MPA ORIENTATION

Public Administration Program
School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement
College of Health and Social Sciences
Welcome!

- The call to public service
- Preparation and advancement
  - Knowledge of sectors, organizations, processes, human behaviors
  - Critical thinking
  - Written and oral communications
  - Team work
- Your MPA at SF State
  - Nationally accredited
  - Selective
  - Balance of theory and practice
  - Extra curricular events and opportunities
  - High value
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, inclusivity, accountability, equity and social justice.”

(Adopted in February 2013)
People

Core PA faculty

• Dr. Sheldon Gen
  program director; public policy

• Dr. Ernita Joaquin
  public administration, urban admin.

• Dr. Jennifer Shea
  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
  UC Berkeley research faculty, research methods

• Dr. Jeff Snipes
  criminal justice

...and several other adjunct faculty
Communications

- Program website:  https://mpa.sfsu.edu/

- LISTSERVs : see website or handbook to subscribe
  - mpainfo@sfsu.edu – general information for all MPA students
  - mpajobs@sfsu.edu – employment opportunities
  - mpainterns@sfsu.edu – internship opportunities

- Social media

- Class announcements
Key resources

University

• J. Paul Leonard Library
• Student Success Program
• Division of Information Technology

Professional associations

• American Society for Public Administration
• Pi Alpha Alpha
• many others…
Beginning the program

Coursework

• Take PA 700 first
• Choice of any other courses
• How many courses per semester?

• Keep your books!

Administration, resources

• Student identification card
• MySFSU portal
• MPA student handbook
• Graduate student handbook
• Bulletin
• Downtown campus services
  • textbook delivery
  • library services
Continuing through the program

Advising: 1 – 2 times per year
- **Public Management**: Janey Wang and Ernita Joaquin
- **Nonprofit Administration**: Jennifer Shea
- **Public Policy**: Sheldon Gen
- **Urban Administration**: Genie Stowers
- **Environmental Administration**: Sheldon Gen
- **Criminal Justice Administration**: Sheldon Gen (core), Jeff Snipes (electives)
- Self-designed: Genie Stowers
- Undecided/none: Sheldon Gen

Planning your progress
- Know the curriculum
- Tentative course schedule
- Electives v. core courses
- Knowledge/qualitative course v. skills/quantitative courses
- Culminating experiences: capstone v. thesis *(Keep your books!)*
Curriculum

Core (4 courses, 12 units):
• 700: Foundations of Government & Management
• 705: Design & Consumption of Research
• 706: Applied Data Analysis
• 715: Policy Process & Civic Engagement

Management perspectives (select 4 of 6 courses, 12 units):
• 720: Organizational Design & Change Management
• 722: Performance Management & Planning
• 724: Economic Perspectives
• 725: Managing Human Capital
• 727: Program Planning & Delivery
• 730: Resource Management

Electives (12 units):
• Select a designed elective emphasis (optional)
• Select electives with advisor’s approval

Public service internship
• 803: Internship, 3 units
• Or apply for waiver with significant public service experience.

Culminating experience (select 1 of 2 options, 3 units):
• 800: Capstone
• 898: Thesis
3-unit Electives

- PA 740: Public Service Management
- PA 741: New Trends in Public Service
- PA 742: Strategic Management 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 Management in Cities
- PA 783: Urban Housing Policy
- PA 784: Intergovernmental Relations
- PA 790: Special Topics in Public Administration
1-unit Electives

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

• B average minimum, with no course lower than C
• Internship: complete or waive
• The semester before graduation (6 or fewer units left)…
  • complete “GAP” form (Graduate Approved Program); Advancement to Candidacy (ATC)
  • complete proposal for culminating experience (capstone course or thesis)
• The final semester…
  • Fulfill culminating experience and remaining course(s)
  • Apply for graduate degree
  • MPA hooding ceremony
  • Graduation!
Maintaining your network after graduation

- PAA
- Alumni association
- Public Administration Program’s social media groups
Look for upcoming events

- ASPA and PAA lectures, socials, etc.
- Career development workshops
- End-of-year celebration of student achievement