Western Michigan University offers graduate programs in public administration, each one providing learning opportunities for those seeking careers in public service, healthcare and nonprofit organizations. Our programs are globally oriented, with the faculty engaged in research and consulting worldwide and international students offering additional comparative perspectives.

The Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) is a professional, practice-oriented program providing foundational knowledge of the principles of public administration, addressing the practical responsibilities of public, nonprofit, and healthcare services, and reflecting on the tasks and effectiveness of public and nonprofit leadership in society.

M.P.A. specializations include:
- Healthcare administration
- Human resources administration
- Nonprofit leadership and administration
- Public management

The Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration (Ph.D.) is an interdisciplinary doctoral program designed to encourage broad intellectual inquiry with a scholarly perspective. This program focuses on those with professional experience in public or nonprofit service and those aspiring to pursue academic and other high-impact careers in public administration.

Also, a dual Master of Public Administration and Doctor of Laws (M.P.A./J.D.) option is available with the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Points of Pride
- The program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration; the global standard in public service education.
- We are ranked as one of the Best Grad Schools in Public Affairs (2016) by US News and World Report.
- Our 3,000+ alumni have held academic, leadership and other professional positions in public, healthcare and nonprofit services.
- Nearly all (97 percent) of graduates become actively engaged one year after graduation, with 90 percent of them working full time.
- Evening, weekend and hybrid classes support working professionals, with M.P.A. courses available in Kalamazoo and Lansing, and Ph.D. courses in Kalamazoo.
Public Administration

Teaching, Research and Program Focus Areas
The faculty bring both academic achievement and practical experience to the classroom. Many have served as leaders and managers of public service, healthcare or nonprofit organizations; and 100 percent of them hold advanced degrees in their field.

Industry Highlights
Public administration graduates hold positions in a variety of public, private and nonprofit organizations, including:
- Budget development specialist
- Chief of police
- City manager
- College president
- College 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

Employment in state and local government is expected to grow 8.4 percent from 2008 to 2018. Prospects with managerial experience will have better opportunities as a growing number of managers are expected to retire in the coming decade, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Funding
A limited number of graduate assistantships and doctoral associateships are available annually.

Admission
Ph.D. applicants are admitted for the fall semester only.

Domestic
M.P.A. applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, allowing students to begin coursework in the fall, spring and summer semesters. The completed application is due 40 days before the start of your desired entry term.

Fall 2018 Ph.D.: April 30, 2018

International
Fall 2018 M.P.A., Ph.D.: April 1, 2018
Spring 2019 M.P.A.: Aug. 1, 2018
Summer 2019 M.P.A.: Jan. 15, 2019

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Western Michigan University est. 1903
Offering over 100 world-class advanced degree programs and holding Carnegie Foundation classification as a higher research doctoral university, the institution has consistently appeared in the US News & World Report as one of America’s best national universities. Graduate students make up 21 percent of the total student body and have been awarded nearly $52 million in financial assistance. WMU enjoys a rich 60+ year history of graduate education.

Kalamazoo, Michigan
The community offers a vibrant cultural atmosphere mixed with a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The city of Kalamazoo is located midway between Detroit and Chicago and is in close proximity to the shoreline of Lake Michigan.