Western Michigan University’s Public Administration programs (M.P.A., Ph.D.) provide learning opportunities for those seeking careers and/or service opportunities in public service, healthcare, and nonprofit organizations.

The M.P.A. is a professional practice oriented program which provides a foundation in the principles of public and nonprofit administration, addresses the practical responsibilities of public/nonprofit managers, develops healthcare administrative skills, and reflects on the tasks and effectiveness of public and nonprofit leadership in societies.

Accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) - The Global Standard in Public Service Education.

Ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the “Best Grad Schools in Public Affairs” (2015).

Offers specializations in healthcare administration, human resources administration, nonprofit leadership and administration, and public management.

Dual M.P.A./J.D. with the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

The Ph.D. program is an interdisciplinary program (public and nonprofit sectors), designed to encourage broad intellectual inquiry with a scholarly perspective. Alumni serve in academic careers, in public/nonprofit/healthcare leadership positions, at think thanks, and as consultants.

Our programs are globally engaged, with international students offering comparative perceptions, internships available worldwide, and faculty who conduct research literally across the globe. The program welcomes Fulbright Scholars, and was the Recipient of the University Diversity Award in 2011.

Evening and weekend formats support working professionals, with MPA courses available at multiple locations and the Ph.D. program based in Kalamazoo.
Public Administration (M.P.A., Ph.D.)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
The SPAA faculty bring both academic achievement and practical experience to the classroom. Many have served as managers of public-serving, healthcare, or nonprofit organizations while all of them hold advanced degrees in their field. 40% of the M.P.A. courses are taught by active practitioners to ensure the program has a strong integration of theory and practice.

Faculty research, consultation, and publication productivity reflects the variety of concentrations in our programs: healthcare administration, human resources, nonprofit leadership, and public management. International comparative research and practices are utilized in all concentrations.

The public administration graduates hold positions in a variety of public, private, and nonprofit organizations. Actual alumni careers include: Budget Development Specialist, Chief of Police, City Manager, College President/Professor, County administrator, Grants and Contracts Manager, Hospital CEO, Human Resources Director, Legislative staff, Management consultant, Nonprofit Organization Executive Director, Organizational Development Specialist, Public Health Director, State Policy/Fiscal Analyst, State Agency Director, U.S. Congressional representative.

Admissions
Applications for the M.P.A. are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The completed application is due 40 days before the start of your desired entry term. International applicants generally need to apply by February 1 for Fall admissions.

Applications for the Ph.D. program are reviewed on an ongoing basis for fall admission, with an application deadline of February 1 for international students. Late applications are considered on a space-available basis. Current GRE scores are required. For additional information visit: www.wmich.edu/spaa

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships
A limited number of GA and DA positions are available each year.

Contacts
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Western Michigan University
One of America’s 147 public research universities, Western Michigan University offers a wide range of top-notch graduate programs, including 74 at the master’s level and 31 at the doctoral level. Twenty-one percent of WMU’s nearly 24,000 students are enrolled in graduate coursework, another one-fifth are minority students and nearly 8 percent of all students hail from other countries.

Kalamazoo
The city of Kalamazoo is located midway between Detroit and Chicago and at the heart of a metropolitan area of more than 330,000 people. On national lists, Kalamazoo rates among the top 10 cities for creative workers as well as for work-life balance. It also numbers among “The 29 Cities All Twentysomethings Should Pick Up And Move To.”

Learner Centered, Discovery Driven, Globally Engaged