

Faculty List

Visit our Faculty and Staff web page to view a complete list of current faculty, as well as their research and teaching areas.

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Build your knowledge and make a difference
at NMSU's Dept. of Political Science, Public Law
and Administration

New Mexico State University

Department of Political Science, Public Law and Administration



Master of Public Administration (MPA)

- Master of Public Administration
- Joint M.P.A. & M.C.J. Program
- MPA Minor
- Minor in Non-Profit Management



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.®
College of Arts and Sciences

Master of Public Administration

The M.P.A. is a nationally accredited program that provides students with a diverse set of managerial and analytical skills, in addition to ethical and professional values, necessary to pursue meaningful careers in the public and non-profit sector. Candidates who follow this professional program must complete a minimum of 42 credits, consisting of core courses, electives and either an internship or a thesis. All students are required to complete a core curriculum of 18 credits, including:

POLS 502	Research Methods in Government	3 credits
POLS 541	Public Budgeting	3 credits
POLS 542	Public Sector Human Resources Management	3 credits
POLS 544	Public Policy Analysis	3 credits
POLS 547	Government Organizations	3 credits
POLS 549	Ethics in Government	3 credits

The remaining 24 credits required for the degree are selected with the approval of an advisor to meet the needs and interests of the individual

candidate. Because students have divergent career goals, a thesis or internship option is offered. The thesis option requires an additional 18 credits of course work, 6 credits of thesis (POLS 599), and an oral examination



covering the thesis and course work. The internship option requires an additional 21 credits of course work, 3 credits of internship (POLS 510), and a written comprehensive examination covering the internship and course work. As part of the course work, students selecting the internship option must take POLS 519 (Proseminar/Capstone in Public Administration) during the latter part of their studies, and are required to earn a B- grade or higher in that course.

With approval, students may include up to 12 credits of relevant course work from other departments to be counted toward the total credits required for the M.P. A. These credits may be selected to form a graduate minor in another academic discipline. Candidates with inadequate preparation for graduate study in public administration may be required to take appropriate undergraduate and graduate courses as part of, or in addition to, a regular program of study. Applicants to the M.P.A. program will be advised of any such requirements at the time of admission.

Welcome back reception Fall 2025



Joint M.P.A. - M.C.J. Program

The M.P.A. - M.C.J. joint degree option requires completion of a minimum of 57 credits of approved course work from the Departments of Political Science, Public Law and Administration and Criminal Justice. Students interested in this option should meet with the M.P.A. Director or criminal justice graduate advisor for additional information.



Student Organizations

Government Graduate Student Organization (GGSO)

GGSO was organized to support government department faculty and graduate students. The group meets monthly and holds several social events.

Pi Sigma Alpha

The National Political Science Honor Society, Eta Eta Chapter, gives students the opportunity to explore current events, national elections, international relations, and political philosophy.

Pi Alpha Alpha

The Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration provides three major membership benefits: acknowledges academic achievement, provides job-searching and networking benefits, and indicates the opportunity to serve others through public service.