Welcome

Welcome to the Masters in Public Administration Program (MPA) in the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at UNLV. The MPA program at UNLV is the only program accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs & Administration (NASPAA) in the state of Nevada. The MPA program offers professional and academic development to students interested in public service.

In the MPA, we are continually striving to enhance the quality of the curriculum through the development of core competencies for public service. As part of our goal to enhance the curriculum, we recently redesigned the core curriculum of the program to increase its relevance and application to the needs of individuals in public service. This has included the re-launch of some of the core courses as hybrid or blended courses to allow working professional student’s additional flexibility and increase the use of technology as a learning tool for the MPA program.

One core characteristic of your program at UNLV will be the emphasis on applied research and learning opportunities. Students in the MPA program engage in learning focused on building practical skills to help improve their communities through better leadership and management. Our commitment to building the skills and knowledge of students includes engaging students in applied service learning projects which not only create unique learning experiences but also benefit the Southern Nevada Community. This includes actively engaging students in both academic and applied research as part of their program of study in the MPA.

Our goal for you as a student is to ensure you are ready to better serve your community and enhance your career.

Christopher Stream, PhD
Director, SEPA

Mission Statement
The mission of the Masters in Public Administration is “to provide leadership and management skills to current and future public, nonprofit and community leaders in Southern Nevada.”

Purpose
The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or kendall.hartley@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty
A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the Graduate Faculty status web page.
**Program Information**
Masters of Public Administration  
Concentration in Nonprofit Management

**Contact Information**
http://sepa.unlv.edu/

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**Program Requirements**
Program requirements regarding admission, coursework and culminating experience are found in the graduate catalog.

**Advisory Committee Guidelines**
A formal advisory committee is not required for the Masters in Public Administration degree since students culminating experience is a Capstone and not a thesis.

**Degree Program Benchmarks**
Students are required as part of the Masters in Public Administration to complete 15 credits of core or required classes which are designed to ensure student receive instruction in the core competencies of public administration. Additionally, students are required to complete 9 analytical credits. The analytical courses include PUA 723, PUA 725 and PUA 729.

The final two courses in the analytical sequence are part of the MPA program’s Capstone experience. These two classes must be taken in sequence. Students must request permission to enroll in PUA 725 before starting their final two semesters of their program and ideally after they have completed most of their core courses and PUA 723 to ensure they are prepared for the Capstone project. Generally, students who take 6 credits a semester will enter begin their capstone experience by taking PUA 725 in their fourth or fifth semester of their program or after having completed 21-24 credit hours.

Once students are enrolled in PUA 725 they will work in teams on an applied or research project for two consecutive semesters. This allows students adequate time to work with stakeholders on the design and implementation of the project.

**Program Timeline**
Students typically complete their degree requirements in 6-7 semesters (or 2 years and a semester) if they attend both during the traditional academic year and summer sessions.

**Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines**
UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog. However, the MPA program is a professional program and students are expected to dress and act in a professional manner. This means attire and behavior should be suitable to what would be found in a workplace.
Annual Review Procedures
Each spring term, graduate students are required to complete the Graduate Student Annual Review survey. This survey will be sent by the Graduate College to the student’s Rebelmail account. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress while setting goals for the year ahead. Any student not making adequate progress will also be required to meet one on one with the graduate coordinator.

Discipline Resources

Writing Style Guide
In general, the School of Environmental and Public Affairs uses the American Psychological Association style for references and citations. It is strongly recommended that student purchase a copy of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition (2009). This style guide can be used in most of your courses to help format your papers and assignments.

Professional Associations

The main professional association for students seeking their degree in Public Administration is the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA). ASPA is both a national and local organizations and students are strongly encouraged to join the local chapter at the student rate and participate in professional development and networking activities. Information about joining ASPA can be found online at http://www.aspanet.org

For students, studying or interested in nonprofit management as part of the degree program additional opportunities professional development and networking opportunities are available through several local and national organizations, the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organization and Voluntary Action ( ARNOVA), the Association for Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN) of Southern Nevada.

ARNOVA is the main professional association for researchers and academics studying nonprofit organizations. Information about ARNOVA can be found online at http://www.arnova.org/ AFP Las Vegas Chapter is a professional association which serves individuals who engage in fundraising or development work in the nonprofit sector. This organization is part of a national network of chapters aimed at improving the professional practice of fundraising and development. For students, interested in pursuing a career in the area fundraising or development this group offers professional development and networking opportunities. Information can be found online at http://www.afplasvegas.org/

YNPN of Southern Nevada is a networking and professional development group organized by young professionals working with and in the nonprofit sector. It is part of national network of similar chapters across the country. The local chapter offers professional development, networking and social activities for its members. Additional information can be found online at http://www.ynpnsouthernnevada.org/

Important Journals

Below is a list of important scholarly journals in the field of public administration including journals which focus on nonprofit management.

- Administration and Society
- Administrative Theory & Praxis
- American Review of Public Administration
- Governance
- International Journal of Public Administration
- Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory
- Journal of Public Affairs Education
University Resources

Academic Success Center
The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration, and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association
With an alumni base 90,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office
Located in the UNLV Registrar’s Office, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives
The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV’s diversity mission: to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)
The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars
International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women's Center
The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women’s Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

**UNLV Libraries**
UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

**Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)**
The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

**Office of Student Conduct**
The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the UNLV Student Code of Conduct by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

**Office of Veteran Services**
The UNLV Office of Veteran Services is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

**The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office**
The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

**Writing Center**
This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

**University Policies and Procedures**
Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- Academic Integrity
- Activation for Military Service
• Change of Address
• FERPA/Privacy Rights
• Health Insurance - Mandatory
• Jeanne Clery Campus Safety and Security Report
• Proof of Immunization
• Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects
• Rebelmail Policy
• Student Conduct Code
• Student Computer Use Policy
• Title IX

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the Graduate Catalog:
• Academic Calendar
• Academic Policies
• Admission and Registration Information
• Degree Progression Policies & Procedures

In addition, the Graduate College website contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

**Handbook Information**

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