

Public Administration, MPA/ Sociology MA Dual Degree

The School of Public Affairs in collaboration with the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences offers a dual graduate degree in Public Administration and Sociology.

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is a generalist degree designed to prepare students for a variety of positions in public and nonprofit management and policy analysis. The Master of Arts in Sociology (MA in Sociology) provides methodological and theoretical frameworks to transcend individual experience in order to understand social life and is guided by a vision of social justice. Together, the two disciplines offer students a strong foundation to advance public service, work collaboratively to meet social challenges, and better understand key social phenomena using multiple lenses.

Graduates will be equipped to hold leadership positions in public and nonprofit programs designed to ameliorate important social problems.

Students enrolled in the dual MPA and MA in Sociology program complete both programs simultaneously in 53 credit hours, instead of the 66 credit hours required if each degree is completed separately. Students complete foundation coursework in both degrees, but have the flexibility to customize their programs by choosing elective coursework in public administration and sociology that best suits their interests and career objectives. The research methods requirements are taken in sociology and the culminating experience (e.g., capstone or thesis) is a collaboration between the two programs. Students without significant professional experience in public service will be required to take an additional 3-credit hour internship.

General Requirements

A minimum of 53 credit hours of appropriate graduate study, including a minimum of 15 core hours in public administration, 4 core hours in sociology, and 7-8 hours of research methods from sociology. In addition, students will complete a minimum of 6 elective credit hours in public administration and a minimum of 6 elective credit hours in sociology. Additional electives will be selected from either public administration or sociology, depending on the student's personal and career goals.

Students enrolled in the dual MPA/MA in Sociology program must maintain academic standards for both programs.

- A grade point average of B (3.0 on a 4-point scale) or better is required for degree candidacy.
- Students must earn grades of B- or better in all public administration courses

- Students must earn grades of B+ or better in all core sociology courses and grades of B or better for all other sociology courses

Course Requirements

All courses are 3 credit hours unless otherwise noted.

Core Courses

MPA Core Courses (15 credit hours)

- PAD 5001 - Introduction to Public Administration and Public Service*
**PAD 5001 should be taken within the first two semesters.*
- PAD 5002 - Organizational Management and Behavior
- PAD 5004 - Economics and Public Finance
- PAD 5005 - The Policy Process and Democracy
- PAD 5006 - Ethics and Leadership

MA in Sociology Core Courses (4 credit hours)

- SOC 5050 - Proseminar in Sociology* (1 credit hour)
**SOC 5050 must be taken in the student's first fall semester.*
- SOC 5160 - Social Theory II** ***
***Incoming graduate students who have not taken an undergraduate course in Social Theory are also required to take SOC 5150 Social Theory I (1 credit hour).*
****Incoming graduate students who have not taken an undergraduate course in Social Statistics are also required to take SOC 5020 Social Statistics (1 credit hour).*

Methods Courses (7-8 credit hours)

- SOC 5070 - Research Methods (4 credit hours)

AND **one** of these Advanced Methods courses

- SOC 5170 - Advanced Statistics and Research (4 credit hours)
- SOC 5180 - Community Organization and Analysis (Ethnography)
- SOC 5200 - Program Evaluation
- SOC 5370 - Sociology of Media and Popular Culture (Content Analysis)
- SOC 5830 - Race and Ethnic Relations (Participant Observation)
- SOC 5950 - Inequality, Crime, and Justice

Internship (3 credit hours, unless waived. Increases the total degree requirements by 3 credit hours.)

- PAD 6910 Field Study in Public Administration

Required for students lacking significant professional experience in public service. May be waived for students with at least 1 year of public or nonprofit professional experience.

Elective Courses (21-24 credit hours, depending on choice of Capstone or Thesis)

A minimum of 6 of these elective credits will be in public administration and a minimum of 6 of these elective credits will be in sociology. Additional electives will be selected from either public administration or sociology, depending on the student's interests as identified in their degree plan. Elective courses include a mixture of specialized public administration and/or sociology courses, workshops, and other formats. Students may choose to focus these elective hours around a particular area based on their interests and career goals.

Internship (3 credit hours, unless waived) in Public Administration

Students are determined to be "pre-service" or "in-service" by the MPA program director and Sociology graduate program director at the time of admission. Pre-service students lack significant experience in public service and must complete PAD 6910 Internship for an additional 3 credit hours above the minimum 53 credit hours required for the dual degree. In-service students have significant relevant work experience and are not eligible to take PAD 6910. To enroll in PAD 6910, pre-service students must have completed at least 9 hours of coursework. Internship is graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Internship guidelines are set forth in the MPA Handbook at <http://www.uccs.edu/spa>.

Capstone Requirements: Capstone or Thesis (3-6 credit hours)

Dual MPA/MA in Sociology students are required to complete either the Capstone Seminar or Master's Thesis as their culminating experience.

Capstone Seminar

In PAD 5361 Capstone Seminar, students work with a client in a public service/nonprofit agency of these elective to identify a problem and then, using the knowledge and skills they have gained in the program, carry out a project and write a paper to address the problem. The Capstone Seminar requires three hours of credit and should be taken after all MPA core courses have been completed with a grade of B- or better, and preferably during the final semester in the Dual MPA/MA in Sociology program. Capstone Seminar is offered ONLY in the fall and spring semesters.

Students should complete the following steps no later than the semester prior to enrolling in PAD 5361 Capstone Seminar:

- Attend a Capstone Orientation hosted by the School of Public Affairs.
- Identify a partner agency for the Capstone project.
- Obtain an agreement form from a UCCS faculty member to serve as a second reader on the Capstone project.

- Work with the faculty member serving as the Capstone second reader to draft a proposal and assess the need for an IRB application for the Capstone project.
- Work with the Capstone Seminar instructor to submit an IRB proposal for review prior to the start of the semester in which they will enroll in the Capstone Seminar.

Thesis

In PAD 6950 Master's Thesis, students conduct a comprehensive review of the theoretical and research literature in the subject area of their thesis and collect original data or analyze existing data in new ways. The thesis requires six hours of credit that normally spans two semesters. The thesis option is available to Dual MPA/MA in Sociology students who have achieved an exceptional academic record and who wish to pursue independent research in greater depth than would normally be possible in Capstone Seminar. It is suited for students who intend to pursue a PhD degree or to enter a research or policy environment upon completion of the Dual MPA/ MA in Sociology program.

Minimum eligibility requirements for pursuing a thesis include:

- Matriculation in the Dual MPA/ MA in Sociology program.
- Successful completion of all core courses.
- Overall GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- Demonstrated ability to pursue research work.
- Preliminary identification of a thesis topic or area of interest.
- Agreement from a public administration or sociology faculty member to serve as the thesis committee chair along with agreement from two additional public administration or sociology faculty members to serve on the thesis committee. Integration of faculty from both Sociology and Public Administration is required.
- Students pursuing a Master's Thesis will take both PAD 6950 Master's Thesis (3 credit hours) and SOC 7000 Master's Thesis (3 credit hours), typically during the final two semesters of the program.
- Minor exceptions to the above criteria may be made in exceptional circumstances.

A student wishing to undertake the thesis option applies formally through her/his faculty advisor to establish eligibility under the above criteria. After establishing eligibility, the student should recruit three faculty members to serve on the student's thesis committee --- one public administration faculty member and one sociology faculty member to co-chair the committee and one to serve on the committee -- and then complete a thesis application form. Before the student is allowed to enroll in PAD 6950 or SOC 7000 Master's Thesis, he or she must complete the required approval processes for both the MPA and the MA in Sociology.