THE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA) DEGREE AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
Overview

- Outline of our degree program
- Why choose the SF State MPA over others?
- Admissions Process
Program Overview

- Small to Mid-Size Program

- Full-time faculty of 5 – full focus on public administration
  - Each has academic preparation & practitioner experience

- Nationally Accredited by NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, & Administration)
Curriculum overview

- **39 – 42 Units:**
  - Solid core of foundation classes (12 units, 4 classes)
  - Management perspectives electives (12 units, select 4 of 6 courses)
  - Flexibility in electives (12 units)
    - 6 areas of elective emphases
    - Design for your own career goals
  - Internship (3 units), can be waived with significant professional experience
  - 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
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)

- Public Management
- Non-Profit Administration
- Public Policy
- Urban Administration
- Environmental Administration
- Criminal Justice 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
1-unit Electives (winter, summer)

- PA 707: Qualitative Data Analysis (in development)
- PA 708: Qualitative Interviewing (in development)
- PA 709: Logistic Regression
- PA 743: Collaborative Government
- PA 747: Organizational Ethics
- PA 748: Negotiation and Conflict Management
- PA 751: Pensions and Pension Administration (in development)
- PA 756: Data Mining & Data Visualization
- PA 763: Personal Leadership Development
Internship

- 300 Hours (20 per week in 15 weeks semester)
- Great way to get foot in the door of new career or agency
- May Be Waived with Significant Work Experience
Culminating Experience

- Thesis
  - Traditional Social Science Research
- PA 800: Capstone Course with
  - Strategic Assessment Memorandum (Written Comprehensive Examination)
  - Synthesizing Course, Pulls Together Program
Prerequisites to Program Admission

- None!
Why SFSU?

1. Jobs. Our students are getting jobs.
   - See our blog for examples (http://sfsumpa.wordpress.com/)
   - Network of alumni

2. Quality
   - Nationally accredited program, nationally respected
   - Nationally ranked among public affairs programs by US News & World Report 2013
3. **Student Activities & Services**
   - Eportfolios
   - Career Development Series
   - Brown Bags, Lectures & Tournaments
   - Networking Events
   - Hooding Ceremony
Student Activities & Services: E-Portfolios

- Medium to showcase abilities and accomplishments
- Innovative

Wilson Wong
Public Administration ePortfolio
Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
Emphasis on Non-Profits

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I originally graduated from UCLA with a BS in Computer Science and am very adept with computers and related skills. After graduating I worked for almost 5 years in the technology industry, but have realized that I seek a career that offers greater moral fulfillment.

I left a lucrative technology job to change careers and become an educator, first working as an English teacher in China for a year and completing my second BA in Child and Adolescent Development. Afterwards, I worked in various education related positions, including being an afterschool tutor with AmeriCorps and a site director with YES Reading. Ultimately, I always utilized my technical skills in every position.

Now I am focusing on a technical career in local government, utilizing all my experience and background to position myself for advancement in government. I am currently attending San Francisco State University’s to complete my Masters in Public Administration.

The MPA degree has prepared me for a position and career in the public sector. It has provided the opportunity for me to expand my knowledge on the public policy process, research & analytical methods, human resources, organizational behavior, budgeting, non-profit administration, and fund development.

With my MPA degree, I am prepared for new opportunities and I hope to advance my career in the public sector through strengthened capabilities.

Click to download the desired file:

- Download Resume here
Student Services & Activities—Networking Events
Student Services & Activities—Brown Bag Discussions, Lectures & Tournaments
Student Services & Activities– Hooding / Commencement
Why SFSU? (continued)

4. **Convenience**
   - Classes tailored for working adults—nights, weekends, late afternoons
   - At the Powell Street BART/Muni station

5. **Small class sizes**

6. **No bottlenecks; 13+ courses, median time to degree is 7 semesters**

7. **Class availability**
8. Competitive Admissions
   - Our student body is outstanding and diverse
   - From wide variety of backgrounds and interests
   - Help to further enhance the classroom experience

9. The best deal around in terms of costs
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<th>Institution</th>
<th>Average Tuition/Fees</th>
<th>Estimated Tuition/Fees for Degree</th>
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Bay Area MPA/MPP cost comparison: 2014-2015

Monterey Institute of International Studies
Presidio
Mills (MPP)
UCB (MPP)
USF*
Notre Dame de Namur
Golden Gate (ExecMPA)
SFSU*
SSU
SJSU*
CSUEB

* Accredited by NASPAA
Admissions Process

1. **Deadlines:** Fall - April 1\textsuperscript{st}; Spring - November 1\textsuperscript{st}

2. **Apply to the SFSU Graduate Division…**
   - CSU Mentor Application
   - Send one sets of transcripts

3. …and apply to the SFSU MPA program.
   - Personal Statement (see MPA website for requirements)
   - Current resume
   - 2 Letters of Reference

4. **Standard:** 3.0 gpa in last 60 units

5. **No GRE requirement**
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
Be Informed Before Making a Decision

- Prospective Student Information Session
- Review our website – plus:
  - Our blog mpablog@state
  - Our Facebook page
  - Our LinkedIn site
  - Our Flickr site
- Review Student E-Portfolios to see what you would be doing and learning
- Visit a class (email sgen@sfsu.edu to set up)
Questions?

- Email mpa@sfsu.edu or sgen@sfsu.edu
- Call 415-817-4455