

## Master of Public Administration Program Fact Sheet

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**Degree Title:** Master of Public Administration

**Organizational Relationship between Program and University:** The Master of Public Administration program is part of the Department of Emergency Management and Public Administration located within the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences at the Jacksonville State University.

**Modes of Delivery:** We offer our program as a fully asynchronous online and hybrid modes of delivery.

**Number of Credit Hours:** 36

**Length of Degree:** Time to completion varies by student. Students completing two course per semester can expect to graduate in two years. Students completing three courses per semester can expect to graduate in one and a half years.

**List of Specializations:** The MPA program offers 6 concentrations in Administrative Management, Emergency Management, Criminal Justice, Geographic Information Science & Technology, Political Science, and Generalist Track. The MPA program also offers a graduate certificate in Organizational Leadership. These concentrations and the certificate may be completed concurrent with the MPA program and within the 36-credit hour requirement.

**Number of Students:** 40

**Mission Statement (Revised Fall 2025):** Our mission is to provide a diverse student population with the knowledge and core competencies to become effective public administrators. Through a standardized public administration curriculum and interdisciplinary cooperation with other programs, our program prepares students for leadership roles in a variety of public and nonprofit organizations. Utilizing hybrid and online courses, our program provides quality graduate education that stresses the program values of diversity, leadership, professionalism, and ethical conduct.

**Number of Full-time Faculty Teaching in Program:** 5

**Program Faculty Identified Including Credentials:**

<https://www.jsu.edu/mpa/mpa-faculty.html>

**Tuition Cost:** Tuition for the MPA program is the same whether you are an in-state or out-of-state student at \$400/credit hour.

**Description of Financial Aid Availability:** Financial Aid information for the MPA program can be found at <https://www.jsu.edu/finaid/>. The MPA program does not currently offer graduate assistantships.

**Admission Criteria:** The MPA program is open to students of all educational and professional backgrounds. A four-year college degree is required for admission into the program. Applicants to the MPA program are asked to submit a statement of purpose/interest that shows why the MPA degree is important to the applicant, what the applicant will bring to the program, and how the degree will benefit the applicant's career aspirations; and a professional resume, including academic history, employment, and voluntary/community work. Applicants with an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher from a regionally accredited institution may be unconditionally admitted. Applicants with an undergraduate GPA of 2.50 to 2.99 from a regionally accredited institution may be conditionally admitted. No GRE is required.

**Internship:** Although most of the MPA students are working professionals, the internship course can be offered as needed. The Department/MPA program has partnerships and connections with local, state, and federal agencies as well as non-profit organizations.

**Potential Careers:** The MPA program prepares graduates for leadership roles focused on public service, policy, and organizational management across government, non-profit, and private sectors. Key careers include City Manager, Budget Analyst, Policy Advisor, Non-profit Executive Director, Health Services Administrator, and Human Resources Manager.

**Alumni:** The MPA program was established in 1974 and has about 1,500 alumni across the country. Distinguished alumni of the MPA program hold prestigious titles, such as Congressman, Mayor, Sheriff, Human Resource Manager, Executive Director, and Chief of Police.

**Accreditation:** The MPA program has been accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).