

Concerned about our democracy? Develop the skills and knowledge you need to be most effective in your role in the public or nonprofit sector. Earn a Master of Public Administration (MPA) Degree!



**MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
PROSPECTIVE STUDENT INFORMATION SESSION**

Passion. Skill. Leadership.





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Session Overview

Introductions

Program Overview

Why SF State's MPA?

Admissions

Questions?

Introductions

- Your name
- Your background and/or interest in the public and/or nonprofit sector
- Why you are interested in pursuing an MPA



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Program Overview

- Size
- Quality
- People
- Curriculum
- Cost
- Opportunities for prospective students

Program Overview

- Small to mid-size program
 - Small class sizes
 - No bottlenecks; median time to degree is 7 semesters
- Full-time faculty of 5 – full focus on public administration
 - Each has academic preparation & practitioner experience
 - Opportunities for faculty-student collaborations
- Strong base of area alumni
- Nationally accredited by NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, & Administration)
- Low tuition cost, best value for your investment

Faculty & Staff

Core PA faculty

- **Dr. Sheldon Gen**
public policy
- **Dr. Ernita Joaquin**
public administration, urban admin.
- **Dr. Jennifer Shea**
program director; nonprofits, public policy
- **Dr. Genie Stowers**
distinguished professor; urban admin.
- **Dr. Janey Wang**
public finance, research methods

Staff and associated faculty

- **Dr. Elizabeth Brown**
school director
- **Bridget McCracken**
academic office coordinator
- **Dr. Anoshua Chaudhuri**
economics, health policy
- **Dr. Al Hyde**
Brookings (ret.), public administration
- **Dr. Kathy Naff**
human resources, public management
- **Dr. Ayse Pamuk**
housing policy
- **Dr. Raquel Pinderhuges**
urban sustainability
- **Dr. Carol Silverman**
research methods
- **Dr. Jeff Snipes**
criminal justice

...and several other adjunct faculty

Curriculum Overview

- 39 – 42 Units:
 - Solid core of foundation classes (12 units, 4 classes)
 - Management perspectives courses (12 units, select 4 of 6 courses)
 - Flexibility in electives (12 units)
 - Internship (3 units)
 - Culminating experience (3 units): capstone or thesis
- Cross-program focus on writing, critical thinking, oral presentation skills & developing team work abilities
- Balance between theory and practice
- Applied research & service learning opportunities

Flexible Schedule; Alternative Class Formats

- Traditional
 - ▣ Evenings/Afternoons: Meet in person once per week
 - ▣ Saturdays – 3 unit classes meet for 6-7 full-day sessions; 1 unit classes meet on varied schedules for a total of 15 ‘contact hours’
- Hybrid
 - ▣ Combines in person and online (asynchronous) meetings
- Online
 - ▣ No in-person meetings; only online

Estimated Tuition and Fees to Degree – 2017-2018

	Estimated Tuition/Fees (in-state) for Degree		accredited?
	PT	FT	
CSUEB	\$21,024	\$16,536	no
SJSU*	\$21,501	\$18,310	yes
SonomaState	\$21,511	\$18,316	no
SFSU*	\$22,890	\$20,784	yes
Golden Gate (ExecMPA)^	\$28,620	\$28,620	no
Mills (MPP)^	\$30,840	\$30,840	no
Notre Dame de Namur^	\$32,256	\$32,256	no
USF*	\$43,700	\$43,700	yes
UC Berkeley (MPP)	N/A	\$56,187	no
Presidio^	\$72,000	\$67,500	no
Monterey Institute of International Studies^	\$113,040	\$84,832	no

Notes: *Accredited by NASPAA; ^Fees not included in estimate

Opportunities for Prospective Students

- Observe a class
- Attend guest speaker presentations in classes
- Participate in career development workshops
- Be put in contact with alumni and current students

For more information, contact Bridget at mpa@sfsu.edu



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Why SF State's MPA?

- Quality
- Mission
- Geography
- Career Development & Jobs
- The Curriculum
- High Impact Educational Practices

Quality

- Nationally accredited program, nationally respected
 - ▣ High quality faculty members – active researchers, high levels of community engagement
- Competitive Admissions
 - ▣ Our student body is outstanding and diverse
 - ▣ From wide variety of backgrounds and interests
 - ▣ Help to further enhance the classroom experience
- The best deal around in terms of costs and return on your investment

Mission

The mission of the SF State MPA Program is to **enhance individual and organizational capacity** to serve the public and nonprofit sectors through **engaged and innovative teaching, research and service.**

- We teach effective public administration by **enriching students with knowledge and skills** to inspire innovation and motivate continuous improvement.
- As faculty and students, we work to **provide applied research and service** to the community.
- We **instill an appreciation for public service values** such as civic engagement, effectiveness, sustainability, inclusively, accountability, equity and social justice.

Geography – SF and Abroad

- Located in the Heart of SF
 - ▣ Opportunities for applied projects, service learning, and community-engaged research with public and nonprofit agencies
- Convenient
 - ▣ Scheduled tailored for working adults – nights, weekends, late afternoons, hybrids
 - ▣ At the Powell Street BART/Muni station
- International Connections
 - ▣ Summer abroad in Denmark
 - ▣ Faculty with international connections and interests
 - ▣ Visiting scholars and practitioners



University of Aarhus Summer Exchange Program

Career Development

Opportunities

- Practical, hands on experience
- Internships
- Applied field study credits
- Research projects
- Connections with alumni working in the field

Relevancy of the MPA Degree

- Employers know what they are getting
- Strong analytical skills – research, evaluation, policy analysis, finance
- Managerial skills
- Writing & presentation skills
- ‘Soft’ skills – teamwork, communication, leadership

“Common starting jobs for graduates include policy analysts, program managers, grant writers, researchers, and budget analysts. As their experience grows, many graduates rise to upper-level positions in government, nonprofit, and even business organizations.”

Source: [NASPAA](#)

Jobs

Our students and alumni get great jobs with public, nonprofit and private employers.

- Network of alumni is especially rich in the Bay Area
- Pipelines with local employers
 - San Mateo County
 - Student Consultants Program (paid)
 - Professional Fellowship Program (paid)
 - Deloitte Tax
 - Government Relations Summer Internships (paid)
 - Government Accountability Office
 - Graduate Internship Program (paid)
 - Neighborhood Empowerment Network, City & County of SF
 - Graduate Internships (paid)

Core Curriculum

Core Courses (4 courses, 12 units)

- PA 700: Foundations of Government & Management, 3 units
- PA 705: Design & Consumption of Research, 3 units
- PA 706: Applied Data Analysis, 3 units
- PA 715: Policy Process & Civic Engagement, 3 units

Management Perspectives (select 4 courses, 12 units)

- PA 720: Organizational Design & Change Management, 3 units
- PA 722: Performance Management & Planning, 3 units
- PA 724: Economic Perspectives, 3 units
- PA 725: Managing Human Capital, 3 units
- PA 727: Program & Service Delivery
- PA 730: Resource Management, 3 units

Elective Emphases (12 units)

- Criminal Justice Administration
- Environmental Administration
- Gerontology
- Nonprofit Administration
- Public Management
- Public Policy
- Urban Administration
- Self-Designed Emphasis

3-Unit Electives

- PA 740: Public Service Management
- PA 741: Emerging Trends in Public Service
- PA 744: Nonprofits, Public Policy & Society
- PA 745: Perspectives on Nonprofit Management
- PA 746: Organizational Learning & Nonprofit Management
- PA 750: Financial Management in Public Service
- PA 752: Public Affairs and the Law
- PA 753: Decision Making in Public Service
- PA 754: Comparative Perspectives in Public Service
- PA 755: Information & Knowledge in Public Service
- PA 757: Moving Public Service Online
- PA 762: Leading Change Across Sectors
- PA 770: Policy Analysis
- PA 775: Program Evaluation
- PA 776: Environmental Policy
- PA 777: Criminal Justice Administration
- PA 780: Urban Administration
- PA 781: Sustainable Development in Cities
- PA 783: Urban Housing Policy
- PA 784: Intergovernmental Relations
- PA 790: Special Topics in Public Administration
- PA 858: Environmental Land Use Planning

Internship

- 300 hours (20 per week in 15 weeks semester)
- May be waived with substantial relevant work experience
- Great way to get foot in the door of new career or agency

Culminating Experience

- Thesis
 - Traditional social science research
 - Work independently with faculty guidance
- PA 890: Capstone Course
 - Semester-long course taken in last semester
 - Synthesize materials from across the curriculum
 - Culminates with Strategic Assessment Memorandum (SAM)

High Impact Educational Practices

- **Common Intellectual Experiences** [core curriculum]
 - **Collaborative Assignments and Projects** [team assignments with classmates]
 - **Service Learning, Community-Based Learning** [field work and service learning with community partners]
 - **Internships** [internship requirement]
 - **Capstone Course & Project** [culminating experience]
- Want to know more about why these are considered high impact educational practices? See: <https://www.aacu.org/leap/hips>



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The MPA Program has offered me a wide range of tools that I have been able to apply in my professional life. I gained research skills in several of the courses that gave me hands on experience with interviewing, survey development and research analysis. I learned planning methods that I was able to use in a major work project that involved collaboration among several partners.

**Stacy Kono, Director of Programs and Innovation
Rockwood Leadership Institute
SF State MPA Graduate 2017**





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Admissions

Overview

About the admissions process

Components of the application

Financial aid & scholarships

Overview

- Deadlines:
 - ▣ Fall admission- April 1st
 - ▣ Spring admission - November 1st

- Academic Standards:
 - ▣ 3.0 GPA in last 60 units
 - ▣ No GRE requirement
 - ▣ No pre-requisite coursework required

Admissions Process (<http://mpa.sfsu.edu/content/admissions>)

1. Apply online through Cal State Apply. The Office of Graduate Admissions no longer accepts paper applications.

Submit the following materials by uploading them to the Cal State Apply portal:

- Your current resume.
- Unofficial transcripts from all the universities you have attended.
- Statement of purpose to the SF State MPA Program.

2. Pay the 55.00 USD application fee.

- Pay online when you submit your application.

3. Submit two (2) letters of recommendation directly to the Public Administration Program by postal mail.

4. Committee review begins after application deadline.

Resume or C.V. & Transcripts

- Relevance and duration of work experience
- Relevance and duration of volunteer experience
- No waiver of 3.0 minimum GPA in last 60 units
- Beware of common 'red flags' – unexplained gaps, lots of jumping around
- Mindful of patterns in course grades/consistent trouble with certain types of courses
 - Address issues explicitly in the statement of purpose or ask references to discuss

Personal Statement Requirements, < 4 pages in a coherent essay

1. Life experiences that have led you to an interest in public service (public or nonprofit)
2. Background in the public service, including any work or volunteer experience you might have in public or nonprofit agencies
3. Areas of specific interests in the public service, including what has led you to these specific interests
4. Career and professional goals and aspiration
5. Describe how the MPA degree will be helpful and consistent with your career goals and aspirations
6. Describe why this is the right time in your career to come into a MPA program and seek the degree
7. Describe why the SF State MPA degree program is a good fit for you and your career / professional goals

References (2 required)

- If less than 5 years since Bachelor's degree, prefer at least 1 from a professor
- Currency of reference is important
- Referee should be able to speak to applicant's professional and academic accomplishments and potential
- References should indicate an awareness of field of study, speak to applicant's aptitude, interest, passion for field

Connecting the Dots

- Taken together, personal statement, references, transcripts, and resume should tell a coherent story
 - ▣ Obstacles are okay, but explain them and resolution
 - ▣ Demonstrate that applicant knows what the MPA degree is and will be satisfied with what it delivers
 - ▣ Demonstrate applicant's potential to
 - Add diversity to the program (interesting background or experience)
 - Make a contribution to the public/nonprofit sector
 - Succeed in the program
 - ▣ Personal statement used as initial writing assessment

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Learn more about [scholarships offered by the Public Administration Program](#).

Information about other scholarships and financial assistance can be found at the [University's Office of Financial Aid](#) or by visiting a financial aid counselor at the Student Service Building during their office hours.

[SF State's Fellowships Office](#) is available to assist undergraduates, graduate students and recent alumni in applying for nationally competitive fellowships, scholarships and grants, as well as system-wide awards offered by the California State University system.

All students should create a profile in [Academic Works](#) and update it each semester; you may automatically qualify for a scholarship even if you don't apply for it.

Additional Resources

- **Visit the MPA Program website:** <http://mpa.sfsu.edu/>
- **Visit the Graduate Studies website:**
<http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/prospective/domestic/main-domestic>
- **More information for international applicants:**
<http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/prospective/international/international-admissions>
- **Stay in Touch!** For information about how to connect with us on social media or join our listservs, visit <http://mpa.sfsu.edu/content/socialmedia>
- **Questions?**
 - **Email** mpa@sfsu.edu or jshea@sfsu.edu
 - **Call** 415-817-4455