, federal, or nonprofit project in which they focus their efforts on an analysis of a contemporary public policy problem, research, development of policy proposals, and recommended action steps. This is done in tandem with the university's Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC), which for ten years has been providing public consultation to communities in Iowa.

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
PBAF:6213	Public Affairs Capstone I	2
PBAF:6214	Public Affairs Capstone II	3

Electives

Students complete an additional 9 s.h. of elective coursework. Elective courses may be chosen from planning and public affairs (prefix PBAF) or urban and regional planning (prefix URP) courses numbered 4000 or above, with the exception of URP:6305 Readings and URP:6325 Thesis: Urban and Regional Planning; from courses outside of the School of Planning and Public Affairs listed under the preceding "Concentration Area" section; or from the following course list. With the permission of the program, additional courses not listed here may be approved as electives.

Students must complete a minimum of 3 s.h. in elective courses from planning and public affairs (prefix PBAF) or urban and regional planning (prefix URP) courses numbered 5000 or above.

Students are encouraged, but not required, to complete an approved internship with a public agency or a nonprofit organization through PBAF:6335 Internship. They engage in 80, 160, or 240 hours of internship work under the supervision of a public affairs professional. A maximum of 3 s.h. of PBAF:6335 Internship can apply toward elective requirements.

Course #	Title	Hours
CEE:3003	Project Management Skills	1
EPLS:5240	Topics in Education	arr.
EPLS:6217	Theory and Practice of Leadership	2-3
IS:3910	Approaches to Advocacy: From Theory to Practice	3

Final Examination

An oral and written exam constitute the final examination. If the oral exam is passed, then the written exam does not need to be taken.