



## San Diego State University

San Diego State University has grown and developed through its 121-year history into one of the nation's major public research institutions. Our 36,000 students and 400,000 alumni are proud to live the ethos "Leadership Starts Here." The university offers bachelor's degrees in 91 areas, master's degrees in 78 areas, and doctorates in 22 areas. It ranks #68 among public universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2020 "Best Colleges" rankings.

## The School of Public Affairs

The School of Public Affairs is a broad-reaching, multi-disciplinary academic unit offering five undergraduate and graduate degree programs in public administration, criminal justice and criminology, and city planning. Our student body and faculty embody diverse interests and backgrounds, but are bonded by concerns for achieving equitable and ethical social, institutional, and built environments.

## SDSU World Campus

SDSU World Campus reaches out to the greater San Diego community, the nation, and the world with a wide variety of degree programs, seminars, and professional certificate programs. Career advancement courses are offered in many areas of management, leadership, and quality improvement while self-enrichment courses range from accounting to web design. Additionally, World Campus offers more than 50 certificate programs, online courses, and many other learning opportunities.



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

World Campus



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School of Public Affairs



For detailed information on application procedures and deadlines to apply, please visit [neverstoplearning.net/mpa](http://neverstoplearning.net/mpa)

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[neverstoplearning.net/mpa](http://neverstoplearning.net/mpa)



Fast-track  
**Online Master of Public  
Administration**

NASPAA Accredited



Where will you be in 16 months?

## Master of Public Administration

Our nation needs effective leadership and competence in the administration of public affairs. The growth in all levels of government and public service organizations and their increasing responsibilities in a complex society have led directly to the need for more capable and more ethical public administrators.

The Master of Public Administration is a nationally accredited professional degree offered to qualified students. The primary purpose of the online Master of Public Administration degree is to enhance the knowledge and skills of practicing professionals who wish to improve their knowledge and skills for promotion in their management careers in government, community agencies, nonprofit organizations, planning and consulting firms, and private sector organizations that work in partnership with the public sector. The job market and hiring criteria of today's economy indicate that employment opportunities for public administrators has a strong future trajectory but one that increasingly involves partnerships with for-profit and nonprofit sectors.

**Career opportunities** in public administration can be found throughout the public and nonprofit sectors. The online Master of Public Administration program is targeted to students who have at least two years managerial-level experience in public administration.

The curriculum provides a foundation of required coursework and a selection of complementary courses and seminar work that may be oriented towards more specific areas of administration. Upon graduation, our MPA students have secured a wide variety of administrative positions within government, private sector, and community agencies. For example, graduating students have obtained careers with city personnel and finance departments, county operating departments, special districts, hospitals, consulting firms and a wide array of nonprofit organizations. Students in the online degree program are expected to demonstrate significant accomplishment in career development, promotion, and competitiveness.

## Rankings

Ranked as the #1 MPA among public, accredited universities in California and the #2 accredited school in California by *U.S. News & World Report* (2019). SR Education Group ranks the online MPA #15 in its 2019 "Best Online Colleges" listings.

## Program Affiliations



The Public Administration program at San Diego State University is a founding member of the National Association of School of Public Affairs and Administration. NASPAA is the national accreditation organization of 202 U.S. and international MPA programs (2018–2019).

## Online Teaching Format

The 16-month online degree program is primarily available to students currently working in the profession, or who have previous experience working in public administration, urban planning, criminal justice, or related fields. The 36-unit online curriculum offers fewer course options than the on-campus program, but provides a fast-track of 16 months to completion. It's taught in six, two-month modules with two on-campus experiences — one at the beginning and one at the end of the program. Most full-time practicing or previously practicing professionals will have the internship requirement waived provided the level of their experience is adequate.

In each module, students take two classes as part of an online peer cohort. Students receive approximately two weeks of break between modules. Between the final two modules, students receive a longer break with the goal of developing an applied research project. This project builds to a capstone presentation at the end of the program during an on-campus weekend experience. The capstone project is presented to a panel of professional practitioners and faculty.

## The Curriculum

The online Master of Public Administration provides the knowledge and skill set for students in management careers in government, community agencies, private nonprofit organizations, planning and consulting firms, and private sector organizations.

Courses and faculty in the online program are the same as the in-person format. Students must take seven required courses in: public administration theory, research methods, public finance and public policy; along with four electives that are tailored to the interests of each cohort. Students also complete a capstone course that is a problem-solving project at their place of employment.

## Eligibility

Students holding a bachelor's degree in any major from an accredited university are eligible to apply for admission to the online MPA program. The degree program is primarily designed for students currently working in the profession, or who have previous experience working in public administration, urban planning, criminal justice, or related fields.

## Application Process

Complete your application through Cal State Apply at [calstate.edu/apply](http://calstate.edu/apply).

**Admission to the online MPA program is based on the SDSU application and on the following five factors:**

- 1) Overall Grade Point Average.** A GPA of 3.0 is considered desirable for graduate study in public administration, but a 2.85 GPA (on a 4-point scale) may be acceptable for admission, depending on other factors.
- 2) GRE Score.** We encourage applicants who have not yet taken the GRE to apply to the MPA program. An overall target score in the 35th percentile or better on each of the sections of the exam is considered minimum. The minimum can be waived in certain circumstances. The scores need to be submitted by the due date for the year of application.
- 3) Two Letters of Recommendation.** Letters should come from a person familiar with the applicant's academic ability and accomplishments, and/or current/previous employer.
- 4) Internship Waiver Request Form.** This ensures that full-time professionals will have the internship requirement waived, and helps us guide students with less experience.
- 5) Statement of Purpose.** Why do you want this degree?