Program overview

The Department of Public Policy is an interdisciplinary academic department that offers its students a wide variety of graduate educational options using an online course format. Programs include the Master of Public Policy (MPP) online degree program, as well as online graduate certificates in educational policy, environmental policy, and public management.

All of the Department’s programs of study center around courses that emphasize the development of policy analysis, applied research, and public management skills.

UMass Dartmouth’s Department of Public Policy offers students the opportunity to work with and learn from an interdisciplinary community of scholars who are actively engaged in the world of public policy and who regularly work closely with policymakers in federal, state and local government and a myriad of non-governmental organizations.

Application requirements

Earned baccalaureate degree

All applicants to the Master of Public Policy must have an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited 4-year college or university in the United States or comparable non-U.S. degree/diploma from a recognized foreign institution of higher education at the time of matriculation. Undergraduate seniors may apply in their final semester with the expectation that they will have graduated prior to enrolling in MPP courses.

Graduate school application

All applicants to the Master of Public Policy must complete and submit UMass Dartmouth’s Graduate School Application. The application may be submitted electronically or by mail. See www.umassd.edu/graduate/graduateapplication/.

The Master of Public Policy employs a “rolling” admissions process. Students who meet the requirements for matriculation and fully complete the application requirements will have their applications reviewed upon completion. If accepted, students can begin enrolling in courses that are offered for registration after the date of acceptance.

Letters of recommendation

Applicants are required to submit at least two letters of recommendation. For recent recipients of the bachelor’s degree, at least one of the letters should be from a professor familiar with the student’s academic work. This requirement is waived for applicants who successfully complete the UMass Dartmouth online graduate certificate program in educational policy, environmental policy, or public management.

Statement of purpose (essay) and resume

Applicants are required to submit an essay of 600-900 words explaining the applicant’s interest in the program and purpose for applying to the program. The essay should include the applicant’s graduate study objectives, previous policy-related or public management experience, and undergraduate preparation for the course of study. The applicant should also submit a resume or a curriculum vitae. The statement of purpose and resume requirement is waived for applicants who successfully complete the UMass Dartmouth online graduate certificate program in educational policy, environmental policy, or public management.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores

Applicants to the Master of Public Policy must submit official GRE, GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test), or LSAT (Law School Admission Test) scores taken within five years of the application for MPP admission. This requirement is waived for applicants who have already earned a graduate degree from an accredited institution or who successfully complete the UMass Dartmouth online graduate certificate program in educational policy, environmental policy, or public management.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

International applicants (and/or many applicants whose baccalaureate degree was earned outside the U.S.A.) are required to demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting official TOEFL or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) scores. We require a minimum score of 72 on the Internet-based TOEFL, and a minimum score of Band 6.0 on the IELTS.
To earn a degree

To complete the MPP degree students must:

- Complete a total of 12 courses, including 7 courses from the program’s common curriculum, 3 courses in the student’s selected policy concentration area, 1 free elective, and an internship.

- Apply their knowledge in the field. The UMass Dartmouth MPP requires students with less than 2 years of substantial and relevant public policy or public management experience to complete an internship. The field work component of the Internship (2 credits) will be waived if an individual has at least 2 years substantial and relevant work experience in a policy making or public management position, although all students must enroll in the academic seminar component of the internship.

- Compile and present a professional e-portfolio. In their final semester students present a professional portfolio of the work they completed during the program before a faculty committee for review and approval. Students should begin developing their professional portfolio in their first semester of study.

- Demonstrate mastery of an area of professional specialization. Students must select a policy area concentration by the beginning of their second semester. Available concentration areas include:
  - Public Management
  - Educational Policy
  - Environmental Policy

Program requirements

- Seven Core courses (21 credits)
  - POL 500 Public Institutions & the Policy Process
  - POL 530 Policy Analysis
  - POL 540 Microeconomics for Public Policy
  - POL 580 Statistical Analysis
  - POL 581 Research Methods for Public Policy
  - POL 585 Applied Policy Research Seminar
  - POL 611 Administrative Law

- Policy Area Concentration (9 credits)

- Free Elective (3 credits)

- Internship (1-3 credits) POL 599 Public Policy Internship

For additional program information, including course listings and descriptions go to: www.umassd.edu/mpp

For information, contact

Professor Chad McGuire
cmcguire@umassd.edu

Please forward all credentials to:

Office of Graduate Studies
UMass Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747-2300
508.999.8604, phone
508.999.8183, fax
graduate@umassd.edu
www.umassd.edu/graduate