

# School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Master of Public Affairs



## Program Description

The Master of Public Affairs degree program at the University of Texas at Dallas equips students with the advanced training and expertise they need to succeed in national, state and local governmental agencies as well as nonprofits, think tanks and industry. Developed by top-tier faculty in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences—and accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA)—the Public Affairs program ensures that students graduate with the following:



- An understanding of the philosophical, theoretical and legal foundations of public management, policymaking and leadership in government and nonprofit settings.
- An advanced proficiency in organizational analysis, understanding of diversity, social equity and inclusion strategies, research and evaluation practice and quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
- Mastery of persuasive written and oral communication.

Ranked #3 in Texas by U.S. News and World Report, the Public Affairs program teaches students how to lead large, complex organizations and conduct complex policy analyses. With a thorough understanding of public and nonprofit management, students are prepared to take on leadership positions in all organizational environments, particularly public and nonprofit institutions.

## Benefits

The Public Affairs master's program ensures that students gain a broad understanding of their discipline, apply their knowledge and analytical skills to create effective and novel solutions to practical problems and communicate and work effectively across diverse populations and in collaborative environments.

Other benefits include:

- *World-Class Faculty*: The program is led by faculty of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences who are widely cited experts in their respective fields.
- *Comprehensive Curriculum*: Courses in the Public Affairs master's program will introduce students to new ideas, technologies, and competencies while preparing them to succeed in both public and private sectors.
- *Facilities*: Students have full access to four state-of-the-art computer laboratories housed in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. All computers are network linked and hold full suites of leading survey, qualitative, spatial and statistical analysis software, including Qualtrics, NVivo, R, STATA, and SAS.
- *Location*: Situated in the greater Dallas region—recently rated by *Forbes* magazine as the #1 “Best City for Jobs”—UT Dallas provides students with easy access to employers and internship opportunities, not to mention a large and supportive alumni population.

## Contact Information

### Degree Information

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## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Public Affairs master's program have gone on to pursue professional careers in a wide variety of fields. Recent graduates have found jobs such as:

- City Manager
- Government and Nonprofit Executive
- Human Resource Director
- Policy Analyst
- Local Government and Nonprofit Manager
- Police Officer or Firefighter
- Management Analyst
- Financial Analyst
- Public Sector Consultant

## Marketable Skills

Upon successful completion of the Master of Public Affairs, UT Dallas graduates will develop critical thinking and problem solving skills essential for a good leader with an ability to use data and subject-matter knowledge to communicate and make sound and ethical decisions that take into consideration the diverse fabric of the citizenry.

- Engage in critical thinking to resolve complex problems associated with effectively managing diverse human assets within dynamic organizational environments.
- Students work and present policy briefs, critiques, literature reviews, and research papers all aimed at improving problem solving, oral comprehension, oral expression, and written comprehension skills.
- Develop active listening, critical judgement, and decision-making skills to lead others in organizational and policy-making environments.
- Develop critical thinking and comprehension skills for measuring performance and evaluating the impact of a program or policy.

## Application Deadlines and Requirements

Please take note of all application deadlines and visit the Apply Now webpage to begin the application process. See the Public Affairs program website for additional information.

Applicants to the Communication Disorders master's degree program should have:

- A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution of higher education.
- A grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 out of a 4.0 scale.
- Test Scores: Not required.
- Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation from individuals who can judge the candidate's potential for success in the master's degree program.
- A resume.
- Admissions Essay: Applicants must submit a narrative outlining 1) academic interests, 2) current or long-range interests in research, teaching, or other professional objectives, 3) description of publications or other scholarly endeavors and 4) listing of academic and professional organizations and fellowships, scholarships, or other honors received.
- International applicants must submit a TOEFL score of at least 80 on the internet-based test. Scores must be less than two years old. See the Graduate Catalog for additional information regarding English proficiency requirements for international applicants.

To be guaranteed consideration for admission, fall admission applications must be received by July 1, and spring admission applications must be received by November 1. Incomplete applications received after these dates will not be considered for admission during the designated semester. Students who do not meet these deadlines must reapply for the following semester.

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