

Ph.D. in Urban and Public Affairs

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UPA Program

The Department of Urban and Public Affairs offers a Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Public Affairs. The Ph.D. in Urban and Public Affairs is an interdisciplinary degree that prepares graduates for careers in teaching and research, policy analysis, public administration, land use and environmental planning, and economic development. A number of fellowships and assistantships for outstanding students are available.

The Program consists of a core curriculum and areas of specialization. The core provides a broad orientation and the specializations enable students to develop expertise in particular fields. The curriculum includes 48 credits: 18 credits of core courses, 18 credits of specialization courses, and 12 credits of dissertation research. Students qualify for official candidacy to the Ph.D by satisfactorily completing all coursework and the qualifying examination.

Admission

Entry to the program (normally) requires a master's degree or equivalent. Students without a master's degree may enroll for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) or Master of Urban Planning (MUP) degree and then reapply for admission to the Ph.D. program in the semester prior to completion of the master's degree. The University also offers relevant master's degree programs in Political Science, Sociology, Applied Geography and other fields. A completed application form, all transcripts of previous undergraduate and graduate study, Graduate Record Examination scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing), at least two letters of recommendation (from former professors), and a [SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION](#) are required (Note: if getting recommendation letters from former professors is impossible, an exemption to this requirement may be requested if all other admission requirements are clearly exceeded). Minimum GRE score of 300, with minimum individual scores (in the range) of a 154 Verbal/146 Quantitative as well as 4.0 Analytical are (normally) required. Those applicants whose native language is not English and who do not hold a degree from a university where the language of instruction is English must also submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), with a (normal) minimum score (in the range) of 100 *or* the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with a (normal) minimum score of 7.5. A personal interview with members of the Ph.D. Admissions Committee also may be required for applicants not fully satisfying admissions requirements. Interviews will be conducted in-person when feasible or via internet video when in-person interviews are not feasible.

Contact Details

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Ph.D. Program

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