

The School of Management at Marist College has offered the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree program since 1980. It rapidly became one of the most popular MPA programs for working adults.

The Marist College MPA program prepares innovative leaders of public and nonprofit organizations with the knowledge, skills and values necessary for effectively managing in a diverse, technologically engaged and global society. The curriculum aims to integrate public administration theories and research with practice; to enhance skills such as communication, quantitative and qualitative analysis, data-driven decision making and the use of technology to enhance leadership in, and management of, public organizations; and to promote public service values.

Students in the Marist MPA program come from a variety of educational and employment backgrounds. Some students have just completed their undergraduate studies, others are young professionals in the beginning stages of their careers, and some are seasoned senior managers and executives. Their backgrounds include law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, healthcare, higher education as well as professionals in local, state, and federal government agencies.

PROGRAM DISTINCTIVENESS

Founded in 1929, the College is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education, and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Princeton Review named Marist one of the best 379 colleges in the country, and our School of Management one of the top 296 business schools in the world. *Forbes* and *The Princeton Review* call Marist one of the "25 most connected campuses" in America. *U.S. News & World Report* consistently places Marist in its top tier. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* and *Barron's* call us one of the nation's best buys in college education. *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine selected Marist for its list of the 100 most wired campuses in the nation. The John Templeton Foundation placed us on its elite honor roll of only 100 academic institutions noted for teaching character development.

The Marist MPA program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). NASPAA accreditation is a very significant achievement because it recognizes the College's commitment to excellence in public service. NASPAA is the recognized global accreditor of master's degrees in the fields of public policy, affairs, and administration. Its mission is to ensure excellence in education and training for public service and to promote the ideal of public service.

Marist College, a recognized leader in the use of technology in the classroom, has the distinction of having been the first college in New York State to gain approval to offer its entire MPA program online. Since 1998, students from all over the world have selected the Marist program for its quality, convenience, and flexibility.

PROGRAM GOALS

The curriculum aims to meet the objectives and standards of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). It stresses the following program goals:

- Integrate knowledge of the key theories across the disciplines of public administration;
- Develop the skills necessary for managing public and nonprofit organizations effectively;
- Embrace sound values in the ethical management of public organizations.

CURRICULUM

The MPA curriculum consists of fourteen 3-credit courses. Three of these are Foundation courses which may be waived (pending New York State approval) if comparable undergraduate courses were taken within 2 years of admission to the program with a grade of "B" or better and the approval of the program director. Seven courses are Core courses, all of which are required. The internship requirement may be waived with sufficient professional or managerial experience at the time of admission. The remaining three courses are electives which may also be grouped in one of three concentrations: Ethical Leadership, Healthcare Administration or Public Management.

FORMAT

The format of the MPA program aims to support the students, most of whom are full-time working professionals who are completing the MPA program as part-time students. They may pursue the MPA program in a hybrid (54% online) or fully online format. Both cover the same content, have identical learning goals, and are taught by the same faculty. The key difference is the delivery system. The face-to-face component of the hybrid courses are at the Fishkill Executive Center in New York, and at sites in Albany and NYC.

Courses are offered in accelerated 8-week segments or "rounds". Round 1 courses run the first 8 weeks of each semester. Round 2 courses run the second 8 weeks of each semester. One round is offered in the summer. Classroom courses are offered over the same 8-week segments with meetings one night per week. Part-time students move through the program in the most expedient manner by following a five course per-year schedule -- two courses per semester (Round 1 and Round 2) in the fall and the spring, and one course in the summer. Following this schedule, students can focus on one course at a time and complete the program in less than three years. It is possible to accelerate the program and complete it in less time.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate admissions application (available online)
- \$50.00 non-refundable application fee
- Official undergraduate/graduate transcripts from degree granting institutions
- Current resumé
- Personal essay on interest in the MPA program and its fit with the applicant's career goals
- Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores (upon request)
- Two letters of recommendation -- preferably one from a professor and one from an employer

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall	August 1 (Fishkill, Online, and NYC)
Spring	December 1 (Albany and Online)

TUITION & COSTS (2016-2017)

Tuition	\$333.00 per credit (for members of our academic partners)
Tuition Deposit	\$250.00

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MPA FOUNDATION COURSES (9 CREDITS)

Foundation courses may be waived based on prior coursework.

MPA 501 Politics and Policy

Politics and Policy considers the public policy-making process with particular emphasis on the political environment. This course covers strategic and operational planning theories and practices, as well as ethical dilemmas.

MPA 505 Human Resource Management in Public Organizations

Human Resource Management in Public Organizations examines aspects of human resources and personnel management in the public and nonprofit sector. This course introduces major issues, techniques, and trends in contemporary public personnel management, including ethical concerns, career planning, and professional development.

MPA 508 Statistics for Public Managers

Statistics for Public Managers provides an overview of the scientific framework and empirical approaches to conducting and evaluating research studies. The course emphasizes the application of quantitative techniques to decision-making and problem-solving. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability, sampling plans, research design, analytical methods for hypothesis testing, and regression analysis. Familiarity with high school algebra is necessary.

MPA CORE COURSES (21 CREDITS)

MPA 500 Introduction to Public Administration

Introduction to Public Administration provides a general overview of the field of public administration. The course includes theoretical and practical aspects of key governmental processes, historical development of the field, contributions of social science to understanding organizations, and ethical issues in contemporary government activities.

MPA 503 Public Budgeting

Public Budgeting covers the theory and practice of public budget preparation and review, governmental accounting and auditing, and political issues in the budget process. The course includes consideration of capital budgeting, revenue estimation, and the history of budget reform efforts.

MPA 506 Administrative Law

Administrative Law explores the study of the legal framework of public administration. Basic principles of constitutional law and the institutions of American government are reviewed. The development of the administrative agency as a contemporary legal and social phenomenon and its relationship to other branches of government are considered. The structure of an administrative agency, its jurisdiction, powers, processes, and accountability are analyzed.

MPA 507 Technology Management for Public Managers

Technology Management for Public Managers focuses on what an individual in a managerial position should know about information technology. Social, political, and organizational effects of the technology on individuals, groups, and society are covered. Students gain understanding of how to use information management for strategic and operational purposes, learn to identify useful computer applications, and develop an appreciation for emerging managerial concerns in the information age. This course is only offered in an online format.

MPA 513 Program Planning and Evaluation

Program Planning and Evaluation is an analysis of the theory and practice of designing, implementing, and evaluating public and nonprofit programs. This course develops skills in outcome measurement, survey design, and presentation of results.

MPA 530 Organizational Theory and Change

Organizational Theory and Change covers the theory and practice of improving organizational effectiveness through planned, systematic interventions and change. Typical topics include analyzing organizational cultures, structures, processes, and capabilities; designing needed interventions; and assessing the motivational, educational, and other tools needed for successful implementation.

MPA 699 Innovation in Public Administration

Innovation in Public Administration is the final course in the Marist MPA program. This course requires students to conduct independent, self-driven research that integrates concepts from across the MPA curriculum. Specifically, each student is required to develop an implementation plan for a new process, policy, or program at a nonprofit organization or government agency. The innovation project is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their grasp of the administrative, social, political and ethical aspects of public administration. Pre-requisites: MPA 500, 501, 503, 505, 506, 507, 508, 513, 530.

MPA WORK EXPERIENCE (3 CREDIT)

MPA 660 Internship in Public Administration (may be waived)

The Internship in Public Administration is intended to provide field-based experience in a public or nonprofit organization. This course is required of pre-service students only (those with less than two years of full-time, professional work experience at the time of admissions).

MPA ELECTIVES – (9 CREDITS)

Students may select any three courses from the following list to complete the electives requirement. Alternatively, electives may be grouped into a concentration if a student is looking for depth in a particular area. Three concentration areas are offered: Ethical Leadership, Healthcare Administration, and Public Management. To complete a concentration the designated courses must be selected.

Ethical Leadership Concentration:

MBA 684 Leadership, Power and Influence
MBA 685 Negotiations and Conflict Management
MBA 688 Ethical Management of Organizations

Healthcare Administration Concentration:

MPA 681 US Healthcare Policies and Systems
MPA 682 Ethical/Legal Issues in Healthcare
MPA 683 Critical Issues in Healthcare

Public Management Concentration:

MPA 502 Economics in the Public Sector
MPA 521 Management in Nonprofit Organizations
MPA 616 Global Issues in Public Administration

Total MPA Program Requirement

Minimum of 39 credits/Maximum of 42 credits