

San Diego State University

With over 34,000 students and nearly 6,000 faculty and staff, San Diego State University is the leading campus of the California State University system and is designated a "Research University" by the Carnegie Foundation. It is ranked among the nation's best national universities according to U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges Guide." Quality and affordability combine to make San Diego State University an excellent choice at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

The School of Public Affairs

The School of Public Affairs is a highly integrated academic unit in the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts. There are two undergraduate degree programs, including the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Criminal Justice and the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Public Administration. There is a formal emphasis available in City Planning within the undergraduate Public Administration B.A. The school also offers three graduate degree programs: Master of Public Administration (MPA), Master of City Planning (MCP), and Master of Criminal Justice and Criminology (MCJC; jointly offered with the Department of Sociology).

The online MPA offers fewer class choices, but provides a fast-track of 16 months to graduation.

SDSU College of Extended Studies

SDSU's College of Extended Studies reaches out to the greater San Diego community, the nation, and the world with a wide variety of lifelong learning classes, seminars, and certificate programs. Career advancement courses are offered in many areas of management, leadership, and quality improvement while self-enrichment courses range from accounting to web design. Additionally, the College offers more than 50 certificate programs, online courses, and many other learning opportunities.

“Public service is important, and being in public administration is a noble profession.”

*— Jack McGrory,
Former SD City
Manager and MPA*



For detailed information on application procedures and deadlines to apply, please visit ces.sdsu.edu/MPA



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

*School of Public Affairs
& College of Extended Studies*

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SAN DIEGO STATE
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*School of Public Affairs
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Fast-track Online Master of Public Administration

NASPAA Accredited



Where will you be in 16 months?



Master of Public Administration

Our nation needs effective leadership and competence in the administration of public affairs. The growth in all levels of government and public service organizations and their increasing responsibilities in a complex society have led directly to the need for more capable and more ethical public administrators.

The primary purpose of the online Master of Public Administration degree is to enhance the knowledge and skills of practicing professionals who wish to improve their knowledge and skills for promotion in their management careers in government, community agencies, nonprofit organizations, planning and consulting firms, and private sector organizations that work in partnership with the public sector. The job market and hiring criteria of today's economy indicate that employment opportunities for public administrators has a strong future trajectory but one that increasingly involves partnerships with for-profit and nonprofit sectors.

Career opportunities in public administration can be found throughout the public and nonprofit sectors. The online MPA program is targeted to students who have at least two years managerial-level experience in public administration.

Upon graduation our MPA students have secured a wide variety of administrative positions within government, private sector, and community agencies. For example, graduating students have obtained careers with city personnel and finance departments, county operating departments, special districts, hospitals, consulting firms and a wide array of nonprofit organizations. Students in the online program are expected to demonstrate significant accomplishment in career development, promotion, and competitiveness.

Rankings

US News and World Report's Best Graduate Schools 2013, ranks San Diego State University's MPA program the **#1 program in the California State University system** and the 4th ranked MPA program at a public university in CA.

Program Affiliations

The Public Administration program at San Diego State University is a founding member of the National Association of School of Public Affairs and Administration. NASPAA is the national accreditation organization of over 170 MPA programs in the U.S. (2013-14).



MPA

The Master of Public Administration is a nationally accredited professional degree offered to qualified students. The curriculum provides a foundation of required coursework and includes the selection of complementary courses and seminar work that may be oriented toward an emphasis in more specific areas of administration.

Online Teaching Format

The **16-month online degree program** is primarily available to students currently working in the profession, or who have previous experience working in public administration, urban planning, criminal justice, or related fields. The 36-unit curriculum is the same as the regular campus-based program; however, the fast-track, online program is taught in six, two-month modules with two on-campus experiences – one at the beginning, and one at the end of the program. Most full-time practicing or previously practicing professionals will have the internship requirement waived provided the level of their experience is adequate.

In each module, students take two classes as part of an online peer cohort. Students receive approximately two weeks of break between modules. Between the final two modules, students receive a longer break with the goal of developing an applied research project. This project builds to a capstone presentation at the end of the program during an on-campus weekend experience. The capstone project is presented to a panel of professional practitioners and faculty.

The Curriculum

The online MPA provides the knowledge and skill set for students in management careers in government, community agencies, private nonprofit organizations, planning and consulting firms, and private sector organizations. Courses and faculty in the online program are the same as the in-person format. Students must take seven required courses in: public administration theory, research methods, public finance and public policy; along with four electives that are tailored to the interests of each cohort. Students also complete a capstone course that is a problem-solving project at their place of employment.

Eligibility

Students holding a bachelor's degree in any major from an accredited university are eligible to apply for admission to the online MPA program. The program is primarily designed for students currently working in the profession, or who have previous experience working in public administration, urban planning, criminal justice, or related fields.

Application Process

To apply, please visit CSUmentor.edu.

Admission to the online MPA program is based on the SDSU application and on the following five factors:

- 1) **Overall Grade Point Average.** A GPA of 3.0 is considered desirable for graduate study in public administration, but a 2.85 GPA (on a 4-point scale) may be acceptable for admission, depending on other factors.
- 2) **GRE Score.** We encourage applicants who have not yet taken the GRE to apply to the MPA program. An overall target score on the verbal and quantitative of 294 (pre-2012 scale 950) is considered minimum, but the minimum can be waived in certain circumstances. The scores need to be submitted by the due date for the year of application.
- 3) **Two Letters of Recommendation.** Letters should come from a person familiar with the applicant's academic ability and accomplishments, and/or current/previous employer.
- 4) **Internship Waiver Request Form.** This ensures that full-time professionals will have the internship requirement waived, and helps us guide students with less experience.
- 5) **Statement of Purpose.** Why do you want this degree?