MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ONLINE
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The online Master of Public Administration at the University of Southern California is designed for civic-minded individuals who are passionate about effecting social change. Learn to view management and policy issues through the lens of social entrepreneurship and explore innovative solutions to existing and emerging challenges.

The possibilities are vast for today’s public administration professionals, with opportunities in government, public policy and the nonprofit sector. Pursuing an online MPA can help you:

- Fulfill your desire to make the world a better place
- Reach your long-term career advancement goals
- Leverage your passion for achievement as a role model for others
- Gain a leadership mindset focused on the greater good
WHY CHOOSE USC?
The USC MPA program’s primary mission is to prepare professionals for public service leadership positions and improve the management of public and nonprofit organizations. Our online program delivers an interconnected and comprehensive curriculum unlike any other.

- Experience real-world learning with concentrations in Government Management, Nonprofit Management or Public Policy.

- Benefit from expert faculty, cohort coaches and career counselors at one of the best universities in the nation (*U.S. News & World Report*).

- Experience two exciting onsite residencies in Los Angeles, where you can benefit from team building exercises and group discussions, as well as meet faculty, alumni and peers.

- Earn your City/County Management or Public Policy certificate.
Online MPA Curriculum

USC offers an immersive and engaging multimedia curriculum that can be completed in as few as two years as you build analytical, political and communication abilities.
Statistics Prerequisite

This can be satisfied in one of two ways: completion of a college-level statistics course with a grade of “B” or better within the past three years or by passing PPD 502x with a grade of “B” or better.

CORE (14 UNITS)

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>PPD 500</td>
<td>Intersectoral Leadership (2 units)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPD 501 a/b</td>
<td>Economics for Policy, Planning and Development (two 2-unit classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPD 540</td>
<td>Public Administration and Society (4 units)</td>
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<td>– Gateway Course</td>
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<td>PPD 546</td>
<td>Capstone in Public Administration (4 units)</td>
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<td>– Capstone Course</td>
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MANAGEMENT COMPETENCIES (12 UNITS)

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>PPD 542</td>
<td>Policy and Program Evaluation (4 units)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPD 545</td>
<td>Human Behavior in Public Organizations (4 units)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPD 541</td>
<td>Public Financial Management and Budgeting (4 units)</td>
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## CONCENTRATION COURSES

### Local Government Management Electives (14 units)
- **PPD 628** Urban Planning and Social Policy (4 units)
- **PPD 651** Seminar in the Administration of Local Government (4 units)
- **PPD 673** Strategic Planning in the Public Sector (4 units)

### Nonprofit Management Electives (14 units)
- **PPD 675** Nonprofit Management and Leadership (4 units)
- **PPD 689** The Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy (4 units)
- **PPD 673** Strategic Planning in the Public Sector (4 units)

### And one of the following:
- **PPD 685** Human Resources Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors (2 units)
- **PPD 648** Performance Management (2 units)

### Public Policy (14 units)
- **PPD 628** Urban Planning and Social Policy (4 units)
- **PPD 673** Strategic Planning in the Public Sector (4 units)
- **PPD 689** The Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy (4 units)

### And one of the following:
- **PPD 648** Performance Management (2 units)
- **PPDE 685** Human Resources Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors (2 units)
**Capstone Course**

►►► Students work in teams of five to six on a semester-long, client-based project. The team that produces the best project across all MPA sections receives a cash prize at our annual Price School Awards Ceremony.

**Student status**

Students in the online MPA program are classified as pre-service or in-service students at the time of admission.

- **Pre-service students** — Students with less than two years of full-time work experience. Pre-service students are required to complete an internship and a one-unit Internship Seminar course (PPD 543). MPA students enroll in the Internship Seminar during the first 24 units of instruction. 41 total units

- **In-service students** — Students with at least two years of related full-time work experience. The internship and PPD 543 are not required. 40 total units
About the University of Southern California

The University of Southern California is one of the world’s leading private research universities, an anchor institution in Los Angeles, and a global center for arts, technology and international business. With a long tradition of integrating liberal and professional education, USC fosters a vibrant culture of public service.

About the USC Price School of Public Policy

The mission of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy is to improve the quality of life for people and their communities, here and abroad. We achieve this mission through education and research that examines today’s major issues in governance, economic development, philanthropy, immigration, sustainability, national security, transportation, population and health care. We empower our MPA students to change the world as innovators and leaders in a variety of fields.

Admission Requirements

To qualify for the program, applicants must submit the following:

- USC graduate application
- Application fee
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is recommended
- Above average score on the GRE or GMAT
- Undergraduate degree from an accredited institution
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Completed Price School supplemental form
- Current resume
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose of approximately 1,000 words addressing:
- Why are you interested in pursuing the MPA?
- How will the MPA affect or enhance your career aspirations and goals?
Rankings and Accreditation

- The University of Southern California is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).
- The USC MPA program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).
- USC is ranked #21 among the best universities nationwide, according to U.S. News & World Report.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked the Sol Price School of Public Policy 4th among 272 schools of public affairs.
- In addition, the Price School ranked:
  - 3rd in City Management and Urban Policy
  - 3rd in Health Policy and Management
  - 4th in Public Management/Administration
  - 6th in Nonprofit Management
  - 9th in Social Policy
  - 11th in Public Policy Analysis
STUDENT TESTIMONIALS.

Here’s what some USC MPA online graduates had to say about their experience.

Wai Shong Chan
“This program allowed me to understand various issues that challenge the public sector. It trained me to comprehend that as a public administrator, you need to analyze problems from different perspectives and recognize various feasible alternatives that can solve these public issues. This USC MPA program allowed me to find that path and develop and improve my skills.”

Paige Roberts
“I have much broader knowledge of public administration issues, and I have a deeper appreciation for research. Also, I am a much more informed consumer of published studies and a much savvier participant in discourse.”

Chris Himes
“It was an immersive class environment without actually having the class environment physically. A lot of students are in Southern California, but we had people from all walks of life, all career backgrounds come together and make the best of it. So I would definitely say the MPA classmates helped make the programs.”

Cynthia McDougal
“For me, the connection to USC is very humbling, because USC does have such a stellar reputation. It’s not a school or online program that says yes to every student who applies. ... I feel absolutely humbled and honored to be part of the Trojan nation that’s going to carry that reputation forward. It is literally the culmination of an almost lifelong goal.”