

Master of Public Administration Degree

Court Administration Concentration

40 Credits Total

Required Courses

28 Credits

MPA Courses:

- PA 601—Public Administration: Theory (4)
- PA 620—Quantitative Methods in Public Administration (4)
- PA 621—Government Information Systems (4)
- PA 653—Public Budgeting & Finance (4)
- PA 654—Human Resources Management for the Public Sector (4)
- PA 655—Program & Policy Evaluation (4)

Court Administration Course:

- PA 540—Introduction to Court Administration (4)

Electives

8 Credits from:

- PA 503—Intergovernmental Relations (4)
- PA 541—Law and Public Policy (4)
- PA 542—Law and Administration: Local Perspectives (2)
- PA 543—Law and Administration: State Perspectives (2)
- PA 548—Administrative Ethics (2)
- PA 603—Contemporary Public Management Techniques (4)
- PA 610—Strategic Planning (4)
- PA 634—Risk Management (2)
- PA 638—Public Sector Employee Relations (2 or 4)
- PA 640—Advanced Court Administration (4)
- PA 644—Current Issues in Public Sector Human Resources Management (2 or 4)
- PA 692—Special Topics in Public Administration (as approved by director) (2 or 4)
- PA 693—Special Topics in Public Policy (as approved by director) (2 or 4)

Capstone - 4 Credits

PA 658—Internship (4) or PA 690—Master's Project (4)

Making Leaders. Making Decisions. Making a Difference.

MPA at Oakland University www.oakland.edu/mpa

Required Course Descriptions

- **PA 601—Public Administration Theory (4)** Course focuses on the fundamental concepts of public administration, their origin and distinguishes between public and private and between government and administration.
- **PA 620—Quantitative Methods in Public Administration (4)** Course examines quantitative methods for use in the public sector with an emphasis on data analysis for decision making and common computer techniques. Students must have the PA 522 prerequisite or permission of the instructor to enroll.
- **PA 621—Government Information Systems (4)** Course focuses on the essential tools for management decision making, program evaluation, data management, and information retrieval. Selected computer packages and report writing are also covered.
- **PA 653—Public Budgeting & Finance (4)** Course focuses on the process by which governments raise funds and allocate them among competing purposes. Course also examines relations between agencies and executive budget offices and between executive and legislative branches of government. Elements of budget preparation, defense and review under various systems, line-item, performance, program, PPBS and zero-base budgets are presented.
- **PA 654—Human Resources Management in the Public Sector (4)** Course studies human resources management in public agencies. Topics include the legal and political environment, managerial concerns and employee rights, and the problems of public employee collective bargaining.
- **PA 655—Program & Policy Evaluation (4)** Course answers the question of how to judge the success of programs. Topics include problems of design, data collection and analysis to sort out causes and evaluate effects, cost-benefit analysis, and the organizational and political aspects of evaluation studies.
- **PA 540—Introduction to Court Administration (4)** Introduction to court administration examines and explains the field of court administration by reviewing its historical, cultural, economic and political aspects as well as future trends and goals.
- **PA 542—Law and Administration: Local Perspectives (2)** Course focuses on the relationships between local government and the legal system with special attention to: 1) legal constraints on administrative discretion; 2) tensions between corporation counsels or prosecutors and administrators; 3) civil vs. criminal procedures and their impact on local decision making; and 4) federal/local and state/local relationships in the courts.
- **PA 543—Law and Administration: State Perspectives (2)** Course focuses on state administrators and the legal system: 1) the roles of the administrative and agency hearing offices; 2) tensions between the administrative and agency hearing offices; 3) agencies and civil courts; and 4) agencies and the attorney general.
- **PA 548—Administrative Ethics (2)** Course explores the ethical components of administrative decision making and activities in public and not-for-profit agencies. Specific topics include personnel decisions, service delivery procedures and measures of program performance. Course also serves as a forum for judging ethical behavior, to help understand how ethical considerations permeate all job-related activities and to assist ethical decision-making skills.
- **PA 603—Contemporary Public Management Techniques (4)** Course focuses on the application of contemporary public management techniques, managers as change agents, and leaders of quality improvement and excellence in the workplace. Strategies for implementing these programs are also examined.
- **PA 610—Strategic Planning (4)** Course focuses on the theoretical and historical perspectives of strategic planning as well as components of a strategic planning model and leadership issues. Specific topics include: planning in nonprofit, health care, and public sector organizations' environments, internal data assessments, developing and implementing operating plans, contingency plans, and practical issues associated with strategic planning.
- **PA 634—Risk Management (2)** This course will provide a description of the concept of risk management in the public sector. Topics include: risk identification, loss control and safety, insurance and the law, loss prevention and evaluation, placement of insurance and financial responsibility.
- **PA 638—Public Sector Employee Relations (2 or 4)** Policies and practices relating to employee relations and collective bargaining in the public sector.
- **PA 640—Issues in Court Administration (4)** This course examines selected areas of the field of court administration in great detail. The course will build on the material covered in PA 540 Introduction to Court Administration. It will go in depth in the areas of personnel management, case management, budgeting, jury management and alternative dispute resolution.
- **PA 644—Current Issues in Public Sector Human Resources Management (2 or 4)** Selected topics in human resources management, emphasizing state, county and local experiences. Topics can include: contract maintenance and compliance, merit systems, comparable worth, drug testing, employee assistance programs, affirmative action, mediation, arbitration and others as they emerge over time.
- **PA 692—Special Topics in Public Administration (2 or 4)** Special topics in public administration offered by the department. May be counted toward a concentration as approved by director.
- **PA 693—Special Topics in Public Policy (2 or 4)** Special topics in public policy offered by the department. May be counted toward a concentration as approved by director.

Elective Course Descriptions

- **PA 503—Intergovernmental Relations (4)** Course focuses on the conflicts and cooperation between, and among, national, state, and local governments. Illustrations are drawn from programs in social services, community development and regulation.
- **PA 541—Law & Public Policy (4)** Course focuses on the impact of "the rule of law" concept on administrative policy, practice and decision making and examines the effects of existing procedural requirements on the exercise of administrative discretion, the role of the courts and the likely consequences of proposed "reforms."