What is the Degree Program title?

*Master of Public Affairs (MPA)*. The Master of Public Affairs degree is equivalent to a Master of Public Administration degree in all aspects other than the name. The MPA degree at UT Dallas is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Affairs, Policy, and Administration (NASPAA): [https://accreditation.naspaa.org/resources/roster-of-accredited-programs/](https://accreditation.naspaa.org/resources/roster-of-accredited-programs/)

What is the MPA Program’s mission?

*The Master of Public Affairs program advances excellence in public service. The program accomplishes this mission through three sets of activities aimed at preparing its students to serve as capable and ethical stewards of the common good. It imparts essential knowledge, competencies and perspectives to a diverse array of future and current professionals in government and nonprofit organizations. It supports the wider community through in-service professional and leadership training, policy and management analysis services, and production of new knowledge through practice-centered research.*

What is the Program’s size?

*Total MPA program enrollment typically ranges from 60 to 70 students.*

How many semester credit hours are required to complete the Program?

*36 credit hours are required to complete the Program. A 3-credit hour internship is required in addition to the 36 credit hours for students without professional experience in the public or nonprofit sector.*

What are the Program’s admission requirements?

*Applicants should submit the following items through the on-line application system at [https://graduate-admissions.utdallas.edu/steps-to-admission/fees-and-deadlines/](https://graduate-admissions.utdallas.edu/steps-to-admission/fees-and-deadlines/)*

- A graduate school application form.
- An admission essay (a personal statement outlining the applicant’s background, education and professional objectives).
- A resume.
- Transcripts of an undergraduate degree with at least a 3.0 grade point average.
• Three letters of recommendation.

Is there a FAST track option for the MPA program?

The Program offers the FastTrack program to help qualified undergraduate students enter the MPA program. FastTrack students may take 15 hours of MPA courses in their senior year. These courses count toward both their undergraduate degree and the MPA degree.

What is the student composition of the MPA program?

In the 2020-2021 academic year, 58 percent of the MPA program were women and about 57 percent of the MPA students were part-time students. More than half the students are from racially diverse backgrounds (55%).

What is the completion rate for the MPA program?

The expected time to completion for full-time students is five semesters. Actual completion rates vary by cohort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Students in the 2015-16 Cohort</th>
<th>Initially Enrolled (2015-16)</th>
<th>Graduated within 2 years (2017-19)</th>
<th>Graduated within 3 years (2017-20)</th>
<th>Graduated within 4 years (2017-21)</th>
<th>Total Students Graduated and Persisting to Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are the employment sectors of MPA graduates?

MPA employment sectors vary by cohort. Data from a recent survey suggest that 22 percent of the graduates were employed by local government and an additional 22 percent in the private sector. Additionally, 9 percent are employed in the nonprofit and 7 percent at the state level. An additional 9 percent were currently seeking employment. There are 32 graduates in the 2020-21 graduating cohort.
MPA Graduate Employment, 2020-2021, n=32

- Local Government, 22%
- Private Sector, 22%
- Local Government, 22%
- Nonprofit, 7%
- Seeking Employment, 9%
- International, 7%
- Military, 3%
- National, 3%
- Higher Education, 6%
- Other (Retired and Status unknown), 12%
- State Government, 7%
- MPA Graduate Employment, 2020-2021, n=32