### Program Faculty

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

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

**Vincent Reitano** (PhD) background in economic theories, econometrics, and consulting inform 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 policy, international development, and other comparative issues.

Additionally, a number of practicing professionals with decades of administrative, management, and leadership experience teach many concentration-specific courses and guide students in their networking and career search.

### Modality, Location, and Course Schedule

The program is designed to accommodate the busy life of working professionals, who can complete the degree either in-person, online, or in combination. In order to allow this flexibility, classes are offered in-person in Kalamazoo or partially synchronously online (with six three-hour evening meetings each) on a year-round basis. Students can start in any term (fall, spring, or summer). Most students taking two courses each term can graduate in just over two years, while students taking one course per term expect to graduate in about four years.

### For Further Information and Contact

**Dr. Matthew Mingus**  
Director of Graduate Programs  
matthew.mingus@wmich.edu

**Dr. Udaya R. Wagle**  
Director, SPAA  
udaya.wagle@wmich.edu

School of Public Affairs and Administration  
Western Michigan University  
1903 W. Michigan Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5440  
Phone: (269) 387-8932; Fax: (269) 387-8935  
wmich.edu/spaa
The MPA program at the WMU School of Public Affairs and Administration is a nationally ranked, NASPAA-accredited program that provides students with broad understanding of theories, best practices, and methodological skills needed to be effective leaders in public and nonprofit organizations. The program accommodates the needs of pre- and in-career, domestic and international students in career, professional development, and course sequencing. Students have a choice of five concentrations: Health Care, Human Resources, Nonprofit, Public Management, and Public Policy. The School has a history of offering innovative and academically rigorous programs as a way to lead and manage change in the public and nonprofit sectors.

Typical careers include mid-to-upper level executive, leadership, or management positions at public and nonprofit organizations, including government agencies, hospitals, and foundations. The program’s over 2,600 graduates have had impactful professional careers helping to improve the quality of public and nonprofit service at local, regional, national, and global levels.

### Core Courses
- Fundamentals & Ethics of Public Service
- Economic Principles of Public Service
- Public Policy & Politics
- Applied Research Methods
- Quantitative Data Analysis I

### Concentration Required Courses
- Management, law, or policy in the area of concentration
- Budgeting or Financial Management
- Human Resources Administration
- A Specialized Course in Concentration

### Concentration Elective Courses
An array of concentration-specific or cross-concentration courses are available including from other departments throughout the University. This extensive choice of courses helps deepen the exposure to and competence in best practices relevant to the student’s intended professional career. (See the table for a complete list of concentration courses)

Quotes from Alumni Anonymous Survey

“I was exposed to professionals in other industries and [the program] enabled me to consider the transferability of my skills and experiences for application in other areas.”

“[The program] provided me with the skills and knowledge necessary to move up into leadership positions with my organization.”

“Classroom experiences and exposure to different career and educational paths are the key strengths of this program.”

“Through this course work, I felt prepared to address the issues and concerns facing nonprofit healthcare organizations in Washington, DC.”