PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MPA

The Master of Public Administration offers options in health administration and criminal justice. The mission of the program is to develop and enhance the theoretical and practical understanding, knowledge, and skills of current and future managers in public service with particular emphasis on the North State region. A major feature of this program is administration in a nonmetropolitan setting.

Graduate Advising Requirement

Advising is mandatory each semester for all Public Administration students. Units taken outside the discipline of Public Administration must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator and the student's graduate advisory committee. Consult with the Graduate Coordinator for specifics.

Requirements for the Master of Public Administration

Completion of all requirements as established by the departmental graduate committee, the graduate advisory committee, and Graduate Studies, to include:

1. Completion of an approved program consisting of 37 units as follows:
   a. At least 30 units in the discipline of Public Administration.
   b. At the discretion of the academic program, a maximum of six semester units of special session credit earned in non-matriculated status combined with all transfer coursework may be counted toward the degree requirements. This applies to special session credit earned through Open University, or in courses offered for academic credit through Professional & Continuing Education. Correspondence courses and UC Extension coursework are not acceptable for transfer. Not more than six units from another department within the University, and only with approval by the graduate advisory committee.
   c. Not more than three units of internship coursework and only if the student's graduate committee or the Graduate Coordinator agrees that the internship is a meaningful educational experience. Internships are encouraged for pre-service students.
   d. Not more than nine units of POLS 697 or POLS 680B combined. POLS 697 topics cannot be the same as POLS 680B papers.
2. Completion and final approval of one of the following plans as specified by the student's graduate advisory committee.
   a. **Comprehensive Examination Plan**
      i. Preparing for the Comprehensive Examination: students shall enroll in POLS 680A the semester before they intend to take the Comprehensive Examination. Students are provided lists of suggested readings. The exam involves synthesis and practical application of public administration theory, knowledge, and skills acquired in the program.
      ii. Written Comprehensive Examinations: the candidate shall complete and pass a written examination in public administration.
      iii. Grading: each examination shall be graded as pass or fail.
      iv. Repeating the Written Comprehensive Examination: the candidate may repeat the examination once.
      v. Approval by the departmental graduate committee and the Graduate Council on behalf of the faculty of the university.
   b. **Professional Paper Plan**
      Enrollment in POLS 680A and POLS 680B and successful completion of a professional research paper (typically a policy analysis) of sufficient range in subject and method to demonstrate a broad acquaintance with the relevant theory and methodology and a capacity for in-depth analysis and investigation. The completed paper shall be presented before interested faculty and graduate students and approved by both members of the graduate committee.
3. Approval by the department graduate committee and the Graduate Council on behalf of the faculty of the University.

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this master's.

Course	Title	Units
Core Requirements		
POLS 521	Research Experience: An Introduction to Exploring Data in Politics and Criminal Justice	3
POLS 602	Public Administration and Democracy	3
POLS 660A	Public Management	3
POLS 660B	Public Personnel Administration	3
POLS 660C	Public Budgeting and Finance	3
POLS 662	Organizational Theory in the Public Sector	3
Culminating Activity		
Select four units from the following:		4
Comprehensive Examination: [1]		
Select three units of an elective course.		
POLS 680A	Research Plan/Culminating Practicum	
Professional Paper:		
POLS 680A	Research Plan/Culminating Practicum	
POLS 680B	Culminating Practicum	
Options		
Select one of the following:		15
General MPA (p. 1)		
Criminal Justice (p. 2)		
Health Administration (p. 2)		
Total Units		**37**

[1] Students selecting the comprehensive examination must enroll in POLS 680A the semester prior to taking the comprehensive examination.

General MPA Electives

Students pursuing the option in criminal justice or the option in health administration select six units from the following; general MPA students must take 15 units.

Course	Title	Units
POLS 601	State and Local Government	3
POLS 624	Public Opinion and Survey Design	3
POLS 652	Legal and Ethical Issues in Health and Human Services	3

POLS 653	Environmental Policy and the Law	3
POLS 654	Behavioral Health Policy and Administration	3
POLS 655	Aging Policy	3
POLS 656	International Public Administration	3
POLS 657	The Criminal Justice System: Institutions and Public Policy	3
POLS 658	Criminological Theory	3
POLS 659	Collaborative Community Management	3
POLS 661	Seminar in Public Administration	3
POLS 664	Public Policy in Health and Human Services	3
POLS 665	Issues in Global Public Health	3
POLS 667	Administration and Planning	3
POLS 668	Public Policy Formation	3
POLS 669	Public and Non-Profit Program Evaluation	3
POLS 671	Topics in American Politics	3
POLS 672	The U.S. Presidency	3
or POLS 673	The U.S. Congress	
POLS 689	Intern/Fieldwork Public Admin	1-3
POLS 689P	MPA Professional Internship (recommended for pre-service students)	3
POLS 697	Independent Study	1-6

The Option in Criminal Justice

Course	Title	Units
POLS 657	The Criminal Justice System: Institutions and Public Policy	3
POLS 658	Criminological Theory	3
Select one of the following:		3
CRIM 476	Police Administration and Management	
POLS 651	Seminar in Judicial Politics	
POLS 654	Behavioral Health Policy and Administration	
Select six units from the General MPA Electives (p. 1)		6
Total Units		**15**

The Option in Health Administration

Course	Title	Units
Select three of the following:		9
POLS 652	Legal and Ethical Issues in Health and Human Services	
POLS 654	Behavioral Health Policy and Administration	
POLS 655	Aging Policy	
POLS 664	Public Policy in Health and Human Services	
POLS 665	Issues in Global Public Health	
Select six units from the General MPA Electives (p. 1)		6
Total Units		**15**

Graduate Grading Requirements

All courses in the major (with the exceptions of Comprehensive Examination - 696, Independent Study - 697, Master's Project - 699P, and Master's Thesis - 699T) must be taken for a letter grade, except those courses specified by the department as ABC/No Credit (400/500-level courses), AB/No Credit (600-level courses), or Credit/No Credit grading only. A maximum of 10 units combined of ABC/No Credit, AB/No Credit, and Credit/No Credit grades may be used on the approved program (including 696, 697, 699P, 699T and courses outside the major). While grading standards are determined by individual programs and instructors, it is also the policy of the University that unsatisfactory grades may be given when work fails to reflect achievement of the high standards, including high writing standards, expected of students pursuing graduate study.

Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average in each of the following three categories: all coursework taken at any accredited institution subsequent to admission to the master's program; all coursework taken at Chico State subsequent to admission to the program; and all courses in the approved master's degree program. Failure to maintain a 3.0 average in any category will result in academic notice in the master's program. Failure to remedy the deficiency within one semester with appropriate courses approved by the program coordinator may result in disqualification from the master's program. See Graduate Education Policies (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/graduate-requirements/graduate-education-policies/#academicstanding) for more information.

In addition, no course in which a grade lower than B- is earned will be counted toward the fulfillment of any graduate degree requirements.

Continuous enrollment is required. At the discretion of the academic program, a maximum of six semester units of special session credit earned in non-matriculated status combined with all transfer coursework may be counted toward the degree requirements. This applies to special session credit earned through Open University, or in courses offered for academic credit through Professional & Continuing Education.

Graduate Time Limit

All requirements for the degree are to be completed within five years of the end of the semester of enrollment in the oldest course applied toward the degree. See Master's Degree Requirements (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/graduate-requirements/masters-degree-requirements/) for complete details on general degree requirements.

Graduate Requirement in Writing Proficiency

All students must demonstrate competency in writing skills as a requirement for graduation. Graduate students in public administration demonstrate their writing competence through POLS 602 or the first graduate seminar in which they enroll. The instructor of the seminar will certify to the Graduate Coordinator that the student has met the requirement. Students should consult with the Graduate Coordinator for specifics.

Prerequisites for Admission to Classified Status

1. Satisfactory grade point average as specified in Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Admission Requirements (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/graduate-requirements/graduate-postbaccalaureate-admission-requirements/).
2. Approval by the department and Graduate Studies.
3. An acceptable baccalaureate from an accredited institution, or an equivalent approved by Graduate Studies.
4. Evidence of American Government/Politics coursework at the post secondary level or successful completion (B- or higher) of POLS 355 is strongly recommended.

5. Completion of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 550 (80 on the internet-based TOEFL) by all applicants who have not attended post secondary educational institutions for at least three years where English is the principal language of instruction.

Advancement to Candidacy

1. Development of an approved master's degree program plan. The Graduate Coordinator works with the student in the development of the degree program plan. The plan must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator and the Office of Graduate Studies.
2. Completion of at least 15 units of the student's approved master's degree program plan.
3. Formation of a graduate advisory committee.
   a. Students selecting the thesis option must have a committee of three faculty members. At least two of the three faculty members on the committee, including the chair, must be chosen from the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice.
   b. Students selecting the professional paper plan must have a committee of two faculty members. The chair of the committee must be a faculty member in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice who holds a terminal degree in the field.
   c. For students who select the comprehensive exam plan, the Graduate Coordinator organizes the graduate advisory committee and is responsible for the guidance of the student through the completion of the degree.
4. For students completing the professional paper, graduate advisory committee approval of the student's professional paper topic and enrollment in POLS 680B.

Definition of Blended Programs

A blended bachelor's and master's degree program combines an existing Chico State bachelor's degree with an existing Chico State master's degree; the blended program allows up to 12 units of the graduate program units to be double-counted at the undergraduate level, for a minimum of 138 units to receive both degrees. Students who complete a blended program will receive both a bachelor's and master's degree. Upon completion of 120 semester units and with the completion of all requirements for the bachelor's degree, students in blended programs will be awarded the bachelor's degree. Upon completion of the requirements for the master's degree, students will be awarded the master's degree.

Students interested in applying to a blended program must be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program at Chico State and must meet and maintain the minimum GPA of the existing master's degree entrance requirements for all bachelor's coursework completed at the time of the application to the blended program, or show promise to reach this level as determined by the program. Once admitted to the blended program, students shall not be required to apply for admission to the master's program.

Blended BA + Public Administration MPA

Eligibility

Criminal Justice BA: In order to apply to the blended program students must have completed 60 undergraduate units. A total of 15 units in the major, including CRIM 250, CRIM 384/SOCI 384, and POLS 331W must be completed before applying.

Political Science BA: In order to apply to the blended program students must have completed 60 undergraduate units. A total of 12 units in the major, including POLS 331W, must be completed before applying.

Public Administration BA: In order to apply to the blended program students must have completed 60 undergraduate units. A total of 15 units in the major, including PADM 260, POLS 331W, and at least one course from the public administration electives must be completed before applying.

Application Procedure

Application deadlines: April 1 for fall start, November 1 for spring start.

Students who meet the eligibility criteria may submit an application for admission to the blended program (https://csuchico.my.site.com/BlendedProgram/s/). Formal application through Cal State Apply is not necessary and the student is not required to pay an application fee. GRE scores are not required. Students must meet the requirements outlined below to change to blended graduate status and continue toward the master's degree.

Grading Requirement

Once in the blended program, students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA during their remaining undergraduate and graduate semesters.

Transition to Graduate Status

Students can transition to the graduate program after completing all undergraduate degree requirements with a minimum 2.5 GPA in all coursework. The Office of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Coordinator will verify graduate program eligibility at the end of the semester in which the bachelor's degree is completed. Qualified students change to graduate status effective the following semester.

Requirements for the Blended Criminal Justice BA + MPA

The blended program allows the courses below to count toward both degrees.

Course	Title	Units
CRIM 476	Police Administration and Management [1]	3
POLS 521	Research Experience: An Introduction to Exploring Data in Politics and Criminal Justice	3
POLS 657	The Criminal Justice System: Institutions and Public Policy	3
POLS 658	Criminological Theory	3
Total Units		**12**

[1] Other criminal justice elective courses may be taken if pre-approved by an advisor. An additional assignment may need to be completed by students in the blended program.

Requirements for the Blended Political Science BA + MPA

Legal Studies Option

The blended program allows the courses below to count toward both degrees.

Course	Title	Units
POLS 651	Seminar in Judicial Politics	3
or POLS 652	Legal and Ethical Issues in Health and Human Services	
POLS 689	Intern/Fieldwork Public Admin	3
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 602	Public Administration and Democracy	
POLS 653	Environmental Policy and the Law	
POLS 661	Seminar in Public Administration	
POLS 668	Public Policy Formation	
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 601	State and Local Government	
POLS 651	Seminar in Judicial Politics	
POLS 672	The U.S. Presidency	
POLS 673	The U.S. Congress	
Total Units		**12**

U.S. Politics Option

The blended program allows 12 units from the courses below to count toward both degrees.

Course	Title	Units
POLS 521	Research Experience: An Introduction to Exploring Data in Politics and Criminal Justice	3
POLS 689	Intern/Fieldwork Public Admin	3
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 624	Public Opinion and Survey Design	
POLS 653	Environmental Policy and the Law	
POLS 656	International Public Administration	
POLS 657	The Criminal Justice System: Institutions and Public Policy	
or POLS 661	Seminar in Public Administration	
POLS 668	Public Policy Formation	
Select any BA elective or one-two of the following:		3-6
POLS 668	Public Policy Formation	
POLS 671	Topics in American Politics	
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 601	State and Local Government	
POLS 672	The U.S. Presidency	
POLS 673	The U.S. Congress	

Requirements for the Blended Public Administration BA + MPA

The blended program allows the courses below to count toward both degrees.

Course	Title	Units
POLS 602	Public Administration and Democracy	3
POLS 660A	Public Management	3
POLS 660C	Public Budgeting and Finance	3
POLS 662	Organizational Theory in the Public Sector	3

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) are clear, measurable statements that describe how students demonstrate mastery of the knowledge, skills, and values of the discipline as appropriate to the degree. Graduates of this program are expected to achieve the following PLOs:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of relevant actors in the policy process.
2. Apply analytical and research skills to the study of public organizations and policy.
3. Apply academic theory to practice, including to the development of ethical skills associated with public administration.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in communicating knowledge, awareness, appreciation, or sensitivity of differences associated with race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, language, and/or socioeconomic status within the field of public administration.