Students completing the Master of Public Administration program from the University of Colorado Denver can now complete all of the required courses online.

Program Description:
This Master of Public Administration (MPA) program will help students manage government and nonprofit organizations as well as the related skills needed to thrive in this growing field. The curriculum is built upon core courses that develop essential problem-solving and decision-making skills. Organizational Management & Change, Economics & Public Finance, Democracy & Policy Making, and Research & Analytic Methods are just some of the courses that offer first-hand opportunities to study the important issues of public affairs. The required curriculum will help hone skills in management and analysis, but students may gain specific insights into their area of interest by pursuing one of three concentrations available. Each is designed to equip students with the management and analysis skills demanded of managers in challenging public affairs positions.

Degree Requirements:
All students must complete a minimum of 36 semester credit hours of graduate course work, excluding preparatory workshops, with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. Students must receive a grade of 3.0 or better in all required core courses. No more than six credit hours of independent study can be applied toward the degree. Students who have not had significant work experience in the public or nonprofit sectors must complete an internship through an additional three-semester hour course bringing their total credit hour requirements to 39.

Required Courses:
(All courses are 3 credit hours)
All MPA students must complete the following core courses or approved equivalents:

P AD 5001 - Introduction to Public Administration and Public Service
Examines the fundamental theories, structures, and processes of governance in the United States. Explores the constitutional foundations and functions of legislative, administrative, and legal institutions. Covers topics such as federalism, public-private relations, and comparative public administration.

P AD 5002 - Organizational Management and Change
Examines contemporary theory and practice of managing organizations and the processes of organizational change and development. Considers issues of effective leadership, human resource management, organizational theory and behavior, and personal and interpersonal skills.

P AD 5003 - Research and Analytic Methods
Examines research methods used to answer questions and test hypotheses in public and non-profit settings. Methods covered include identifying and reviewing scholarly literature; formulating research questions; selecting appropriate design, data collection
and sampling strategies; and analyzing data. Topics include causal and descriptive designs, interview and surveys and statistics such as t-test, chi square, regression and the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS).

**P AD 5004 - Economics and Public Finance**
Uses economics to explore public and private sector roles, and the allocation of resources in the public sector. Introduces the concepts of public goods, market failure and externalities. The effects of taxation and subsidies on consumer and firm behavior are analyzed. Also covers cost benefit analysis and national, state, and local budgeting methods.

**P AD 5005 - The Policy Process and Democracy**
Offers a theoretical approach to understanding the public policy process in the context of a democratic system. The course presents a model of the policy process for understanding contemporary theory and issues in public affairs.

**P AD 5006 - Leadership and Professional Ethics**
Examines theories and skills of effective public leadership. Emphasizes critical thinking, normative decision making, the role of values in public policy and management. Ethical theories and principles commonly used in public administration and policy are be emphasized.

All MPA students must complete 15 hours of electives. A student can choose to design an area of special emphasis with assistance from his/her faculty advisor, or pursue a general MPA with no specialty. Additionally, students may choose a concentration in Nonprofit Organization Management, by taking two required courses (PAD 5110 and 5140) and three additional nonprofit electives. Also, students in a concentration must do an Advanced Seminar project in their area of concentration.

**P AD 5361 - Advanced Seminar in Public Policy and Management**
In this seminar, students demonstrate their mastery of the knowledge and skills acquired in core courses, as applied to either their chosen program concentration or individualized program, through the conduct of a Program Integration Project. The PIP may be either an independent research project or client-oriented project. Students also make a juried oral presentation of the professional paper which reports project findings. This is the cumulative opportunity for students to apply concepts and theory to professional practice, and thus should be taken at or near the end of a student’s program of study. (Successful completion of this course is an M.P.A. degree program requirement.)

**Internships:**
Students who have limited experience in public, nonprofit, or relevant private sector service must enroll in P AD 6910, Field Study in Public Administration. A minimum of 300 hours of supervised work and study is required to earn three credit hours of academic credit. This requirement raises the total semester hours needed to earn the MPA degree to 39.

**CU Online Contact:**
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