



GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

M.P.A. WITH A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

THE DEGREE

The master of public administration with a graduate certificate in urban and regional planning is designed to meet the needs of professionals who seek to enhance their skills and qualifications in management and public administration. This dual-focus degree program enhances one's general management skills while also developing expertise about public sector issues. Students will accomplish this goal by completing the administration core while complementing it with a graduate certificate in urban and regional planning.

The classes are suited to the needs of individuals currently employed in the public sector as well as those seeking to transition into the field. The occupational backgrounds of M.P.A. students cover a wide spectrum of career paths in the public and not-for-profit private sectors. The great array of career paths represented in this program is one of its invigorating aspects and contributes in important ways to the learning taking place both inside and outside the classroom. This program is oriented, in its setting, structure, and culture, toward accommodating those who want to learn alongside other working professionals. A program strength is the caliber of the student body and, as a result, the quality of "peer learning." For this reason class sizes are kept small, 20-25 students (on average). This degree requires an internship experience of three semester hours for students without sufficient professional public sector work experience.

THE CURRICULUM

Students can earn an M.P.A. with a graduate certificate in urban and regional planning by successfully completing six core administration courses (18 semester hours)

and six concentration courses in public administration (18 semester hours). Classes generally meet one night a week during the fall and spring semesters. Most of the administration core courses are available during both of these semesters. WCU also offers two summer sessions and some of the administration core courses are available during these times as well. The public administration concentration courses may be available during the fall, spring, or summer semesters.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

I. Public Administration Core (18 semester hours)

- PPA 500 Foundations in Public Service
- PPA 501 Research Methods in Public Administration
- PPA 502 Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
- PPA 503 Public Budgeting and Finance
- PPA 504 Public Human Resources Management
- PPA 505 Public Sector Organization Theory

II. Certificate Requirements (18 semester hours)

A. Required Courses (6 semester hours)

- GEO 525 Urban and Regional Planning
- PPA 600 Capstone Seminar in Public Administration

B. Electives (12 semester hours)

Under advisement, select from the following:

- GEO 502 Topical Seminar
- GEO 503 Seminar in Modern Geography

- GEO 505 Planning Design
- GEO 506 Seminar in Physical Geography
- GEO 507 Internet Mapping
- GEO 509 Quantitative Methods
- GEO 521 Suburbanization and Land Development
- GEO 524 Population Processes
- GEO 526 Metropolitan Systems and Problems
- GEO 527 Planning Law and Organization
- GEO 530 Demographic Analysis
- GEO 531 Transportation Planning
- GEO 534 Geographic Information Systems
- GEO 536 Environmental Planning
- GEO 538 Environmental Modeling with GIS
- GEO 554 Geography and Planning of Housing
- GEO 577 Geodatabases
- GEO 584 Applications of Geographic Information Systems
- GEO 585 Geography Field Methods
- GEO 590 Independent Studies in Geography
- GEO 615 Internship
- PSC 542 Dynamics of Public Opinion and Political Behavior
- PPA 514 American Public Policy

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies:

- Completed graduate application,

including a statement of how the M.P.A. furthers the individual's professional goals (apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad)

- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended at both undergraduate and graduate levels
- Two letters of reference from current or former supervisors who can attest to the applicant's management potential
- Resume

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education
McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

Or contact the department:

Write: Dr. Jeffery L. Osgood, Jr., Director
M.P.A. Program
1160 McDermott Drive
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2438

E-mail: mpa@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/mpa

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/official_documents/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was

founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

