

Frequently Asked Questions

Applying to the MPP Program

When is the application deadline?

To be considered for funding, submit your application by December 1, 2026. After the deadline, the department accepts applications on a rolling basis until the final application deadline of April 15, 2027, or until seats in the program are full.

How do I apply to the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program?

The [UCLA Division of Graduate Education Application](#) is available every year starting in September.

Can I check the status of letters of recommendation?

You can check the status of your letters and/or resend requests to letter writers after the application is submitted.

Is there a word limit for the statement of purpose?

There is an 800 to 1000-word limit for the statement of purpose. Please refer to the application guide for additional information.

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 who have a cumulative undergraduate GPA below a 3.0 may still be admitted via Dean's Special Action (DSA). The Department issues the DSA; nothing further is needed from the applicant to be admitted through a DSA. Applicants should keep in mind, however, that the average entering student GPA is 3.5.

What GRE scores are required for admission?

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores—for exams completed within the last five years—are only required for international applicants. While GRE scores are not required for domestic students, they are recommended. Domestic applicants without a quantitative background are strongly recommended to GRE submit scores. Be sure to indicate the correct GRE institution code for UCLA (that is, R4837) on your GRE registration materials.

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, because of the quantitative requirements of the degree, applicants are strongly recommended to take at least one undergraduate class in statistics and microeconomics alongside other quantitative courses.

Program Format and Degree Options

Does the MPP program admit students mid-year?

No, students are admitted to the MPP program only in fall quarter.

Does Luskin offer a part-time MPP degree program?

No, there is only a full-time, on-ground MPP degree. All classes are in person and scheduled on weekdays during normal working hours.

How long is the program?

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

Does the program offer concurrent degrees?

Yes. We have five concurrent 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. You may find additional information on concurrent degrees [HERE](#).

Does Luskin offer a PhD in public policy?

At this time, we only offer a two-year terminal MPP degree. The Luskin School's Departments of Social Welfare and Urban Planning offer doctoral programs.

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.

Curriculum and Internships

What are the degree requirements for the MPP?

MPP students must complete a minimum of 78 academic units (36 core course units and 42 elective course units). Four core units are from the degree's internship requirement, and eight core units are from the capstone Applied Policy Project.

What is the internship requirement?

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

Can prior work experience be substituted for the internship?

After admission, students with at least two years of prior experience may petition for their previous professional experience to satisfy 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. All students will take the internship course, PUB PLC 496.

Can MPP students register for more than the required 12 units each quarter?

The minimum course load for full-time MPP graduate students is 12 units per quarter. Students will need to take 14-16 units during some quarters to meet the 78-unit degree requirement. They are encouraged to take additional courses to further develop their analytic skills and breadth of content knowledge. Graduate students at UCLA may enroll in up to 22 units of coursework in each quarter. The 78-unit degree requirement is considered a minimum, not a maximum.

Cost, Funding, and Careers

What is the cost of attending the MPP program?

Tuition and fees for UCLA MPP students for the 2026-2027 academic year are \$36,216.76 for California residents (including mandatory medical insurance) or \$49,334.76 for nonresidents (including fees and nonresident tuition). UCLA graduate student fees are subject to change at any time. For the most current fee information, visit the UCLA Registrar's website, Annual Term and Student Fees page [HERE](#).

When is the financial award deadline?

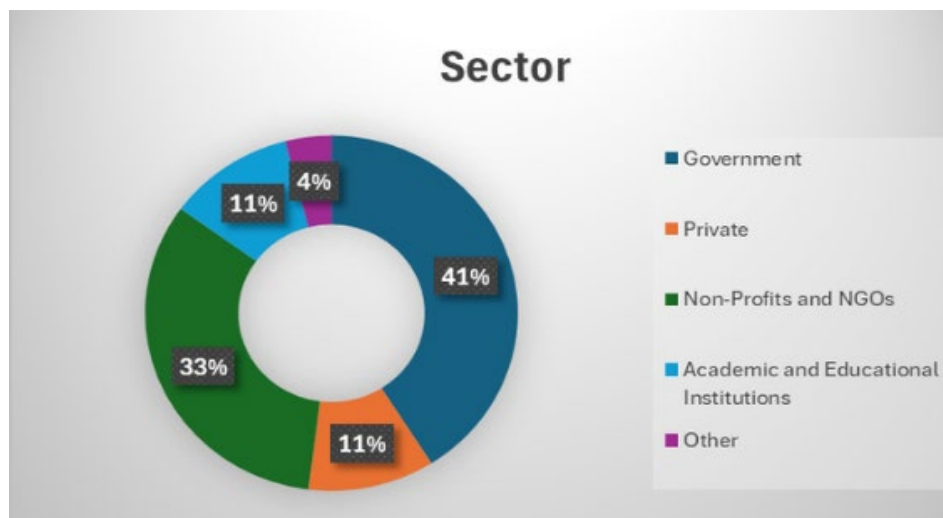
The financial award deadline is the same as the priority application deadline: December 1, 2026.

For additional funding opportunities and relevant deadlines, visit the Division of Graduate Education's Funding webpage [HERE](#).

What type of careers do MPP graduates pursue?

The MPP prepares 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, nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, research institutions, or international and non-governmental organizations. Many also enter the private sector to join businesses, consulting firms, and media organizations.



What is the average debt upon completion of the MPP program and what is the average salary of reported by MPP graduates within a year of graduation?

The average debt after completing the MPP is approximately \$58,400 (2023). Public Policy Class of 2025 reported an average annual salary of approximately \$87,396.

This figure reflects survey respondents, rather than all graduates, and excludes bonuses.

