CSUN®

CALIFORNIA
STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHRIDGE

MASTER OF

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

WITH AN OPTION IN

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Shape the Vision of Your Community

Table of Contents

"Great leadership program, excellent professors, and flexible schedule."

Jaime Barajas
Director, The Barajas Foundation

Program Overview

California State University, Northridge ranks among the nation's top providers of Master of Public Administration (MPA) degrees and is California's leading MPA provider. Since 1985, more than 3,600 graduates have earned their MPA degrees at CSUN and now work in major roles across Southern California and beyond.

CSUN offers a two-year, professionally focused Master of Public Administration with a specialization in Public Sector Management and Leadership. This program develops and enhances leadership and management skills relevant to the needs of today's public-sector professionals. CSUN's MPA provides the specialized knowledge and develops the capabilities essential for improving and maintaining the efficiency of public organizations of all sizes and types.

CSUN's MPA Public Sector Management and Leadership Option emphasizes both the quantitative aspects of management (i.e., decisions based on analytical data) and the human dynamics of leadership. In addition, by focusing on conceptual as well as professional development, this program offers an unusually broad perspective on the field. This breadth results in well-rounded leaders who appreciate both the internal and external factors involved in decision making and problem solving at all levels of management. This program is delivered in your choice of modes and locations: online, on-campus or off-campus.

Nationwide between February 2023 to 2024, there were 31,386 public administration jobs that required a Master's degree. In California, the median salary was $94,500 for Master degree holders.

Lightcast

Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA ranks 2nd among the top cities with the highest number of MPA jobs
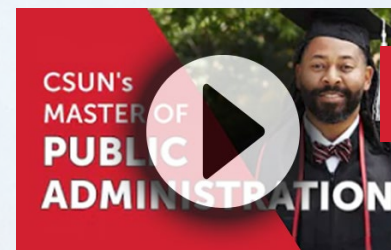
Lightcast

Why Choose This Program?

- Taught by a powerful combination of CSUN faculty and distinguished public administration experts, the MPA program provides an essential knowledge base for career development and advancement in today's increasingly competitive public-sector workplaces.

- CSUN's MPA program prepares students to successfully address managerial and administrative challenges in public organizations of all kinds.

- Courses focus on strategy, program design, and organizational management specific to the public sector.

- An exceptional level of student support and curriculum strength leads to high graduation rates, with some cohorts achieving up to 90%.

"The cohort program was such a convenience for me as a full-time employee, the automatic registration which was done for us, the starting and finishing the program with the same students allowed for special relationships in which we really gelled together as a group. I would not change this if I were to do the program again."

Wendell Brian Wall
General Manager
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

CSUN's MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Watch: Master of Public Administration at CSUN

"*My cohort was filled with mostly public-sector employees, like myself, but from wide range of departments and agencies. I learned just as much from my classmates as I did from my professors.*"

Stephanie Magnien Rockwell
Principle Project Coordinator
City of Los Angeles,
City Administrative Officer

Program Features Designed to Meet the Needs of Working Professionals

- **Work-friendly scheduling** – With your choice of delivery mode, you can take this program online, on-campus or at various off-campus locations.
  - **Online:** This option provides convenience and flexibility in where to complete weekly assignments as well as easy access to the support of fellow students.
  - **On-campus:** Students who earn their MPA degrees on campus enjoy face-to-face interaction with faculty and fellow students. They also have the ability to customize the duration of their learning experiences by choosing the number of courses taken each semester.
  - **Off-campus:** For the convenience of working professionals, CSUN also offers evening MPA classes at locations throughout the Los Angeles area. Off-campus MPA classes meet one night per week.
- **Structured learning** – Regular assignments, activities and due dates enable students to plan ahead.
- **Scheduled group discussions** – Scheduled course activities provide opportunities for student interaction in real time.
- **A community of peers** – Online and off-campus students enter and progress through the program as a group or cohort. The cohort format not only ensures on-time completion and maximizes interaction with faculty, but also encourages the development of valuable professional relationships with classmates who share similar career interests and goals.
- **Exceptional support services** – Chief among these is the personal assistance of a program coordinator whose expertise with program-related administrative matters frees students to focus on their studies and careers.
- **Guaranteed enrollment** – Students admitted into the program are automatically enrolled in all required courses.
- **Federal financial aid** – Many of our students access financial aid to help pay for their education. A team of financial-aid specialists dedicated specifically to our professional students is available to help process applications and distribute funding for those who qualify.

Alumni

CSUN alumni create a network of connections in California, across the nation, and around the globe. When choosing a university, it is useful to know that others who have earned their degree at that university have achieved success and often rise to leading roles in their chosen fields. Graduating from CSUN will make you a part of an extensive network of over 400,000 alumni that will build relationships for continued professional success.

Our MPA alumni have successful careers in these organizations and many others:

CITIES OF:

Bell
Beverly Hills
Burbank
Coronado
Culver City
Fontana
Glendale
Indian Wells
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Monterey Park
Palmdale
Pasadena
San Gabriel
Santa Clarita
Santa Monica
Simi Valley
South Gate
South Pasadena
Ventura

COUNTIES OF:

Los Angeles
Santa Barbara
Ventura

All product and company names are trademarks™ or registered® trademarks of their respective holders. Use of them does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement by them.

"Our MPA program's great value is that it transforms employees into professionals. It also shows the importance and shape of the public administration discipline as a central and constantly evolving component of our broader community."

*Warren Campbell, Ph. D.
Former Professor,
MPA Program, CSUN*

CSUN: A Leader in Online Graduate Education

CSUN is a model institution for cultural diversity and rigorous scholarship in Greater Los Angeles and beyond. Here, students combine academic pursuits with hands-on experience to assemble the robust skills needed to thrive in today's global economy.

Each year, CSUN's online programs receive national recognition for their innovative curriculum, instruction and methods. All online curriculum is designed by the same distinguished faculty and leading practitioners as on-campus programs. This approach ensures that each course, whether on-campus or online, is held to the same high standards of academic excellence and student achievement.

CSUN's award-winning online programs are developed through a strong collaboration between faculty, instructional design teams and technical professionals. This partnership creates an engaged online learning community and adds enormous flexibility to the demanding personal and professional lives of participants.

Faculty receive individualized training and ongoing support to ensure smooth and effective use of online educational technology. CSUN's professional distance-learning staff also provides training and start-to-finish technical support to students in online degree programs.

Education-technology specialists, assigned to each online program and cohort, develop strong working relationships with those enrolled. This real-world support comes from actual people on the CSUN campus, and not just at a "virtual help desk," who remain fully committed to student success from day one until graduation.

Distinction in Accreditation

California State University, Northridge is accredited by The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), a regional institutional accrediting body, recognized by the U.S. Council of Higher Education and Accreditation. In 2012, the WASC Commission stated, "The Commission commends CSUN for becoming a model learning organization characterized by collaborative and evidence-based planning, decision making and problem solving. Among its accomplishments during this review are its deep understanding of the characteristics and needs of CSUN students, which has led to programs and activities that promote student success. As noted by the team, the foundation at CSUN could not be stronger." Visit the University Accreditation web page for more information.

"The cohort provides a great opportunity to network and work with other people in your same field of work and study. It provides an excellent opportunity to share information, be a sounding board, learn from each other's public agencies practices, procedures and methods."

Mariam Lee Ko
Human Resources & Risk Manager
City of South Pasadena

Advantages of the Carefully Crafted Curriculum

CSUN's MPA Public Sector Management and Leadership degree features a carefully crafted curriculum, specifically designed to meet the career-development needs of current or aspiring public-sector professionals. The faculty, working as a creative team with leading practitioners, develop programs in a cohort format. Faculty look at the program as an educational whole from start to finish to ensure the educational experience is powerful, comprehensive, and focused on the essentials that will lead to success in public sectors after graduation.

The MPA program is taught by CSUN faculty who also work in the field in a range of settings and roles. The program uses an evidence-based approach to learning and problem solving through the study of real-world cases. The faculty's combination of traditional scholarship and applied research puts CSUN in a position to offer midcareer professionals the advantage of advanced education rooted in the realities of practice and the challenges facing professionals and organizations today.

The curriculum for this program consists of 12 three-unit courses for a total of 36 units.

"Everything you learn in the classroom can be applied in the workplace the next day."

Erick Lee
Deputy Director of Public Works
City of Beverly Hills

CORE MPA COURSES

MPA 610 | Introduction to Contemporary Public Administration

MPA 620 | Research Methods for Public Administrators I

MPA 621 | Research Methods for Public Administrators II

MPA 643 | Public Sector Human Resources Management

MPA 644 | Public Finance and Budgeting in the Public Sector

MPA 650 | Contemporary Public Policy Making

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

MPA 697S | Comprehensive Examination
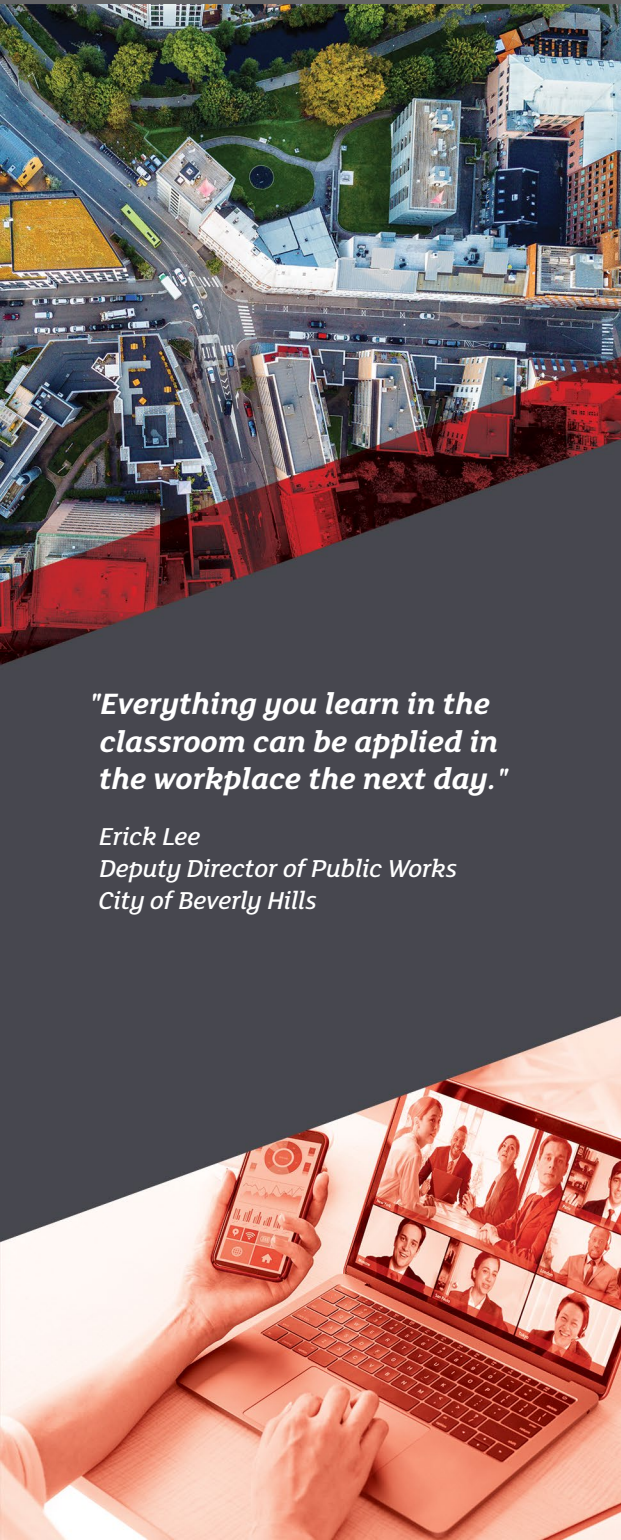
PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP OPTION COURSES

The following electives are available within the MPA program.*

MPA 623B | Applied Program Evaluation

MPA 624 | The Management of Public Sector Projects

MPA 632A | Organizational Leadership

MPA 632B | Strategic Management

MPA 634 | Public Organizational Design and Development

*On-campus programs feature a variety of elective choices. Off-campus/online programs feature a pre-determined elective package. Not all courses available at all locations.

Course Highlights

MPA 610 | Introduction to Contemporary Public Administration

This course examines the evolution of the study of public administration with a focus on current debates and approaches in the field. Particular attention will be paid to the importance of federalism and intergovernmental relations, jurisdictional challenges, administrative ethics, collaborative leadership, human resource management, organizational theory, policy making, community engagement and the role of politics and financial administration. During the course students will compare and contrast market-based approaches with more traditional bureaucratic approaches to public administration. Significant attention will be paid to the numerous challenges facing America's large and diverse metropolitan areas. In this course, we will address these issues and review new strategies to improve public governance through effective public management and community engagement.

MPA 620 | Research Methods for Public Administrators I

The course combines design methodology, data collection and management (processing), and pertinent domain knowledge in the public sector. The course reviews the benefits and challenges presented in public sector research, as well as ethical issues, risks and biases associated with the design and data collection process. Students will develop habits of mind of evidence-based managers and understand the evidence requirements for ethical decision-making.

MPA 621 | Research Methods for Public Administrators II

This course builds upon the MPA 620 Research methods for public administration. Public sector managers who adopt an evidence-based, value-driven mindset must translate analytical know-how and an understanding of complex problems into actionable insights. This course entails learning by doing– considering a range of topics /problems, design purposes (exploratory, descriptive, explanatory), data types and sources, application domains, and key measurement indicators within organizations. Prerequisite: MPA 620.

MPA623B | Approaches and Methods in Program Evaluation

This course will provide students with a diverse theoretical background and strong applied understanding of program implementation, management, and evaluation. As a result of this course, students will be able to develop, implement, and be critical consumers of public sector program evaluations. Prerequisite: MPA 620, MPA 621.

MPA 624 | The Management of Public Sector Projects

This course familiarizes students with the key features of project management and the unique challenges presented by public sector projects. Students will gain the knowledge and skills required to oversee project management functions in a public sector organization.

"I really enjoyed not only the classes but the instructors. I definitely left the program feeling like it was worth it and that I learned a great deal that I could carry forward in any future job, regardless of whether I ended up working in the public sector or not."

Devon Renwick
Sales Associate
Johns Hopkins University Press

MPA 632A | Organizational Leadership

This course is designed to familiarize students with the ethical nature and dilemmas of public sector leadership in America and globally. The curriculum will address individual ethics, ethical awareness in one's organizational environment and the impacts of ethical responsibilities to society and beyond.

MPA 632B | Strategic Management

Students in this course examine how managers guide the creation of goals, setting of priorities, coordinating of disparate activities, and adjustment to a complex changing environment. While exploring the concepts and models of strategic management currently used in the public sector, students will prepare and present a strategic plan. The implications of strategic planning on social justice, ethics and external stakeholders - including disadvantaged communities - will be addressed.

MPA 634 | Public Organizational Design and Development

Organizational design and development are two systematic integrated processes aimed at improving the overall effectiveness of organizational systems. Students will gain practical organizational design and development knowledge through a combination of readings, discussion forums, webinars, case studies, written assignments, and through the completion of an organizational cultural assessment project that reflects the student's real-world work environment.

MPA 643 | Public Human Resources Management

This course is designed to educate students about human resources management as they will experience it in leadership positions within various non-profits and the civil service. Beyond the core functions, the course will teach students to apply theories, concepts, and best practices, including diversity management, to the ethical challenges they will face in senior leadership positions.

MPA 644 | Public Finance and Budgeting in the Public Sector

This course provides students with a foundation in the concepts, terminology and techniques in the art and science of public sector budgeting and fiscal administration. Students use real world examples, to analyze various forms of inclusive budgeting and revenue and expenditure planning, evaluate & analyze financial health, and problem solve fiscal activities in governmental units, and gain "hands-on" budget analysis and written and oral presentation experience. Recommended preparatory: MPA 620, MPA 621.

MPA 650 | Contemporary Public Policy Making

This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the various approaches and processes of public policy making by connecting theory with practice. Students will develop a breadth of knowledge and skills necessary to address the pre-decision, decision, and post-decision stages of policymaking. Students will examine the relationship between values, including equity, efficiency, social justice, and procedural fairness, and the politics of policymaking in the public sector.
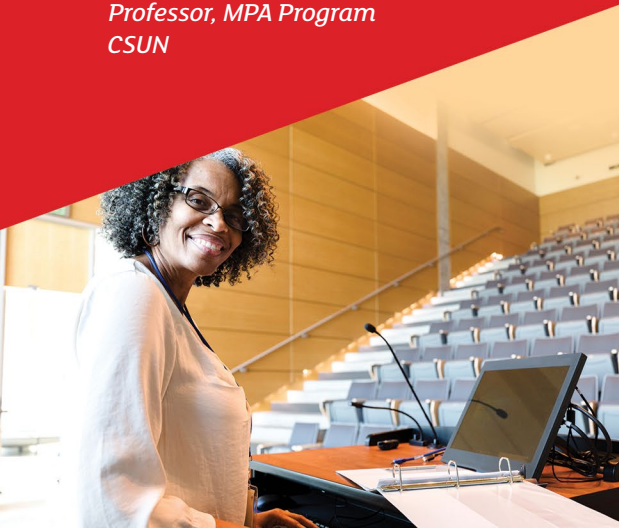
MPA 697S | Comprehensive Exam

Students selecting this option prepare for examination in General Public Administration and in two Specialized Subfields.

Distinguished Faculty

The Master of Public Administration with an option in Public Sector Management and Leadership program is designed and taught by CSUN faculty members in collaboration with public administration professionals who are leaders in their areas of specialization. This blend of practitioners with outstanding CSUN faculty ensures that you will graduate with a solid academic background and be well prepared for the realities of practice in the field. Faculty bios can be read on the Faculty web page.

- Varouj Abkian, M.S.
- Lawrence Becker, Ph.D.
- Suzanne Beaumaster, Ph.D.
- David Cain, MPA.
- Shauna Clark, MBA.
- Ariane David, Ph.D.
- Jonathan Delgado, DPA
- Maurice Franklin, DPA
- Rhonda Franklin, Ed.D.
- Marc D. Glidden, Ph.D.
- Steven J. Golightly, Ph.D., MPA
- Tom Hogen-Esch, Ph.D.
- Paul D. Krivonos, Ph.D.
- James S. Larson, Ph.D.
- Julio L. Lima Ph.D.
- Dean C. Logan, MPA
- Thomas D. Lynch, Ph.D.
- Sarmistha R. Majumdar, Ph.D.
- Deborah Martin, MPA, CPA
- Lauren McDonald, Ph.D.
- Henrik P. Minassians, Ph.D.
- Jason L. Morin, Ph.D.
- Philip M. Nufrio, Ph.D.
- Patty Oertel, MBA
- David Powell, Ph.D.
- Ravi Roy, Ph.D.
- Mikayel Safaryan, Ph.D.
- Tatevik Sargsyan, Ph.D.
- Talin Saroukhanian, Ph.D.
- H. Eric Schockman, Ph.D.
- Linda-Marie Sundstrom, DPA
- Ward Thomas, Ph.D.
- Zeynep Toker, Ph.D.
- Anaïs Valiquette L'Heureux, Ph.D.
- Steve Wantz, MPA
- Kim Williams, Ed.D.
- Mylon Winn, Ph.D.
- Bryce Yokomizo, DPA

"Students are seeking practical approaches to job-related problems. In my courses, we discuss current events that provide examples of leadership challenges and encourage everyone to share challenges experienced on the job."

Bryce Yokomizo, MPA
Professor, MPA Program
CSUN

The Advantages of CSUN's Approach to Supporting the Educational Success of Working Professionals

Starting a degree program is a big step, but – for working adults – the real value is in completing the program. That is why CSUN focuses on providing the outstanding student support services that ensure participants meet their educational goals and succeed in graduating. We recognize that midcareer professionals undertaking advanced professional education need to focus on their academic work to be successful in the program. This recognition prompted the development of a level of support services rare among public universities.

Students should not have to spend time trying to figure out and navigate the university's administrative systems. With that in mind, the program coordinator assigned to each cohort works with students from the point of application through graduation. This practice ensures that each student will have direct personal support with a specific person to email or call with any questions or concerns at any time during the program. Each program coordinator is also a proactive part of the cohort experience, providing ongoing information, regular reminders and consistent encouragement.

CSUN graduate programs are proud to have achieved high graduation rates with some cohorts reaching up to 90%.

Each degree program also has an assigned academic lead. This is a faculty member with specific responsibilities for coordinating the work of the faculty teaching in the program and responding to academic questions students may have that go beyond the scope of an individual course. Participants in each cohort know their academic lead well and can take advantage of this resource for guidance whenever they face an academic challenge.

With this approach, CSUN graduate programs are proud to have achieved high graduation rates with some cohorts reaching up to 90%.

Federal, state and local governments make up 14.5% of total employment.

USA Today

Admission to the Master of Public Administration program

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.5.
- Admission may be awarded to students with a 2.5-2.99 GPA and the following:
  - Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
  - At least two years of work experience in the public sector.
  - Students with less than a 3.0 GPA must provide three letters of reference from supervisors that include information about work assignments and their completion, overall work performance and growth in responsibility in the workplace.

⊘ *GRE is not required.*

English Proficiency Requirements for Non-U.S. Degree and International Students Only

If a graduate applicant has earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a college or university outside the U.S., then an English language proficiency exam may be required.

For more information, please visit Admission Requirements web page.

For More Information

(818) 210-3063

programs@csun.edu

Learn More