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Master of Public Administration Mission Statement

Our mission in the MPA program is to develop professionals with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to lead and advance public service in a diverse, multi-sectoral environment. We expect our graduates to be capable of critical problem solving, effective communication, skillful implementation of policy and programs, and ethical application of management and leadership concepts. The MPA program serves the region, state, and nation; supports public administration and public service, and advances knowledge through applied and scholarly research.

Our Values

We embrace diversity in all dimensions promoting a more equitable society and generating new ideas to meet current and future societal needs.

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Electives

Students may take elective courses in a number of different areas related to public administration. Students may choose to focus their elective courses in specific areas, such as those listed below, or

Transfer of Credit

Upon the recommendation of the MPA Graduate Program Director, students may transfer up to 12 credit hours of approved graduate level coursework from a regionally accredited institution. Coursework must be beyond the undergraduate degree and may not come from a completed degree program. Transfer of credit must meet specific criteria and university guidelines for course validation. Students interested in transferring credits from a previous institution or incomplete degree program should contact the MPA Graduate Program Director and be prepared tt Gnthi]TJ 0 Tc 0 l bequitn docprac

Continuance Policy

To qualify for continuing towards graduation, students must achieve a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in Graduate level courses. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the student being placed on probation, as per the university graduate policy. Students who fail to

Students should register as soon as the system allows. Overenrolled courses are only provided by instructor permission at their own discretion. Don't 'overbook' your schedule – only register for the classes you plan to take.

A guide on how to register is available on the odu.edu website. Advisors cannot register for you; you must log in to your Midas student portal and access Leo Online in order to enroll in classes.

Graduate Student Enrollment

Regular full-time graduate enrollment is 3 classes per Fall and Spring semester. If you work more than 30 hours per week and/or have additional responsibilities, you may wish to take 1-2 classes per semester. Keep in mind that our program consists of regular reading, writing, and research assignments, and is more time-intensive than most undergraduate programs.

Graduate students must be enrolled in at least 4 credits in a given semester to be eligible for most financial aid, including federal loans. For MPA students, this equates to at least 2 courses per semester, as each course is worth 3 credits.

Summer enrollment does not affect part-time/full-time student status. However, students should be aware that summer courses are offered in three sessions: Session 1, lasting the first half; Session 2, lasting the second half; and Session 3, lasting the full Summer semester.

Academic Calendar

Take note of the add/drop deadline for any semester in which you have enrolled in classes. Students must withdraw from a course by this deadline in order to receive a tuition refund. Students who do not withdraw from this deadline will not receive a full refund and will have a 'W' listed on their transcript. Improper or unofficial withdrawal could result in an 'F' being listed on the student's transcript.

Student Responsibility for Catalog Information: "Students are held individually responsible for the information contained in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs

The following behaviors along with classroom disruptions violate this policy, corrupt the educational process, and will not be tolerated.

Cheating: Using unauthorized assistance, materials, study aids, or other information in any academic exercise

Plagiarism: Using someone else's language, ideas, or other original material without acknowledging its source in any academic exercise.

Fabrication: Inventing, altering or falsifying any data, citation or information in any academic exercise.

Facilitation: Helping another student commit, or attempt to commit, any Academic Integrity violation, or failure to report suspected Academic Integrity violations to a faculty member.

Original Work Policy

The purpose of this policy is to promote clarity and general understanding about multiple use of work in student papers, term projects, examinations, and other work. A paper prepared and submitted to meet a requirement for one course cannot be used, in whole or substantial part, to meet a requirement in another course. One possible exception is when students make full disclosure of an intended second or multiple use to the instructor in the latter

School of Public Service Student Association

The SPS Student Association was established to increase connection among cohorts and encourage networking with fellow students. This student-led organization offers professional development, leadership and community engagement opportunities. Event and meeting invitations will be sent to all students on a regular basis.

Master of Public Administration Advisory Board

The MPA Advisory Board consists of members who practice public administration in our communities across the city, state, and nation. Many members of the Advisory Board are ODU alumni who have connection is the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Members offer mentoring, networking, and guest speaking experiences for MPA students.

University Resource Guide

Bookstore: https://www.bkstr.com/olddominionstore/home
Canvas: canvas.odu.edu
Career Development Center: https://www.odu.edu/career-