

## Current Faculty by Areas of Expertise



**Vickie Edwards** (PhD) blends her practical experiences in teaching nonprofit management, democratic governance, and human resources.



**Matthew Mingu** (PhD) utilizes his international exposures in examining governance, leadership, and comparative public administration.



**Vincent Reitano's** (PhD) background in economic theories, econometrics, and consulting informs his command of political economy, finance, and public management.



**Daniela Schroeter** (PhD) builds on her experiences in grant writing, research, and evaluation to engender critical thinking and data-based decision-making.



**Chris Surfus** (PhD) draws from his training, experiences, and research in health care, nonprofit management, and social inclusion and equity for his graduate and undergraduate courses.



**Udaya Wagle** (PhD) integrates his expertise in political economy, public finance, and public policy in studying social policies, international development, and comparative issues.

Additionally, a number of practicing professionals with decades of experience teach many practice and application-oriented courses.

## For Further Information and Contact

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**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
School of Public Affairs  
and Administration

**An Interdisciplinary Degree for a  
Professional Career in Public and  
Nonprofit Service**



***Bachelor of Science  
in  
Public and Nonprofit  
Administration (BSPNA)***

## Background

The School of Public Affairs and Administration at Western Michigan University offers a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Public and Nonprofit Administration, a minor in Public Administration, and a minor in Nonprofit Administration. The mission of these programs is to improve the quality of public service by developing a workforce equipped with knowledge and skills needed to function and serve in the public and nonprofit sectors. These public and nonprofit programs are highly interdisciplinary in nature allowing students to examine the core philosophical thinking informing the idea of governance, public service, and nonprofit enterprise while at the same time gaining professional competence in the core administrative and managerial functions of public and nonprofit agencies.

## Major and Minors

Students can pursue the 33-credit hour program in Public and Nonprofit Administration as their first or second major. The first option provides students with a deeper preparation in professional competence, with courses from their minor(s) or the elective stream in the program offering greater insights into the theoretical or experiential areas of interest. The latter option can add professional preparation to their exposure to other content-specific areas needed in today's public and nonprofit service careers involving thematic and functional responsibilities.

While many of the required courses in the major are common, students have an opportunity to select courses specific to public or nonprofit administration depending on their academic and career interests. Students can design customized programs of study by combining elective courses from the School as well as other departments.



Students majoring in other areas but looking to expand their academic preparation into the areas of public and nonprofit administration can complete 18 credit hours needed for the Public or Nonprofit Administration minor. Although more limited in requirement, these minors can also be a creative way to have some preparation in the administrative and managerial aspects of professional service.

## Advising

Each student receives individualized attention in selecting appropriate courses and preparing a program plan fully customized for their interests and career. Faculty advisors from the School are available to answer questions about the curriculum, course contents, and experiential learning. The Advising office from the College of Arts and Sciences provides general advising whereas the Office of Career and Student Employment Services guides students in career preparation and other career related matters.

## Internship or Other Experiential Opportunities

The major and minors offer internship and other experiential opportunities grounded on hands-on real world experience. Internships are completed with public and nonprofit agencies under the supervision of a faculty member whereas other experiential opportunities are available through coursework including in the capstone seminar. Students have a choice between the internship and capstone seminar to fulfil this professional or experiential requirement.

## Careers After Graduation

Typical careers after graduation include entry-level professional positions at public and nonprofit organizations including government agencies, hospitals, and foundations. The specific career designations and functions will depend on the overall academic preparation with a combination of major(s), minor(s), elective courses, and other experiential activities.



## Accelerated Graduate Degree Option

Students in the BSPNA program can pursue the MPA program in an accelerated format as it allows counting of up to 12 credits approved coursework for both programs simultaneously. Students must have applied and been admitted to the MPA program and a program of study approved by the respective advisors prior to their senior year.

## Curriculum

The Public and Nonprofit Administration is an interdisciplinary program, which includes a variety of courses taught by a diverse team of faculty. Students also combine courses from many other departments. The 33 credit hours of the major are divided into nine credit hours of cognate courses, 18 credit hours of core courses, and six credit hours of elective courses. Many of the core and elective courses are also included in the two minors.

### Major Cognate Courses (Nine credits)

- Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2010)
- Methods of Data Analysis (Choose ONE of ECON 4020; PSCI 3950; SOC 2830; or STAT 2160, 3650, 3660)
- Introduction to Professional Writing (ENGL 3050)

### Major Core Courses (18 credits)

- Introduction to Public and Nonprofit Service (PADM 2000)
- Foundations of Nonprofit Management (PADM 3000) OR Public Management for Democracy (PADM 3500)
- Human Resources Administration (PADM 5270)
- Introduction to Public Budgeting (PADM 5120) OR Budgeting and Accounting for the Nonprofit Sector (PADM 5420)
- Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation (PADM 4700)
- Public and Nonprofit Admin Capstone (PADM 4950) OR Internship in Public and Nonprofit Admin (PADM 4100)

### Elective Courses (six credits)

Electives from the School include Grant Writing, Fundraising, Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Nonprofit Leadership Student Association. Student can also take courses from Economics, Geography, Gerontology, Gender and Women's Studies, Political Science, Philosophy, Sociology, Social Work, and other departments and colleges with advisor approval.