

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (GPOL / POLS)

May 17, 2025

Note: The University of Manitoba department/program code POLS replaces the former code 019. Students cannot hold credit in POLS XXX0 and the former 019.XXX having the same course number (eg. POLS 3950 and 019.395).

MPA Acting Chair – The University of Winnipeg Dr. Linda DeRiviere (l.deriviere@uwinnipeg.ca)

Associate MPA Chair - The University of Manitoba TBD

This Master's program is offered jointly by the Department of Political Science of The University of Winnipeg and the Department of Political Studies of the University of Manitoba. Unless otherwise specified by particular agreements attached to its creation, the program is governed by the general procedures and regulations devised by the two universities for joint Master's programs.

The objective of the joint MPA program is to provide students, both full- and part-time, with a sound knowledge of public administration. The approach is interdisciplinary, although courses in Political Science/Political Studies are emphasized. The core program exposes all students to a common set of courses designed to encourage both innovative and integrative perspectives. An emphasis on public administration allows interested students to obtain knowledge of both the theory and the practice of government organizations, including knowledge of the political, economic, social and other contexts in which they operate. The program offers opportunities for specialization in a range of policy areas such as health care, human resource management, social welfare, aboriginal government, and organizational change. **This is a joint program with the University of Manitoba that is supervised by the Joint Discipline Committee (JDC)** consisting of members of the faculties of the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba. The program is governed by the general procedures and regulations devised by the two universities for Joint Masters Programs.

Admissions (Deadline January 15)

Applicants for admission to the program must be the following:

- a person holding a recognized 4-year General or Advanced Bachelor's degree (BA, BSc, BES, etc.) with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last two years (60 credit hours) of undergraduate coursework; or
- persons holding a recognized 4-year Honours Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last 60 credit hours of coursework; or
- persons who do not hold an undergraduate degree, but who have attained positions of marked responsibility in either public or private sector management, and who have a demonstrated record of outstanding performance in their career. Admissions in this category will normally be restricted to one or two students per academic year.

Applicants are expected, but not required, to have some formal course background in public administration and economics. Each student is required, at the time of making application for admission to the program, to submit a letter of intention (approx. 250 words). Should the number of qualified applicants exceed the number of places available in the program, selection will be made on the basis of academic background and standing, work experience and career objectives.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MASTER'S OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

In the program, all students complete 36 credits: 24 credits of core courses and 12 credits of elective courses. Of the 36 credits, students must complete 18 credits at the 7000 level. There is no thesis option; no transfer credits are accepted. Near the end of their program of study, students complete the Capstone Seminar and produce a major paper. Students must attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in the whole program in order to graduate. Students are required to attain a grade point average of 3.0 in the core courses. Students who fail to attain this grade point average will normally be required to withdraw from the program. The minimum passing grade in any course in the MPA program is a C+. Students who fail to attain this grade may repeat the course (with permission of the JDC) or take an equivalent substitute course. Students who fail to attain a grade of C+ in more than 6 credit hours of courses (or equivalent) on more than one occasion are normally required to withdraw from the program. The maximum time length to complete the MPA Program is six years.

Co-operative Education Option in Public Administration

Director: Dr. Aaron Moore University of Winnipeg; aa.moore@uwinnipeg.ca)

The Co-operative Education option in the Master of Public Administration program combines full-time academic study with the benefits of practical work experience, largely in the public sector. A full-time student who has completed one academic year in good academic standing will be eligible to engage in full-time employment. The program requires the successful completion of 2 work-terms of a minimum of 13 weeks each. The work terms provide students with practical experience, enriched knowledge in an area of policy specialization, industry-standard remuneration, and guidance in career choices. For students employed full-time in the public sector, waivers for this requirement are granted on a case-by-case basis.

Application and Eligibility

Application for the Co-operative Education option in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is part of the normal application process for the MPA program as a whole. The Co-operative Education option is restricted to those who apply for full-time study in the MPA. Students who are accepted into the MPA with a Co-operative option must, in their first academic year, successfully complete two required non-credit courses in addition to their full-time academic course load.

Work Terms and Continuance

On entry to the MPA program, applicants accepted for the Co-op option must arrange their program with the Director of Co-operative Education in the MPA program and take part in a competitive job-matching process. Students who are eligible for Co-op, but who are not matched with a Co-op work term, will be able to continue in the regular MPA program. Co-op students who have successfully completed one full academic year of course work, and the required non-credit courses, and who have satisfied the MPA requirements for continuation in the program, will be eligible to engage in their first work term placement.

Each work term is a minimum 13 weeks duration and each work term carries 3 hours of course credit for which registration is required. Co-op students are considered to have full-time student status while engaged in a work term placement. Co-op students must successfully complete two work terms in addition to their academic program. Work terms are evaluated based on job performance and assigned written work. The final grade for each work term will be pass/fail.

Co-operative Education Work Term Courses

Students in the Co-operative Education option must take 6 credit-hours from:

POLS 6500 Co-operative Education Work Term I

POLS 6510 Co-operative Education Work Term II

Core Courses (24 credit-hours)

GPOL-7700(3) Theories and Issues in Public Administration

GPOL-7710(3) Public Policy Process and Issues

GPOL-7720(3) Governance and Administration

GPOL-7730(3) Principles of Public Finance for Policy Analysis

GPOL-7740(3) Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis

GPOL-7750(3) Qualitative Methods and Communication for the Public Sector

GPOL-7760(3) MPA Capstone Seminar

GPOL-7770(3) Professional Development

Further Coursework

With the approval of the Chair of the JDC, and other approval as may be required, courses may be chosen from the following list or from, for example, offerings in Economics, Geography, Management, Psychology, Sociology, etc.

POLS 7330(3) State-Civil Society Relations

POLS 7340(3) Canadian Government

POLS 7350(3) Canadian Democracy

POLS 7470 (3) Strategic Human Resource Management in Government

POLS 7720(6) Comparative Government

POLS 7550(3) Contemporary Issues in Canadian Politics

POLS 7610(3) Political Theory and Contemporary Issues

POLS 7910(6) Multivariate Research Methods

GPOL-7331(6) Directed Readings in Public Administration

GPOL-7335(3) Directed Readings in Public Administration

GPOL-7341(3) An Indigenous Approach to Program Evaluation: Theory & Practice

GPOL-7380(6) Special Topics Seminar in Public Administration

GPOL-7385(3) Special Topics in Public Administration

GPOL-7505(3) Politics of Urban Development

Graduate (7000-level) courses are described here:

COURSE LISTINGS

Please use the appropriate Timetable on the website to find out which courses will be offered in an upcoming term, or consult with the MPA Program Chair.

GPOL-7331(6) Directed Readings in Public Administration

GPOL-7335(3) Directed Readings in Public Administration

GPOL-7341(3) An Indigenous Approach to Program

Evaluation: Theory & Practice

GPOL-7380(6) Special Topics Seminar in Public

Administration

GPOL-7385(3) Special Topics in Public Administration

GPOL-7505(3) Politics of Urban Development

GPOL-7700(3) Theories and Issues in Public Administration

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