Welcome
Welcome to the PhD in Public Affairs in the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at UNLV. The Public Affairs Ph.D. is an interdisciplinary degree drawing upon the faculty throughout the college of Urban Affairs. The Ph.D. in Public Affairs is meant to serve as the nexus between the academic community and the world of service and practice in the private, non-profit, and public sectors.

The degree is designed to prepare individuals to study issues facing society in the context of public, private, and nonprofit organizations and institutions. Students entering the program will have the ability to follow two career paths: 1) to conduct research, consult, and serve as analysts within and to organizations; or 2) to enter the academic world at the college or university level.

The program is designed to promote scholarship and innovation in public affairs through significant interaction between students and faculty in learning, research, and application of expertise to public issues. In addition, the degree will prepare those students interested in entering the academic world with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be successful teachers and researchers at the college and university level.

One core characteristic of your program at UNLV will be the emphasis on applied research and learning opportunities. 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 PhD.

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 PhD in Public Affairs is “train research oriented scholars to advance the field of public affairs through research and knowledge development.” This will be accomplished by providing students with the necessary expertise, both substantive and methodological to enable them to assume leadership roles in academic and applied workplace settings.

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
Information about specific degree requirements can be found in the graduate catalog.

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

Director of the School of Environmental and Public Affairs
Dr. Christopher Stream, Office: Greenspun Hall Room 3107
Email: Chris.Stream@unlv.edu
Phone: 702-895-5120

Graduate Coordinator
Dr. Jessica Word, Office: Greenspun Hall Room 3162
Email: Jessica.Word@unlv.edu
Phone: 702-895-2684

Department Main Office
Greenspun Hall SEPA Main Office, Room 3108
Phone: 702-895-4440

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

Advisory Committee Guidelines
Upon completion of coursework students should select an advisor with graduate faculty status in the School of Environmental and Public Affairs (SEPA) as their advisor or dissertation chair. Chairs help guide the student’s research process and advise the student as they progress toward preparation of their prospectus and dissertation. After selecting a chair, students will then select two additional faculty members with graduate faculty status in SEPA and one outside member or graduate college representative. Once the committee has been selected, students should submit the appointment of advisory committee form to the graduate coordinator for approval. Any changes in committee following this initial appointment should be done in consultation with your dissertation chair and/or the graduate coordinator.

Degree Program Benchmarks
Students progress through the program as a cohort. In the first three semesters, and the intervening summer, students in the program enroll in courses as a cohort. Except for one semester where the students take seven credits, all students must enroll in the designated six credits.

Upon completion of the core requirements of the program students are required to take a comprehensive exam. This usually occurs during the Spring of the student’s second year. Comprehensive exams are arranged with students by the Graduate Coordinator. The comprehensive exam is graded pass fail and any student not passing the entire exam maybe asked to retake all or part of the exam. Students may retake the comprehensive exam only once.

Comprehensive exams are graded by a committee of faculty primarily comprised of those who taught the core courses for the cohort.

Following successful completion of comprehensive exams and the remaining courses students are required to prepare a prospectus for their dissertation. The prospectus is a detailed proposal outlining...
the problem or gap in the literature being addressed, a review of the relevant literature, and an explanation of the methodology and data collection procedures planned. Students in the PAF program may choose to either complete a traditional dissertation or a three paper dissertation. Guidelines concerning the three paper dissertation requirements are available in the graduate catalog. Selection of dissertation format should be done in consultation with your dissertation chair/advisor.

Program Timeline

The table below represents a recommended progression through the PAF program. Based on class availability or individual student needs this timeline can be adjusted with approval from the graduate coordinator and/or dissertation chair.

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<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td>PAF 701</td>
<td>PAF 702</td>
<td>Analytical Studies Course(s)</td>
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<td>PAF 710</td>
<td>PAF 711</td>
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<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
<td>PAF 703</td>
<td>Comprehensive Exams</td>
<td>Specialization Course (3-6 credits)</td>
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<td>PAF 704</td>
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<td>Dissertation Chair/Advisor</td>
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<td>Specialization</td>
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<td>PAF 799</td>
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Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog. However, the PAF 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

Students are required to make adequate yearly progress towards degree completion. Adequate progress will be determined by answers students give during their annual review survey and/or with consultation of their dissertation chair and the graduate coordinator. Students not making adequate progress toward degree completion will be placed on probation.

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 students 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 organization 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](http://www.aspanet.org).

For students, studying or interested in nonprofit management as part of the degree program, additional opportunities for 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/](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 of fundraising or development, this group offers professional development and networking opportunities. Information can be found online at [http://www.afplasvegas.org/](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 a 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/](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*
- *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*
- *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*
- *Policy Studies Journal*
- *Public Administration Quarterly*
- *Public Administration Review*
- *Public Budgeting & Finance*
- *Publius (focus on federalism)*
- *Review of Public Personnel Administration (human res. focus)*
- *State & Local Government Review*

**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, industriveness, 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:
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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