Program of Study

The Doctor of Public Administration degree at West Chester University is designed to meet regional employer and student needs by preparing individuals to advance the practice of public affairs and administration at the highest levels. D.P.A. courses will focus on the development of core competencies in the areas of strategic management, public sector economic and financial decision-making, and policy advocacy and leadership. Through a sequence of three methodology courses, students will be prepared to engage in the highest levels of program and policy evaluation. The acquisition of methodological competence through the evaluation lens will assist students in identifying the most effective and efficient solutions to the problems they encounter in practice. In consultation with an advisor, concentration courses will be selected from among the departments of Public Policy & Administration, Criminal Justice, Geography and Planning, and Graduate Social Work. Finally, students will complete a capstone project that demonstrates a high level of competence in applying the D.P.A. student learning outcomes to the solution of an actual organizational or public problem/issue.

At the end of the D.P.A. program, students will be able:

- To lead and manage in public governance: the ability to appraise both the internal and external organizational environment, including the culture, politics and institutional setting, and to use this knowledge to lead and manage personnel, programs, policy and outcomes.
- To participate in and contribute to the public policy process: the ability to understand the policy making process, including defining the problem, facilitating stakeholder involvement in agenda-setting, formulating, implementing and evaluating policies, and developing the expertise to effectively contribute to the policy-making process.
- To analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions: the ability to evaluate and synthesize information in order to propose solutions for public problems, think critically by demonstrating both procedural and conceptual knowledge, analyze data using a variety of research methods, and make evidence-based and ethical decisions regarding public policy and organizational outcomes.
- To articulate and apply a public service perspective: the ability to understand and apply public service values appropriate to public affairs, administration, and policy.
- To communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry: the ability to respond thoughtfully to diversity both in the workplace and the citizenry, and work to productively in teams, including interacting effectively, demonstrating composure, professionalism and respect for others, and sharing information, expertise and resources.

Degree Requirements

I. Doctoral Study
- DPA 700 Pre-Doctoral Seminar in Public Policy and Administration

II. Administration Core
- DPA 701 Advanced Practice and Applied Theories of Public Policy and Administration
- DPA 702 Strategic Public Sector Management and Governance
- DPA 703 Advanced Public Sector Economic and Financial Decision Making
- DPA 704 Advocacy and Leadership in Public Policy and Administration

III. Methods Sequence
- DPA 705 Research Design for Program and Policy Evaluation
- DPA 706 Quantitative Methods of Program and Policy Evaluation
- DPA 707 Qualitative Methods of Program and Policy Evaluation

IV. Concentration Area
May be selected from among the following departments: Public Policy and Administration, Criminal Justice, Geography and Planning, and Graduate Social Work.

Students with masters degrees in related fields may transfer in up to 9 credits to satisfy the concentration requirements of the degree.

V. Capstone Project
- DPA 801 Capstone Seminar I: Research Questions and Framing the Literature
- DPA 802 Capstone Seminar II: Data and Measurements
- DPA 803 Capstone Capstone Seminar III: Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis
- DPA 804 Capstone Seminar IV: Findings and Recommendations
**Progression Requirements**

After completing the administration core and methods sequence, students are required to sit for a comprehensive examination. Students will be required to successfully pass a written qualifying exam before enrolling in DPA 803. The qualifying exam will cover content from both the administrative core and methods courses. An oral exam may be required of students with noted deficiencies in their written qualifying exams. Students not passing the qualifying exam on the first try will be permitted only one additional attempt.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following data points in making an admissions recommendation:

- Master's degree, from a regionally accredited college or university
- Three letters of recommendation (2 letters of recommendation from faculty in the student’s master’s program and 1 letter from an employer)
- Supplemental application questions (to be determined)
- Sample of professional writing (in addition to the goal statement requirement in the application)
- Resume or vita

Students whose master’s degrees are not in public administration, public affairs, policy analysis, political science, public health, or nonprofit management or a related field, and do not have relevant work experience, may be required to complete additional coursework in public administration.

**For More Information**

Write: Chairperson
Department of Public Policy and Administration
1160 McDermott Drive
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2438
E-mail: aturner@wcupa.edu
Web: www.wcupa.edu/mpa

Or contact the Office of Graduate Studies:

Write: Office of Graduate Studies
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
The Graduate Catalog is available online at http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/

**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 Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, enrolling more than 2,200 graduate students. Programs may 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 comprehensive, 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 largest member of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating 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 16,000 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,900 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, Delaware. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU’s students.
## Doctoral Study (1 credit):

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>DPA 700</td>
<td>Pre-doctoral Seminar in Public Policy &amp; Admin</td>
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## Administration Core (12 credits):

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<tr>
<td>DPA 701</td>
<td>Advanced Practice &amp; Applied Theories of PP&amp;A</td>
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<td>DPA 702</td>
<td>Strategic Public Management and Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPA 703</td>
<td>Advanced Public Sector Economic/Financial...</td>
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<td>DPA 704</td>
<td>Advocacy and Leadership in Public Policy &amp; Admin</td>
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## Methods Sequence (9 credits):

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<tr>
<td>DPA 705</td>
<td>Research Design for Public Policy &amp; Admin</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPA 706</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods of Public Policy &amp; Admin</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPA 707</td>
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## Concentration Electives (9 credits):

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<td>PPA/CRJ/GEO/GSW concentration elective</td>
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## Capstone Project (12 credits):

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<td>Capstone Seminar II: Data and Measurements</td>
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<td>Capstone Seminar III: Quantitative/Qualitative...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPA 804</td>
<td>Capstone Seminar IV: Findings &amp; Recommendations</td>
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**Advisor:**

**Expected Graduation Date:**