

THE PROGRAM AND TRACKS

The program requires an interdisciplinary coursework of 33 credit hours focused on core theoretical concepts, analytical skills, and professional communication. It also allows you to choose between a capstone exercise and an internship and between public and nonprofit administration tracks depending on your interest and desired careers. This major can be pursued either as the only major or as a second major if your major falls in content areas that can apply to public and nonprofit sectors.

Public Administration Track: Choose this concentration if you are interested in entry to mid-level careers in administration, analysis, or management across the vast public sector at the federal, state, county, and local governments. This track involves coursework in public management, public budgeting and accounting, and a multitude of elective courses such as community growth and development, social policy administration, international financial management, and culture, diversity, & social equity. With advisor approval, you can also combine elective courses from other departments.

Nonprofit Administration Track: Choose this track if you are interested in entry to mid-level careers at charitable organizations, foundations, or nonprofit management or organizing focusing on arts and culture, community development, education, environment, health care, social services, and event planning. This track involves course-work in nonprofit management, nonprofit budgeting and accounting, and a multitude of elective courses such as fundraising, grant writing, and social entrepreneurship & innovation. With advisor approval, you can also combine elective courses from other departments.

Minors: The program also offers respective minors in public and nonprofit administration. Designed for those majoring in content areas that are broadly applicable to the public and nonprofit sectors, these 18-credit hour minors can be used to strategically prepare for a variety of administrative and managerial functions of programs, policies, or organizations.

For more information or advising:

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Bachelor of Science in Public and Nonprofit Administration (BSPNA)

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



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
School of Public Affairs
and Administration

What Makes Us Stand Out?

- ◆ Academic programs break disciplinary silos for an integrated and holistic learning to succeed in a 21st century professional career.
- ◆ Academic programs are highly flexible with concentrations and courses designed to meet a variety of student interests and career ambitions.
- ◆ Diversity of students, faculty, and staff enhances learning through professional engagement and networking.
- ◆ Over 3,000 alumni are leading change for “common good” through high-impact careers in government and nonprofit organizations locally, nationally, and internationally.
- ◆ The core faculty has
 - ◇ Served on committees, commissions, taskforces, and boards for nonprofit and public organizations locally, nationally, and internationally.
 - ◇ Received research and service grants from the Fulbright Program, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, United Nations, and other local, national, and international organizations.
 - ◇ Accumulated research and consulting experiences in Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, and Uzbekistan.

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 of 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.

SPAA History

Established in 1973, the School of Public Affairs and Administration offers accredited and award-winning academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. SPAA programs blend theory and practice in order to prepare student for public service careers in such diverse tracks as public management, public policy, nonprofit leadership, human resources, and healthcare.

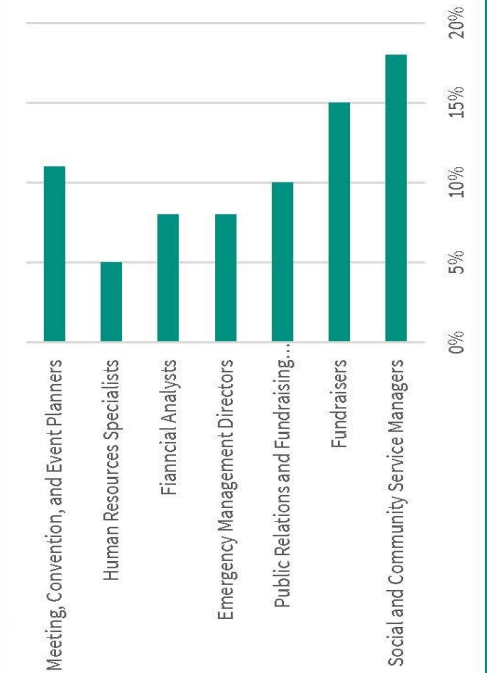
What Makes Us Stand Out?

Expected careers for public and nonprofit administration graduates include entry to mid-level administrative, executive, managerial, analyst/specialist, and other professional positions in the following sectors and organizations.

- * Local, county, state, and federal government
- * Schools, colleges, universities, and other educational institutes
- * Hospitals, medical facilities, public health agencies, and other health organizations
- * Nonprofits, charitable organizations, and foundations
- * Think tank, research, and advocacy organizations
- * Social services, environmental protection, and community development organizations
- * International organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank
- * Consulting, fund raising, public relations, and other specialized organizations

Data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/>) presented in the following two graphs show a relatively high earning potential and robust rates of job growth in related occupations.

Projected Job Growth for Select Occupations, 2018-2028



Median Annual Salary for Select Occupations, 2019

