

Political Science Graduate Programs — Graduate Certificate, MPA, PhD

Degree Program:

- Public Administration — MPA (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/publicadministrationandpublicpolicypaphd_major/publicadministration_mpa/)
- Public Administration and Public Policy — PhD (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/publicadministrationandpublicpolicypaphd_major/publicadminandpublic_phd/)

Graduate Certificates:

- Economic Development (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/economicdevelopment_gcrt/)
- Election Administration (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/publicadministrationandpublicpolicypaphd_major/electionadmin_cert/)
- Global Public Service (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/publicadministrationandpublicpolicypaphd_major/globalpublicservice_gcrt/)
- NonProfit Organizations and Community Governance (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/publicadministrationandpublicpolicypaphd_major/nonprofitorganizationscommgov_cert/)

The Department of Political Science offers the Master of Public Administration (MPA) and the PhD in Public Administration and Public Policy. Graduates from the MPA program are employed as managers, planners, and directors in city, state, and local government agencies and federal government programs; they also serve as program officers, development directors, executive directors, and senior administrators in local and national nonprofit organizations. The Department of Political Science also offers four graduate certificates: Graduate Certificate in Economic Development, Graduate Certificate in Election Administration, Graduate Certificate in Global Public Service, and Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Organizations and Community Governance.

- For more information about the MPA program, see <http://www.cla.auburn.edu/polisci/graduate-programs/mpa/>.
- For more information about the PhD program, see <http://www.cla.auburn.edu/polisci/graduate-programs/phd-in-public-administration-and-public-policy/>.

Master of Public Administration

The Department of Political Science offers the MPA. It is a professional degree program for leadership in public service at all levels of government as well as in nonprofit organizations. The program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). Highly qualified students may pursue concurrently the Master of Community Planning.

Application Process

Applicants for the MPA must have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. The admissions committee will evaluate the undergraduate transcripts, personal statement, letters of recommendation, a writing sample, and any public sector experience in government agencies or nonprofit organizations. The program is not limited to political science majors, but successful applicants who have little background in public sector institutions and processes may be required to take additional courses.

Applicants should ensure these materials are sent to the Graduate School web application:

- Official transcripts from every institution attended
- Personal statement of purpose in pursuing the MPA degree
- Three letters of professional or academic recommendation
- Writing sample
- Statement of merit or need (if applying for a graduate assistantship)
- Other information listed in the application

Web applications are located at: <http://graduate.auburn.edu/prospective-students/application-instructions/>

Degree Requirements

Once they are admitted, the program requires 36 semester hours (pre-service students) or 33 semester hours (in-service students) and an ePortfolio. Six core courses for a total of 18 hours credit are required of all pre-service students. The required 18 hours include 3 credit hours of an administrative internship in a governmental agency or nonprofit organization. Five core courses for a total of 15 hours credit are required of all in-service students. In-service students are not required to complete the internship. All students take an additional 18 hours of electives either through one of the graduate certificates offered by the MPA program or an approved concentration in a related administrative field or policy area.

Details about the requirements are provided below.

Pre-Service Students (Track 1)

Core Courses (18 credit Hours)

Code	Title	Hours
POLI 6150	Intergovernmental Relations	3
POLI 7000	Research Methods	3
POLI 7350	Foundations of Public Admin	3
POLI 7360	Foundations of Policy	3
POLI 7520	Program Evaluation	3
POLI 7920	MPA Internship	3
POLI 7AA0	MPA ePortfolio	0
MPA Electives		18
Total Hours		36

In-Service Students (Track 2)

Core Courses (15 credit Hours)

Code	Title	Hours
POLI 6150	Intergovernmental Relations	3
POLI 7000	Research Methods	3
POLI 7350	Foundations of Public Admin	3
POLI 7360	Foundations of Policy	3
POLI 7520	Program Evaluation	3
POLI 7AA0	MPA ePortfolio	0
MPA Electives		18
Total Hours		33

Practical Experience through Internship (3 hours)

The program requires a total of 3 credit hours of internship (POLI 7920 Internship) for pre-service students. In-service with extensive direct experience with government agencies or nonprofit organizations are not required to complete the internship.

Electives (18 hours)

The MPA requires 18 credits of electives. This requirement may be fulfilled in any one of the three following ways:

- By completing one of the following four formal specializations: Graduate Certificate in Economic Development, Graduate Certificate in Election Administration, Graduate Certificate in Global Public Service, Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Organizations and Community Governance
- By completing the Dual MPA-MCP Degree with Community Planning
- By taking 18 credits of classes approved by the MPA director that support the generalist public administration curriculum

ePortfolio

Successful completion of the degree includes the preparation of the MPA ePortfolio. The MPA ePortfolio demonstrates mastery of the competencies established by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).

The MPA Portfolio reviews are scheduled in the final semester of course work. Students who do not pass the MPA Portfolio review have one additional opportunity to present their material to MPA faculty in the following fall or spring semester.

PhD in Public Administration and Public Policy

Code	Title	Hours
PhD in Public Administration and Public Policy		
POLI 8000	Doctoral Seminar in Public Administration	3
POLI 8010	Research Design and Analysis	3
POLI 8020	Doctoral Seminar in Public Policy	3
POLI 8120	Qualitative Research Methods	3
POLI 8130	Quantitative Methods	3
POLI 8210	Seminar in Professional Development Part 1	1
POLI 8220	Seminar in Professional Development Part 2	2
POLI 8990	Research and Dissertation	10
POLI 6000-8999	47 Hours of Advisor Approved Courses	47
Total Hours		75

The PhD in Public Administration and Public Policy is offered by Auburn University's Department of Political Science. Only students with master's degrees from accredited universities or colleges will be considered for the PhD program. Applicants having an insufficient background in public administration and public policy may be required to take additional prerequisite courses as determined by the admissions committee.

Application Process

Applicants must submit transcripts, a CV or resume, a statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation. Applicants are encouraged, though not required, to submit GRE scores for evaluation. The committee welcomes additional evidence of strong analytical and verbal skills, creativity and commitment to the field of study.

Applicants should ensure these materials are sent to the Graduate School web application:

- Official transcripts from every institution attended

Applicants should ensure these materials are sent to the PhD administrators in the Department of Political Science:

- CV or resume
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose

For more information, see the website for the PhD in Public Administration.

Requirements

The PhD curriculum includes core courses, a research methodology sequence, and two subfields. Details about the requirements for the subfields are given below.

Core Courses

All students in the program take the core courses in Public Administration and Public Policy.

Research Methodology Courses

Students will take a three-course methodology sequence covering a broad scope of political inquiry, research design, qualitative methods, and quantitative analysis. Students must earn a grade of A or B in each of the methodology courses before they can progress to the general comprehensive exams.

Subfields

The PhD program has seven subfields: American Politics & Policy, Applied Research, Community Planning, Election Administration, Global (IR/Comparative), Nonprofit Organizations & Community Governance, and Public Administration. Students choose seven courses (21 hours) across their chosen subfields: three in one area, three in the other, and one from any subfield.

Minimum Credit Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	Hours of formal PhD course work	39
	Hours of dissertation credit	10

Total hours for PhD course work	49
Hours needed past bachelor's degree	75

Comprehensive Exams, Oral Exams, and Dissertation Defense

During the spring or fall semester after the course work is completed, students take comprehensive exams administered by the department. The exams will consist of sections testing core and track knowledge as well as one section focusing on students' areas of specialization. Students will have two opportunities to pass the comprehensive exams and must pass each written examination before scheduling the oral examination. Upon successful completion of the comprehensive exams, students should prepare a prospectus to present to their dissertation committee during their oral examinations. Admission to doctoral candidacy is contingent upon successful completion of all elements of the written and oral doctoral exams. After completion of the dissertation, the students must pass a final oral examination defending their dissertation work before their committee and a University Reader approved by the Graduate School.

Graduate Certificates

Four graduate certificates are offered in public administration and public policy: The Graduate Certificate in Economic Development, Graduate Certificate in Election Administration, Graduate Certificate in Global Public Service, and Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Organizations and Community Governance.

Application Process

Applications for graduate certificates include the same items as applications for the MPA degree.

Applicants should ensure these materials are sent to the Graduate School web application:

- Official transcripts from every institution attended
- Other information listed in the application

Graduate Certificate in Economic Development

The Graduate Certificate in Economic Development provides a specialization in the theories and practice of economic development, primarily within the U.S and Alabama. It is an interdisciplinary graduate certificate offered by the faculty of participating departments (Public Administration, Community Planning, and Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology) and is administered by the Master of Public Administration program.

Students may pursue the Graduate Certificate in Economic Development as a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. To earn the graduate minor, students must complete the program's basic course, Economic Development and Competition (POLI 7700/7706), three elective courses selected from an approved list, and a one-week non-credit intensive economic development training course sponsored by the Government and Economic Development Institute (GEDI). The Auburn Intensive Economic Development Course is accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Since its inception, this program has produced 1,300 alumni, 70% of whom have had jobs in community economic development. GEDI will be an active partner with the MPA program, linking the program to its extensive network of economic development practitioners throughout Alabama.

Code	Title	Hours
POLI 7700	Economic Development and Competition	3
Economic Development Seminar by GEDI		
Choose any 3 the following courses:		9
POLI 6150	Intergovernmental Relations and Federalism	
POLI 7140	Financial Management for Public and Nonprofit Organizations	
POLI 7330	Seminar in Administrative Leadership, Responsibility, and Democratic Government	
POLI 7520	Program Evaluation	
POLI 7920	MPA Internship	3-6
CPLN 6050	Land and Urban Economics	
CPLN 6090	Community Development	
CPLN 6460	Geographic Information Systems for Planning and Policy	
AGEC 7110	Agricultural Economic Development	
RSOC 6610	Rural Sociology	
RSOC 6650	Sociology of Natural Resources and the Environment	

RSOC 7620	Sociology of Community
RSOC 7630	Political Economy of Development

Graduate Certificate in Election Administration

Required Classes

These courses are required for the Graduate Certificate in Election Administration. Corresponding 5000-level classes taken as an undergraduate fulfill the graduate certificate requirement but do not count toward the 42 graduate credits needed for the MPA. Substitutions require permission of MPA Director.

This graduate certificate is designed to provide students and practicing professionals with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to function effectively in election administration specifically law and policy and critical contemporary issues facing the election administration community.

The Graduate Certificate in Election Administration is a 15 graduate credit hour certificate according to the courses outline below, and a 12 graduate credit hour certificate if the student has completed the CERA Program (Certified Election and Registration Administrators). CERA was developed by the Election Center (a national nonprofit organization also known as the National Association of Election Officials) along with Auburn MPA faculty, and is the only national certification program for election officials and vendors in the election administration arena. CERA includes 12 courses in professional education and development taught by Auburn faculty and other requirements established by the Election Center including substantial professional engagement in the field through research, conference presentations, and participation in working groups and other similar activities.

Code	Title	Hours
Elections Administration		
Required Courses		6-9
POLI 6270	Seminar in Election Administration	3
POLI 6280	Election Administration Reform Policy (Election Regulation, Policy, and Reform)	3
POLI 7920	MPA Internship ¹	3-6
Electives (choose any two)		6
POLI 6150	Intergovernmental Relations and Federalism	
POLI 6470	Comparative Election Administration (Comparative Election Administration)	
POLI 7520	Program Evaluation	
POLI 6550	Issues in Public Administration ²	
Total Hours		21-27

¹ CERA/CERV/CEM Certification can be used in place of POLI 7920

² See advisor for approval of special topics (e.g., cyber and operational security; auditing and accountability)

Graduate Certificate in Global Public Service

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
POLI 6380	INGOs and International Organizations	3
POLI 6390	NGOs and International Development	3
CADS 6780	International Philanthropy	3
Select two courses from the following:		6
POLI 6470	Comparative Election Administration	
POLI 6550	Issues in Public Administration	
POLI 6360	Nonprofit Resource Development	
POLI 7520	Program Evaluation	
Total Hours		15

Graduate Certificate in NonProfit Organizations and Community Governance

Required Classes

These courses are required for the Graduate Certificate in NonProfit Organizations and Community Governance. Corresponding 5000-level classes taken as an undergraduate fulfill the graduate certificate requirement but do not count toward the 42 graduate credits needed for the MPA. Substitutions require permission of MPA Director.

This graduate certificate is designed to prepare graduate-level students and practicing professionals for management and leadership positions in nonprofit organizations, including positions related to nonprofit management, governance, and resource development.

Code	Title	Hours
Graduate Certificate in NonProfit Organizations and Community Governance		
POLI 6370	Nonprofit Management	3
POLI 6350	Nonprofit Law and Governance	3
POLI 6360	Nonprofit Resource Development	3
Select two courses from the list below:		6
POLI 7920	MPA Internship	
POLI 7520	Program Evaluation	
POLI 6150	Intergovernmental Relations and Federalism	
POLI 6380	INGOs and International Organizations	
POLI 6390	NGOs and International Development	
POLI 6550	Issues in Public Administration	
SOWO 7030	Evaluation in Social Work Practice	
SOWO 7090	Advanced Social Welfare Policy	
Total Hours		15