

New Mexico State University



Master of Public Administration/
Master of Criminal Justice
(MPA/MCJ)

Joint Degree Program

2023-2024

MPA/MCJ Information Packet*



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It is the policy of New Mexico State University not to discriminate on the basis race, sex, national origin, religion, or handicap with regards to its students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment.

Introduction and Program Overview

In recognition of the increasing demand for qualified administrators in criminal justice agencies, New Mexico State University offers students the opportunity to simultaneously pursue both a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree and a Master of Criminal Justice (MCJ) degree through a joint degree program. Law enforcement, detention, courts, treatment, and prosecutorial agencies face growing pressures to develop innovative policies, administer a wide range of programs, and evaluate the effectiveness of their services. The successful administrator needs to possess an understanding of the unique environment and constraints of the criminal justice profession, while also demonstrating sophisticated administrative and analytical skills that extend beyond the scope of traditional law enforcement and criminal justice.

If completed separately, the two degrees would require the completion of 75 to 82 credit hours and would take roughly four years if attending school full-time. The joint degree program allows students to obtain both degree through a special plan that consists of the 57 credits hours spanning both programs. With proper planning full-time students entering in the fall can expect to complete the joint degree program in three years. The joint degree offers an internship or thesis option; the internship placement or thesis topic must be tailored to reflect element of both programs.

The information presented here is meant to elaborate on a few issues specific to the joint degree program and to supplement the existing policies and procedures that govern these two degree programs individually. Complete information on the MPA Program can be found in the Program Description and Student Admissions Packet, available from the Department of Government and on the program's website, while materials concerning the MCJ program appear on the Department of Criminal Justice's website. Students interested in the joint degree should speak directly with the MPA Director and the Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Criminal Justice for more information.

Joint MPA/MCJ Degree Requirements

The MPA/MCJ curriculum combines a core of courses designed to provide students with essential knowledge spanning both disciplines with electives chosen by the student to meet specific educational objectives. Students must complete a minimum of 57 credit hours, including an internship or thesis. No fewer than 24 credit hours in criminal justice courses. Additional credits beyond the minimum of 57 or the minimums in either program may be required as conditions of admission for students with inadequate undergraduate preparation.

The MPA/MCJ program is structured around three tiers of learning:

1. A core curriculum of eleven (11) required courses (33 credits);
2. Electives, perhaps including courses from a third program applied towards a graduate minor (18 credits); and
3. An internship and capstone course or thesis (6 credits).

1) The MPA/MCJ Core (30 credits)

All students must complete a core curriculum of 30 credits of course work distributed between the two programs. The core is composed of specific MPA courses (15 credits), MCJ courses (9 credits), and selected courses taken in either program (6 credits). This includes (all courses are 3 credit hours).

a) MPA Courses

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|-------------|---|
| 1. POLS 502 | Research Methods (Offered Fall Semester) |
| 2. POLS 541 | Public Budgeting (Offered Fall Semester) |
| 3. POLS 542 | Public Sector Human Resource Management (Offered Spring Semester) |
| 4. POLS 544 | Public Policy Analysis (Offered Spring Semester) |
| 5. POLS 547 | Government Organizations (Offered Fall Semester) |



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b) MCJ Courses

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| 1. CJ 511 | Nature of Crime (Offered Fall Semester) |
| 2. CJ 514 | Race, Crime and Justice (Offered Spring Semester) |
| 3. CJ 525 | Issues in Ethics, Law and Criminal Justice (Offered Spring Semester) |

c) MPA or MCJ Courses

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1. CJ Policy Elective | (CJ Elective 500 or higher, Can be taken either Spring or Fall semester) |
| or | |
| POLS 530 | Seminar in Public Policy (Offered Fall Semester) |
| Or | |
| POLS 549 | Ethics in Government (Offered Spring Semester) |

The core courses provide a broad introduction to the political, legal, social, and economic institutions and processes associated with public administration generally and criminal justice specifically. The present concepts and teach skills for organizing and managing personnel, programs and funds, for analyzing policy options and program operations, for representing public interests, and for examining ethical, professional and personal values. The courses seek to enhance writing skills, public speaking, computer literacy and analytical thinking. Working effectively in teams and learning from "real world" experiences are fundamental components of the core courses.

The remaining 27 credit hours required for the joint degree program are selected by the student, with an advisor's approval, to meet the professional needs and interests of the individual. The goal should be to combine graduate electives and an internship or thesis to prepare the graduate for a specific career objective. This format insures that a student will master a body of knowledge while allowing enough flexibility to develop a substantive specialty and gain experience through multiple methods.

2) Graduate Electives (21 credits)

With the advice and approval of a faculty advisor, each student selects and completes a minimum of 18 credits hours of graduate electives. This must include at least 3 credits in the MPA and 6 credits of MCJ courses, and may include up to 12 credits outside either program. Many students take advantage of this opportunity to pursue a graduate minor in another program, though students may find it necessary to complete more credits than the minimums associated with the joint degree program to obtain a minor. Potential graduate minors include economics, health, security studies, and sociology. Students interested in a minor should contact the minor department directly for information on requirements or any restrictions that may apply to courses which can be counted towards a minor.

PLEASE NOTE: MPA can require to take specific electives due to previous undergraduate courses. These electives can include:

1. POLS 522: Public Sector Econ I (Offered Fall Semester) or POLS 523: Public Sector Econ II (Offered Spring Semester)
2. POLS 540: Seminar in Public Administration (Offered Spring Semester)
3. POLS 550: Seminar in American Politics (Offered Spring Semester)

Please contact the MPA director for further information on your case. For MCJ electives please contact program director.

3. Thesis and Internship Options

Because students have divergent career goals, both the thesis and internship options are offered. The thesis option requires 6 credit hours of thesis (POLS 599 or CJ 599) and a final oral examination covering the thesis and course work. The internship option requires 3 credit hours of internship (POLS 510 or CJ 593), 3 credit hours of Pro-seminar in Public Administration (POLS 519) and a final written examination covering the internship and course work.

A. Thesis Option

The thesis option is strongly suggested for students who have a specific career objective that can be enhanced by the deep and careful analysis of a selected topic in criminal justice and public administration. For the student interested in pursuing a doctoral degree, the thesis option provides an excellent opportunity for exploring themes and ideas which might serve as the foundation for a dissertation topic, while offering valuable experience in conducting original research.

The committee for a thesis option student will be composed of a minimum of three members, one from the MPA program and one from the MCJ program. The third member must be a graduate faculty member willing to serve as the Dean's Representative. A list of graduate faculty may be obtained from the Graduate School. The chair may be from either program, and will probably depend on the focus of the thesis. Given the time commitment involved in preparing a thesis, students are urged to have a committee appointed ten to twelve months prior to the expected time of completion of all degree requirements. Early in the semester prior to the semester of expected completion of the thesis, a prospectus (six to ten pages in length) must be presented for approval by the thesis committee for approval. A formal meeting of the committee and student will be convened, and the student may be asked to revise the prospectus for resubmission to the committee. A Final Copy of the prospectus, signed by the members of the committee, will be filed with the Directors of the MPA/MCJ Programs. Upon completion of the thesis, with approval of the committee chair, the student is permitted to schedule the final oral examination that is required by the Graduate School. Additional elective courses may be offered to assist with the writing of the thesis prospectus, please see the directors of the MPA or MCJ Programs for details.

B. Internship Option

This option offers students a formal field experience in a public or private nonprofit agency to complement their academic training and career goals. The internship is considered a vital part of the student's education in that it serves as a link between the classroom and agency operations. This option is strongly recommended for individuals lacking practical experience in the public sector or for those not planning to seek a doctorate in the immediate future. MPA and MCJ faculty members will make every effort to develop internship opportunities, but students are encouraged to identify and arrange internship positions as well. An internship position may be paid or unpaid, although an effort will be made to secure paid positions for students. Generally, a student should plan on working at least 10 hours per week for 15 weeks for three credit hours of internship. Adjustments are required when participating in a summer internship.

A student selecting the internship option is required to complete three credits of internship by enrolling in POLS 510. The requirements for the internship are determined by the MPA faculty member supervising the placement, pursuant to the policies and procedures governing MPA internships which are available from the MPA director or can be found on the program's website. It is generally expected that an intern will undertake a major project with a well-defined "deliverable" capable of being completed in a fixed period of time, though it is recognized that some placements will not offer such an opportunity. It is possible for students working full-time in an appropriate position and organization to complete their internship in this setting provided that the assignment is beyond one's normal duties and responsibilities.

Students selecting the internship option must take the pro-seminar in Public Administration (POLS 519) after successfully completing 30 credit hours of course work, including at least five of the core courses. POLS 519 is offered every spring semester. The Pro-Seminar class is typically offered during the late afternoon, two days a week. Students with day jobs should plan to make arrangements in advance to take this class. Students are required to earn a B- or higher in the Pro-Seminar in order to schedule written examinations. Participation in the Pro-Seminar and an internship permits the integration of knowledge, theories, attitudes, and values, while developing professional skills.

PLEASE NOTE: Students seeking the CJ internship option, must consult with your graduate advisor in the Department of Criminal Justice.



MPA/MCJ Examinations

Each candidate for the MPA degree must pass a two-part examination process. The first part of the examination process depends on whether the student has selected the internship or thesis option. For students selecting the internship option, the first part of the examination entails the successful completion of the Proseminar in Public Administration (POLS 519) with a grade of B- or higher. For individuals selecting the thesis option, the first part involves the writing of a thesis that meets with the preliminary approval of the thesis committee.

The second part of the examination process, required of all students, is the taking of a final written examination. The written examination is designed to evaluate a candidate's understanding of the concepts, scope and methods of public administration as both an academic discipline and a public service vocation. Students must have completed all core courses and removed any incomplete grades from their transcript before taking the final written examination. The Graduate School requires that students, at the time of taking the final oral examination, have a cumulative graduate grade point average of at least a 3.0 and be enrolled in their final semester. Written examinations will only be scheduled each spring semester.

For students selecting the thesis option, the final examination committee is the same as the thesis committee. The final oral examination is scheduled for two hours. In the case of students selecting the internship option, the final written examination covers material of the faculty's choice. Candidates should be prepared to discuss general questions about public administration theory and practice, public administration literature, sub-fields of the discipline and the internship experience.

The oral examination for students pursuing the thesis option will be in two parts. The student must make a brief presentation of the thesis, including findings, and then a question and answer period is conducted. The examination committee is at liberty to question the student on any aspect of the student's graduate study, although it is presumed the emphasis will be upon the thesis topic.

Comprehensive Exam Basis (non-thesis internship/capstone option)

Once a student has successfully (a grade of B- or better earned) completed five of the six core courses (POLS 502, POLS 541, POLS 547, POLS 542, POLS 544, and POLS 549) and 30 of the 42 required credits in the program, the student is able to register for GOVT 519: Proseminar in Public Administration. The comprehensive written exam will be taken within this course during the first 8 weeks of the spring semester and any rewrites on failed portions of the exam will occur following the spring break. Please note that students must complete all core courses with NMSU or be concurrently enrolled in any remaining core course in order to be eligible to take the comprehensive exam. Students usually take the comprehensive exam in the last semester of the program.

Preparing for the Comprehensive Exam

While individual faculty may, at times, assist in preparing for the exam, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to prepare for the exam. Preparation requires responsible and dedicated independent study; it is the student's interest to retain syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, and readings from the core classes and electives completed within the department. These generally provide valuable reference material in preparing for the comprehensive exam.

Comprehensive Exam Grading Procedures

There are three sections to the comprehensive exam: public administration/organization theory, research methods/public policy analysis, and a third from ethics, public budgeting, or public personnel management. Each student must write a passing response to all questions for each of the three sections. Each section of the exam is graded as either: pass with distinction, pass, or not pass. The MPA director works with specific faculty to grade the exams over the first 8 weeks of the semester. Exams are blind-graded by two public administration faculty for each section of the exam. Students must receive a passing grade for each exam section from both faculty. Students will be notified individually via email within a two-week period after completing the exam whether the exam has been passed with distinction, passed, or not passed. In the event that a student receives a “not pass” grade on any section of the exam, the student will be given a one-time option to rewrite the exam section. The student will be notified by the MPA director what section(s) have not been passed, and will arrange a timeframe for the student to rewrite the section(s) of the exam. If the student does not receive a passing grade for the rewrite, the student must take a new exam for the section(s) during the next regularly scheduled comprehensive exam. If the student receives a “not pass” grade once again, the student will be required to retake the relevant core course(s) before retaking the section(s) of the comprehensive exam not passed. There are several reasons for receiving a “not pass” grade: failure to directly address the question(s) asked, failure to answer each part of the question(s), incorrect use of terms and concepts, failure to illustrate depth or comprehension in formulating a response, inadequate use of materials and/or sources. The MPA director will notify the registrar’s office when a student has passed the comprehensive exam. This serves as the official notification process for the university that the student has completed the final exam requirement for the Master’s Degree in public administration. The student’s final obligation is to run a STAR report to verify that all remaining requirements have been completed in order to graduate. A program of study is also required for students with any specific conditions of admission or students declaring a minor area of study.

If a student does not attempt to answer a section of the comprehensive exam, the section is considered not passed. Per grading procedures, the student will be given a one-time option to rewrite the exam section during the next regularly scheduled comprehensive exam. If a student does not attempt a second time to answer a section of the comprehensive exam, the section is considered not passed and the student may be removed from the program without degree completion.

Policies on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism for the Comprehensive Exam

The department encourages students to refer to and utilize course materials, notes, and readings accrued during the completion of relevant coursework in formulating responses to the comprehensive exam questions. Further, preparation for the exam may occur in tandem with other students, such as with study groups. However, the department insists that all students uphold the New Mexico State University’s Student Code of Conduct, “Students at NMSU have an obligation to uphold the laws of the larger community of which they are a part.” Therefore, incidences of academic dishonesty, collusion, and plagiarism on the comprehensive exam will not be tolerated. Plagiarism refers to appropriating excerpts from websites, books, journal articles, etc. without proper in-text citation referring to the original source of the material. For further clarification on what constitutes plagiarism, please refer to NMSU’s library website: <http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/> Further, a student should not represent another student’s work as a valid response for any exam question. Additional resources used to answer any exam question are strongly discouraged as the comprehensive exam is directly related to the core courses and core competencies for the field of public administration. If a student’s response contains plagiarized material, or if a student has collaborated with another student in any way during the exam period, the student(s) will fail the entire exam and may be removed from the program without the option to complete the degree. It is expected that students taking the exam will consult with NO ONE, either professors or fellow graduate students, on any questions or issues relevant to exam content during the examination period. Further, clarification of exam questions should be directed via email to the MPA director.

Admission to the Joint Degree Program

The MPA/MCJ program seeks to include individuals from many different backgrounds. A majority of students have had undergraduate degrees in the social sciences, especially in criminal justice and political science, but applicants have been accepted with many other majors, ranging from agriculture business to engineering. The joint degree program is selective in making admission decisions and strives to ensure that minority groups, women and foreign nationals are well represented, while balancing the number of pre-service and mid-career students.

Students interested in pursuing the joint degree are required to apply to the MPA and MCJ program separately, according to each program's admissions procedures. It is expected that most applicants will initiate the two processes simultaneously. After being admitted to one program, students have one year to be admitted to the second program in order to pursue the joint degree. Applicants interested in the joint degree should indicate this fact on all application forms. Prospective students are expected to have a 3.0 undergraduate GPA during their last two years and may be required to complete additional courses as a condition of admission to either program.

Applicants are accepted twice a year, once in October and once in March, although it is strongly recommended that students planning on seeking financial assistance, especially a graduate assistantship, apply two semesters (excluding summer) prior to their admission semester. The Graduate School sets application deadlines for each semester, which are followed by the two programs.

*The Joint degree needs to be completely concurrently and cannot be completed after one graduates from one program or another

MPA Admissions Procedures

Admission to the MPA program involves the completion of a single online application through the Graduate School's website listed below. Deadlines for submission of all application materials are listed in the Graduate Catalog.

A. Domestic Student Admissions

All prospective students, whether domestic or international, are required to complete and submit an Application for Admission to the MPA Program. The application can be completed through the Graduate School website:

The Graduate School
PO Box 30001/MSC 3G
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88001
(575) 646-5746

<http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/>

<http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/future-students/Admission.html>

Applicants must arrange with each institution previously attended to have one official transcript of their undergraduate and graduate work submitted for consideration with their online application. Action cannot be taken on an application until all materials have been received. A complete online application consists of:

1. Three (3) Letters of Reference;
2. A Personal Statement;
3. A Writing Sample; and
4. A Current Resume Listing Work Experience.
5. GRE Scores (if applicable)

The GRE is required if an applicant's bachelor's degree is less than five years old AND if an applicant's GPA is less than 3.0. For more information on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), please visit their website at www.gre.org. An applicant whose GPA falls below a 3.0 and has graduated college more than five years ago, may apply to the MPA Program and take up the three MPA courses as an "undeclared major". The three MPA courses must equal nine credits (no skills workshops, individualized courses, etc). Approximately half way through the semester, the student's progress will be assessed by the MPA faculty. Up to three courses may be transferred into the student's Program of Study this way.

B. International Student Admissions

Materials and inquiries concerning international admission procedures should be directed to the Office of International Student Scholars Services (ISSS) web site.

<https://iss.nmsu.edu/>

Additional materials that are required of international students include an International Programs Referral and TOEFL Score. Students interested in one of the joint degree programs must apply separately to the appropriate participating departments and need to indicate this on all application materials. The personal statement should address this interest as well. Acceptance by one program is not a guarantee of acceptance by the other program; in which case a student cannot pursue the joint degree but could continue in the accepting program

MCJ Admission Procedures

Department of Criminal Justice **ONLY** reviews the applicants **ONCE PER YEAR, IN SPRING FOR FALL ADMISSION.**

For full admission consideration for the Fall semester, the Director of the MCJ needs to be in receipt of ALL application materials no later than **March 1.**

Although admission into the program is possible after this deadline, a decision to admit an applicant after the deadline has passed is made on a case-by-case basis and is a function of space availability in the MCJ program and the relative merit of individual application packets.

The minimum requirements for admission into the MCJ program are:

1. a minimum overall undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.000 or a minimum 3.500 cumulative GPA for your last 60 hours of earned credit;
2. three letters of recommendation from individuals who are able to comment upon your ability to complete graduate work; and
3. a three to five page essay that introduces you and discusses the following topic, "The most important change needed in the criminal justice system is ..." Remember, this essay is your sample of written work and will be evaluated by the MCJ Admission Committee.

The enrollment process for the MCJ is:

1. You need to be admitted to the Graduate School at NMSU. You can apply to the Graduate School online. Once the Graduate School receives your application, transcripts from prior universities and/or colleges, and your application fee, they will make an admission decision and notify you directly of that decision. It is very important that you submit this application form to the Graduate School 30 days prior to the MCJ program admission deadlines listed above. Failure to comply with this stipulation may cause your application file in the Department of Criminal of Justice to be incomplete by the deadline and could result in an unfavorable admission decision.
2. Send three letters of recommendation directly to the Director of the MCJ program from professors, employers, etc. who can comment on your strengths and potential for success in the MCJ. These letters may be mailed directly by the individual writing the letter, or collected by you in sealed and signed envelopes and included in one package along with your written essay. Recommendation forms that can be used in conjunction with letters of recommendation are not required but are preferred. These Recommendation forms can be downloaded by clicking the above link.
3. Send the essay described in #3 above directly to the Director of the MCJ program.

The address for the three letters of recommendation and the essay is:

Graduate Program Director,
Master of Criminal Justice Program Department of Criminal Justice, MSC 3487
New Mexico State University
PO Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001

Department Contact Information

Department of Government
P.O. Box 30001, MSC 3BN
Breland Hall, Room 337

Department of Criminal Justice P.O.
Box 30001, MSC 3487
Breland Hall, Room 107

New Mexico State University Las
Cruces, NM 88003-8001

MPA Director
575-646-4935
<https://deptofgov.nmsu.edu/>

MCJ Director
480-228-6314
<http://crimjust.nmsu.edu>

The MPA Program is completing its second decade of being accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA)

*The materials contained herein, including all program requirements, apply to students obtaining admission to either program beginning with fall 2023 semester.

MPA Course Descriptions

- POLS 502** **Research Methods in Government** **(3 credits)**
Contemporary methods of political research and analysis, including mathematical and statistical techniques. *MPA Core*
- POLS 503** **Qualitative Research Methods** **(3 credits)**
An overview of qualitative research methods such as fieldwork, ethnography, content analysis, case studies, focus groups and grounded theory. Introduces students to epistemology – the study of knowledge – and to basic components of research design. Explores activist scholarship, ethical dilemmas in research, and software tools for computer assisted analysis. Especially useful for students preparing thesis, dissertation or other research projects.
- POLS 510** **Internship** **(3 credits)**
Assignment with a public agency, research report, and prior approval of graduate intern advisor required. Up to 3 credits may be taken per semester for a total of 6 credits.
- POLS 519** **Proseminar in Public Administration** **(3 credits)**
Review of classic and contemporary theory and practice in public administration. Synthesis and integration of course work and application (internship) knowledge, skills and abilities. Application of written and oral skills to the presentation and defense of essays on various aspects of public administration. **Pre-requisite:** student must have completed 30 semester hours of MPA program course work which includes at least five of the core courses.
- POLS 522** **Public Sector Economics I** **(3 credits)**
Introduction to the economic rationale for government intervention in the economy and the effects of the intervention on economic agents and the economy in general. The expenditure side of government policy will be emphasized. Same as AEEC 522. GOVT 522 is not a prerequisite to taking GOVT 523.
- POLS 523** **Public Sector Economics II** **(3 credits)**
A continuation of GOVT 522. Concentrates on the economic effects of taxation. Same as AEEC 523.
- POLS 526** **Women, Politics and Administration** **(3 credits)**
Examination of women's participation in U.S. electoral politics as voters, candidates, and officeholders; their political activism in issue-based movements and strategies for affecting public policy; leadership as administrators and managers in public service agencies. Course also covers the influence of feminism in changing women's roles socially, legally, and politically.
- POLS 527** **Issues in Public Management** **(3 credits)**
Special topics in public management. May be repeated with different subtitles. Previously offered courses include Water Utility Management, Risk Management, and Intergovernmental Relations.

- POLS 528** **Public-Private Partnerships** **(3 credits)**
This course explores how taxpayer-funded services are administered and delivered through public-private partnerships involving privatization and government contracting with the nonprofit sector and for-profit companies. The class will explore funding, legal, accountability, and stakeholder issues in partnerships in health and human services, criminal justice, and homeland security.
- POLS 530** **Seminar in Public Policy** **(3 credits)**
Survey course on the political, administrative and technical aspects of policy-making in government.
- POLS 531** **Public Program Evaluation** **(3 credits)**
Politics, processes and techniques for evaluating both program operations and the outcome of program endeavors.
- POLS 535** **Education Policy** **(3 credits)**
Overview of current pressing policy issues and political debates on education in the U.S., including school choice, vouchers, accountability, and affirmative action. Multiple topics and perspectives covered, with political economy the main approach.
- POLS 537** **Issues in Public Policy** **(3 credits)**
Special topics in public policy. May be repeated with different subtitles. Previously offered courses include Environmental Policy, Federal Indian Policy, Health Policy, and Immigration Policy.
- POLS 540** **Seminar in Public Administration** **(3 credits)**
Survey course on the theory and practice of program, personnel and financial management in the government and the private, non-profit sector.
- POLS 541** **Public Budgeting** **(3 credits)**
Budgetary process; budget classifications, analysis and evaluation. **MPA Core**
- POLS 542** **Public Sector Human Resource Management** **(3 credits)**
Exploration of public personnel systems and practices, including job analysis, compensation, performance evaluation, recruitment and labor-management relations. **MPA Core**
- POLS 543** **Skills Workshop** **(1 – 6 credits)**
Focus on management of task skills in selected areas of public administration. Specific topics will appear in current Schedule of Classes; may be repeated with different subtitles for a total of 6 credits. (A list of past subtitles can be found following the course list.)
- POLS 544** **Public Policy Analysis** **(3 credits)**
Environment of policy analysis; various descriptive and quantitative designs for analyzing and evaluating public policy. Problems of public analysis. **Pre-requisite:** GOVT 502 or consent of instructor. **MPA Core**
- POLS 547** **Government Organizations** **(3 credits)**
Historical overview and present applications of organizational theory in public management. **MPA Core**

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| POLS 548 | <u>Public Sector Leadership</u> Theories and styles of leadership. | (3 credits) |
| POLS 549 | <u>Ethics in Government</u> Examination of standards, perspectives and issues for ethical decision making in public agencies. MPA Core | (3 credits) |
| POLS 550 | <u>Seminar in American Politics</u> Selected topics in American political institutions, behavior and processes. | (3 credits) |
| POLS 564 | <u>Advanced National Security Policy</u> Major topical, theoretical, and regional issues in national security policy. | (3 credits) |
| POLS 566 | <u>Advanced Issues in American Foreign Policy</u> Major topical, theoretical, and regional issues in American foreign policy. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits under different subtitles. | (3 credits) |
| POLS 590 | <u>Seminar Public Law and Legal Systems</u> Focus on U.S. Constitutional Law and other national legal systems. | (3 credits) |
| POLS 591 | <u>Law for Administrators</u> Case law definitions of the legal roles and powers of public administrators. | (3 credits) |
| POLS 598 | <u>Special Research Programs</u> Individual investigations - either analytical or experimental – designed to help students develop a set of research skills in an area of particular interest to them. Three credits may be taken per semester for a total of 6 credits. Pre-requisite: Consent of Instructor | (1 – 3 credits) |
| POLS 599 | <u>Master's Thesis</u> | (variable credit) |

PLEASE NOTE: For Criminal Justice courses please contact the department

**Other Graduate Courses
Offered by the Department of Government
Available to MPA Students**

POLS 465 Peru: From Incas to Inca Cola
POLS 468 Rebels, Guerrillas & Terrorists in Modern Latin America
POLS 469 Globalization
POLS 474 European Politics
POLS 493 Mass Communication Law

POLS 553 Issues in American Politics
POLS 560 International Relations Theory
POLS 563 Issues in International Relations
POLS 569 Advanced Issues in Globalization
POLS 570 Seminar in Comparative Politics
POLS 575 Issues in Comparative Politics
POLS 574 Contemporary Comparative Studies
POLS 578 Seminar in U.S. Mexican Border
POLS 579 Seminar in Mexican Politics
POLS 580 Seminar in Political Theory
POLS 582 Study of Political Theory
POLS 593 Issues in Public Law
POLS 596 International Law



Skills Workshop (GOVT 543) Subtitles Offered

- Accessing Government Information via the Internet
- ADA Compliance
- Administrative Writing
- Alternate Dispute Resolution
- Capital Budgeting
- Collective Bargaining Negotiations
- Community Collaboration
- Computer Applications for Public Administration
- Conducting Public Meetings
- Conflict Resolution
- Contract Administration
- Developing an Ethics Policy
- Developing a Sexual Harassment Policy
- Developing a Workplace AIDS Policy
- Economic Development Negotiations
- EEO Investigations
- Effective Lobbying
- Effective Oral Presentations
- Employee Recruitment and Selection
- Governmental Accounting
- Grant Writing
- Job Search Skills
- Local Government Economic Development
- Management Information Systems
- Municipal Bond Financing
- Non-Profit Management
- Performance Measurement and Appraisals
- Position Descriptions
- Project Management
- Quality Management in the Public Sector
- Recruitment and Selection
- Risk Management in the Public Sector
- Team and Group Management
- Strategic Planning
- User Fees and Rate Analysis
- Using Excel Spreadsheets

Department Faculty
MPA Core Faculty*

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| Thaddieus Conner | Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, 2012 Associate Professor Areas: Public Management Intergovernmental Relations Public Finance and Budgeting Tribal Governance and Administration |
| Seong Kang | Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2018 Associate Professor Areas: Public Administration Public Policy Analysis Public Sector Volunteering and Services Coproduction & Law Enforcement/Policy |
| Cheon Lee | Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2022 Assistant Professor Areas: Public and Nonprofit Management Nonprofit Finance Civic Engagement Education Policy |
| Christina A. Medina | Ph.D., University of Colorado at Denver, 2008 Professor and MPA Program Director Areas: Public Policy (Education and Immigration) Cultural Competency and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Qualitative Research Methods Human Resources |
| Ani Ter-Mkrtchyan | Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, 2020 Assistant Professor Areas: Nonprofit Governance and Accountability Environmental Policy and Administration Energy Policy |

*The MPA Faculty forms the membership of the MPA Program Committee, which is responsible for the governance of the program.

PLEASE NOTE: For Criminal Justice faculty please contact the department.

Supporting Departmental Faculty

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|--------------------------|--|
| William Corbett | J.D., University of Illinois, 1984; MPA, Pennsylvania State, 1977 College Assistant Professor Areas: Administrative Law and Public Administration |
| Neil Harvey | Ph.D., University of Essex, 1990 Professor and Academic Department Head Areas: Mexican Politics and Comparative Politics |
| Sabine Hirschauer | Ph.D. Old Dominion University Assistant Professor Areas: Human Security Feminist Security Studies Migration and Identity Theories of IR and Socio-Political Studies |
| Kim Seckler | J.D., University of New Mexico, 1986 College Professor Areas: Public Law and New Mexico Law |
| Cory Sukala | Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 2019 Assistant Professor Areas: Political Theory Religion and Politics Buddhist Political Thought American Political Thought |

Additional Staff and Faculty Profiles

For more information about staff and faculty, including current research interests, see:

<https://deptofgov.nmsu.edu/facultydirectory/faculty-profiles.html>

Emerti Faculty

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|-----------------------|--|
| Christa Slaton | Ph.D., University of Hawaii, 1990 Professor Areas: American Politics Public Administration Conflict Resolution Political Theory |
| Nancy Baker | Ph.D., Tulane University, 1989 Regents Professor Areas: Public Law and American Political Institutions |
| Yosef Lapid | Ph.D., Columbia University, 1981 Regents Professor Areas: International Organizations and International Relations |

William Taggart

Ph.D., Florida State University, 1982
Professor
Areas: Public Policy Analysis
Research Methods
State and Local Government
Public Budgeting and Financial Management
Public Policy (Criminal Justice and Gaming)

Russell Winn

Ph.D., Arizona State University, 1985
Associate Professor
Areas: Public Policy Analysis
Research Methods
Public Administration
Criminal Justice Policy
Environmental Policy

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UE & NMSU Collective Bargaining Agreement

Information for the Collective Bargaining Agreement can be found below.

<https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/ga-and-union/collective-bargaining-agreement.html>