First of its kind in Kentucky when created in 1968, the Master of Public Administration prepares qualified pre-career and in-service individuals for challenging public service careers in local, state, regional, and federal government and in nonprofit management. In addition, the program prepares individuals in the private sector who have responsibility for public sector contracts, regulatory compliance, or other liaison and oversight activities.

Special emphasis is placed on regional and local government in Kentucky and surrounding states. In addition to a general option, specialized programs of study are offered in community development administration, community health administration, and environmental health administration.

The MPA program at Eastern Kentucky University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

For admission to the program, students must meet both the general requirements of the Graduate School and the requirements of the MPA program. Students in the MPA program come from a variety of undergraduate degree programs and admission decisions are based on an overall assessment of a student’s application and ability to meet admission criteria of the program.

General Information

The Department is collegial, student-oriented, and maintains high standards and performance. Commitment to professional excellence is fostered in part by departmental membership in both the American Society for Public Administration and the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

The MPA program is 39 hours and includes 24 hours of core required classes, 12 hours of electives, and 3 hours of POL 870 or POL 871. Full-time students – those who take at least 3 courses each semester – generally finish the program in 2 years (this includes at least one course completed during the summer).

The EKU MPA program welcomes students of diverse backgrounds. EKU offers graduate assistantship opportunities for minority students and the MPA program’s computer lab has technology available for students with disabilities.

What can I do with an MPA degree?

MPA alumni are working in federal government agencies, in state agencies, and in regional and local government and nonprofit organizations. Our graduates serve as policy analysts, program managers, budget analysts, researchers, elected officials, program evaluators, grant writers, community and economic development specialists, and government liaison specialists, to name but a few of the many jobs for which the MPA program prepares students.
The core work for the MPA is as follows:

POL 765: Administrative Law
POL 800: Research Methods
POL 801: Administration, Ethics, and Public Policy
POL 874: Public Sector Leadership
POL 875: Public Sector Organizations and Management
POL 876: Public Human Resources Management
POL 877: Public Finance Administration
POL 879: Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
POL 870: Internship in Public Administration
POL 871: Field Study in Public Administration

General Degree Program
Students complete the core, 12 hours of electives and 3 hours of POL 870 (or) POL 871.

Community Health Administration Option
MPA Core: 24 hours
POL 870 (or) POL 871: 3 hours
HEA 898: Health Care Delivery

Three courses from among:
HEA 816: Public Health Organization and Administration
HEA 855: Epidemiology and Risk Management
HEA 798: Health Promotion Program Planning
HEA 875: Seminar in Contemporary Health Problems
HEA 880: Special Project in Health

Community Development Option
MPA Core: 24 hours
POL 870 (or) POL 871: 3 hours
POL 845: Community Development

Three courses from among:
POL 733: Seminar in State and Local Politics
POL 835: Seminar in Intergovernmental Relations
GEO 725: Seminar in Planning
GEO 701: Advanced Geography
ECO 780: Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
ECO 790: Regional Economics
POL 847: Strategic Planning and Grant Writing
POL 846: Nonprofit Organizations

Environmental Health Option
MPA Core: 24 hours
POL 870 (or) POL 871: 3 hours
EHS 850: Introduction to Environmental Health Science

Three courses from among:
EHS 825: Environmental Health Planning
EHS 845: Environmental Health Standards/Compliance
EHS 855: Emergency Sanitation/Shelter/Environments
EHS 870: Assessing and Managing Health Risks
EHS 880: Food/Waterborne Disease Control

Financial Assistance
Graduate assistantships are offered in many academic areas to full-time students with outstanding academic records. Duties may include laboratory supervision, teaching, and research-related tasks. Loans are also available through the Federal Perkins Student Loan and Federal Stafford Student Loan Programs.

We Invite You to Visit

www.eku.edu  www.mpa.eku.edu  www.gradschool.eku.edu

Information and Applications
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