

General Frequently Asked Questions

- ***When is the application deadline?***

To be considered for funding, submit your application by January 10, 2022. After the deadline, the department accepts applications on a rolling basis.

- ***Does the MPP program admit new students mid-year?***

No. We only admit students to the MPP program in the fall quarter.

- ***Does Luskin offer a part-time MPP degree program?***

No. We only offer a full-time MPP degree. Classes are scheduled mainly on weekdays during normal working hours. Many students do work part-time, but due to the rigor of the program, students are discouraged from working more than 10-20 hours a week.

- ***How long is the program?***

The expected time for completing the program is two years, and most students finish in that time.

- ***Does the program offer joint (concurrent) degree?***

Yes. We have five joint degree programs: JD/MPP, MBA/MPP, MSW/MPP, MPH/MPP, and MD/MPP. As with any concurrent degree program, applicants must meet the admissions criteria of each program and be admitted separately to each.

- ***Does Luskin offer a PhD in public policy?***

At this time, we only offer a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree. The Luskin School's departments of Social Welfare and Urban Planning do offer doctoral programs. Locally RAND, USC, and Claremont offer PhDs in Public Policy.

- ***Can students design their own articulated programs for the MPP degree program?***

Yes. Students may, with permission from the department, design their own articulated programs. Articulated degree programs permit no credit overlap and students must complete degree requirements separately for each degree.

- ***What are the degree requirements for the MPP?***

MPP students must complete a minimum of 80 academic units (three or four 4-unit classes per quarter, 12 core required classes and 9-10 electives). Seven of the 12 required core courses are completed in the first year. The remaining core courses and two Applied Policy Analysis seminars are completed in the second year. The remaining courses (40 units) are chosen by the student from courses devoted to specific policy issues in the student's area or areas of concentration as well as electives.

During the summer between the student's first and second year, the program requires a 10-week field internship with an approved government agency, non-profit group, or other approved organization. This can also be fulfilled as a 400-hour internship served part-time throughout the year.

- ***Can prior work experience be substituted for the internship?***

After admission, students with prior experience may petition to waive the internship requirement. However, such requests are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis and students will be encouraged to seek an internship in an area different than their prior work background to broaden their range of experiences.

- ***Can MPP students register for more than the requires 12 units each quarter?***

The minimum course load for full-time MPP graduate students is 12 units per quarter. Students will need to take 16 units during some quarters to meet the 80-unit degree requirement. They are encouraged to take additional courses to further develop their analytic skills and breadth of content knowledge. **The 80-unit degree requirement is considered a minimum, not a maximum.**

- ***What is the cost of attending the MPP program?***

Fees for UCLA graduate students for the 2020-2021 academic year are \$ 26,655.28 for California residents (including mandatory medical insurance) or \$ 39,521.28 for nonresidents (includes fees and nonresident tuition). Please note, UCLA Graduate Student Fees are subject to change at any time. The most current fee information is always posted on the [Graduate Division web site](#).

- ***When is the fellowship deadline?***

The fellowship deadline is the same as the application deadline, January 10, 2022. Even though the Graduate Division Fellowship application states that the deadline is December 15, 2021, it also states "Consult your department for exceptions to this deadline." MPP applicants will still be eligible for the University Fellowships with the January 10, 2022 deadline. There are additional departmental fellowships that also have the departmental application deadline.

- ***What is the GPA requirement for admission?***

A scholastic cumulative minimum of a B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better is required for undergraduate study. Applicants should keep in mind, however, that the average GPA for entering students is approximately 3.5.

- ***What GRE scores are required for admission?***

Graduate Record Examination scores (for exams completed within the last five years) are only required for international applicants. Still, we recommend domestic applicants submit scores and strongly recommend domestic applicants without a quantitative background submit scores. Be sure

to indicate the correct GRE institution code (UCLA is R4837) code on your GRE registration materials.

The average GRE score for entering students is approximately 158 on the Verbal section and 157 on the Quantitative section. The average on the analytical writing section is 5. Students scoring below 158 on the Verbal or below 148 on the Quantitative sections will need to indicate compelling evidence of their qualifications through their GPA, references, or professional work experience. For more information on the GRE, visit <http://www.gre.org>.

- ***Are there any courses or major requirements for admission?***

While the MPP program has no specific course or major requirements for admission, applicants are strongly recommended to have taken at least one undergraduate class in statistics, microeconomics, and calculus, alongside other quantitative courses.

- ***What type of careers do MPP graduates pursue?***

The MPP prepare students to become future policy-makers. The job market for graduates with an MPP degree is highly diverse, encompassing the public, private, and nonprofit sectors at the local/regional, state, national, and international levels. The MPP curriculum best prepares students to professionally enter a field as a policy analyst. Although MPP graduates become specialists, managers, directors, and leaders in public affairs, their training best prepares them with quantitative and analytical skills for the policy-making process. Graduates may work for public agencies or offices at all levels of government, for nonprofits such as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, California Association of Public Hospitals, Feminist Majority Foundation, Michigan Environmental Council, and Mathematica, Inc., or for non-governmental organizations such as the World Bank, Catholic Relief Services, UNESCO, and Relief International. Many also enter the private sector to join businesses, consulting firms, and media organizations such as Boston Consulting Group, Covad Communications, Real Energy, Inc., BizRate.com, and Fox Broadcasting.

- ***How do I apply to the MPP program?***

The UCLA Graduate Division Application is available every year starting in September online at <http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu>.

- ***Can I check the status of letters of recommendation?***

You can check the status of your letters and/or resend requests to your writers after you submit the application.

- ***Is there a word limit for the statement of purpose?***

There is an 800-word limit for the Statement of Purpose. Please refer to the [guide](#) if you need assistance.

- ***What is the average debt of a student after completing their MPP degree?***



The average debt is approximately \$46,560.

- ***What is the median salary for MPP graduates?***

The median salary after graduation is \$65,000.