Public administration can be defined as the organization and management of people and materials to achieve public purposes. Yet, this general definition does not capture the wide array of organizational arrangements, the range of possible management approaches, or the variety of individuals, groups and materials that are part of public administration. It is an appreciation for the complexity of public administration that supports the mission and goals of Villanova’s Master of Public Administration (MPA) program.

**Master of Public Administration Mission**
The mission of the MPA program is to offer graduates the knowledge of values, roles, skills and practices that will help them become competent professionals capable of ethical, intelligent and creative leadership in the public service. This mission is realized through the pursuit of four goals:

- Stress the study of how values from political (constitutional and legal), philosophic, and religious traditions guide the actions of successful public administrators;
- Offer an interdisciplinary curriculum featuring the integration of knowledge from sociology, political science, economics, psychology, communication, history, philosophy, and statistics;
- Nurture a sense of service to community by featuring the study of successful public administrators as roles models, exploring the traditions and approaches in public administration theory; and
- Emphasize the importance of practical experience by discussing case studies of public administration in practice, using simulations and other exercises to use knowledge in the safe environment of the classroom, and stressing the need for work experience in the application of public administration knowledge by requiring an internship for students lacking such experience.

**Why Study Public Administration at Villanova?**

**Diverse Student Body**
Villanova’s MPA students are passionate about public service. We have individuals at all stages in their professional careers, from those just beginning their professional journey to individuals with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. The diverse backgrounds of our students combined with the breadth of their knowledge and experiences enrich the classroom experience.

**Outstanding faculty**
The MPA faculty is comprised of professors with expertise in several academic disciplines and having a wide range of scholarly interests offering a variety of philosophical and practical approaches to public administration. They are actively engaged in research, publishing in the discipline’s top journals and university presses, and regularly present their work to academic and practitioner audiences. They have established networks with local organizations and governments. The MPA program also has part-time faculty members who hold advanced degrees and teach courses in their area of specialization and practice.

**Curriculum**
Our curriculum is interdisciplinary and focuses on values and ethics in the spirit of Villanova’s Augustinian and Catholic identity. Required courses range from Public Administration Theory and Financial Management to Statistical Analysis & Research. Elective courses include Leadership Ethics and Strategic Planning. One-credit special topic courses are also offered. For a complete list of courses please visit publicadmin.villanova.edu.

Find details on degree and certificate requirements at publicadmin.villanova.edu
Mentoring and Community
You will meet with the MPA Director upon enrolling in the program to discuss your educational and career goals, and then you will be assigned a faculty advisor who will meet with you every semester to guide and support you as you complete the program. Classes are small and average 15 students which allows for significant interaction between faculty and students. There are many opportunities outside the classroom for networking, professional development and friendship.

Excellent Internship Opportunities
The MPA program has a strong internship program for students without prior management experience in the field. Previous placements have included Upper Merion Township, Middletown Township, Lower Gwynedd Township, the Public Financial Management Group and the Nationalities Service Center.

Flexibility
You will appreciate the flexibility of Villanova's MPA program in terms of course scheduling and selection. Courses are offered in the evening and you may take up to two elective courses from other graduate programs in Liberal Arts & Sciences to personalize your degree to your interests.

Accreditation
Villanova’s MPA Program is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

Program Offerings and Requirements

Master of Public Administration
• 18 credits of required courses will provide you with knowledge of public administration theory and history, statistical analysis and research models, organizational theory and design, and the management of finances and human resources.
• 18 credits of elective courses give you the opportunity to customize your MPA degree to your interests.
• You will also complete a three-credit internship that will provide supervisory or management experience in the field.
• A comprehensive final exam will give you the opportunity to integrate the knowledge you have gained through course and field work.

Certificate in Public Administration
• You may be interested in pursuing the MPA Certificate if you do not need a full master’s degree in Public Administration, or if you wish to combine a specialization in Public Administration with another master’s degree.
• The 15-credit Certificate consists of two required courses and nine credits from the regular electives available to MPA students.

Certificate in City Management
• A 15-credit program consisting of three required courses plus six credits of electives.
• Based on the International City/County Management Association’s inventory of 17 practices for effective local government management.
• You may enroll in the Certificate program as a pre-master’s certificate, a specialization with the MPA program, or a post-master’s certificate.

Certificate in Nonprofit Management
• A 15-credit program consisting of three required courses plus six credits of electives.
• Based on best practices in nonprofit management and engagement with students, alumni, and nonprofit professionals.
• You may enroll in the Certificate program as a pre-master’s certificate, a specialization with the MPA program, or a post-master’s certificate.