

URBAN AFFAIRS (MA)

The Master of Arts (MA) in Urban Affairs is an interdisciplinary degree program focusing on how cities work and the challenges they face, such as economic growth or decline, globalization and immigration, and the impact of the housing market on neighborhood stability. The curriculum brings together viewpoints and analytical tools from multiple fields to provide different perspectives on the causes of urban problems and their possible solutions.

The Urban Affairs program at Loyola is a professional degree focused on training students to assume technical or leadership roles in government, nonprofit organizations, or business. Students develop skills in coursework and gain work-related experience through internships or capstone policy clinics.

Related Programs

Master's

- Public Policy (MPP) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/continuing-professional-studies/public-policy-mpp/>)

Certificate

- Public Affairs and Management Certificate (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/continuing-professional-studies/public-affairs-management-certificate/>)

Combined

- Public Policy/Law (MPP/JD) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/dual-degree-programs/public-policy-law-mpp-jd/>)

Curriculum

The MA in Urban Affairs requires 31 hours of coursework—10 three-credit courses, plus a one-credit Professional Development course where students attend a series of meetings covering critical professional skills such as resume and cover letter writing, informational interviews, self-assessments, and networking. Students also complete a required 3 credit hour internship or capstone policy clinic. Students can complete the program in 18-24 months.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|--|-------|
| Core Courses: Disciplinary Perspectives on Urban Areas | | |
| <i>Political Environment</i> | | |
| MPP 412 | Urban Politics and Policy | 3 |
| or MPP 413 | Intergovernmental Relations | |
| <i>Sociology of Cities</i> | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| SOCL 461 | Race & Ethnicity | |
| SOCL 462 | The Urban Metropolis | |
| SOWK 502 | Power, Oppression, Privilege, and Social Justice | |
| Analytical Tools | | |
| MPP 403 | Public Budget and Finance | 3 |
| MPP 405 | Statistical Methods & Analysis for Public Policy I | 3 |
| Select one of the following: ¹ | | 3 |
| MPP 400 | Policy Design and Analysis | |
| MPP 401 | Analytical Tools in Public Policy | |
| MPP 406 | Statistical Methods & Analysis Public Policy II | |

| | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| MPP 500 | Public Policy Evaluation | |
| ENVS 480 | Introduction to Geographic Information Systems | |
| Professional Development and Internship | | |
| MPP 501 | Public Policy Internship | 3 |
| or MPP 503 | Public Policy Practicum | |
| MPP 502 | Professional Development Skills | 1 |
| Electives | | |
| Electives (p. 1) (12) | | 12 |
| Total Hours | | 31 |

¹ In consultation with their advisor, students select at least one additional course that provides a foundation for their specific career goals.

Electives

Students are encouraged to select related courses in consultation with their advisor to develop expertise in a specific urban affairs area (e.g. community development or education policy). Below is a list of common Elective courses.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|--|-------|
| Criminal Justice | | |
| CJC 401 | Politics and Policies in the Criminal Justice System | 3 |
| CJC 402 | Theories of Criminal Behavior | 3 |
| Economic and Community Development | | |
| MPP 407 | Local Economic Development | 3 |
| MPP 414 | Affordable Housing Finance and Policy | 3 |
| Education | | |
| ELPS 410 | Sociology of Education | 3 |
| ELPS 412 | Urban Education Policy | 3 |
| Environment | | |
| ENVS 410 | Introduction to Environmental Law & Policy | 3 |
| ENVS 411 | Natural Resources and Land Use Law & Policy | 3 |
| Immigration | | |
| SOWK 730 | Immigration Dynamics and U.S. Social Policy | 3 |
| SOWK 732 | Migration, Social Justice, and Human Rights | 3 |
| Public Health | | |
| MPBH 400 | Determinants of Population Health | 3 |
| MPBH 407 | Public Health Policy: Concepts and Practice | 3 |

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

| Course | Title | Hours |
|---------------|--|-------|
| Year 1 | | |
| Fall | | |
| MPP 405 | Statistical Methods & Analysis for Public Policy I | 3 |
| MPP 412 | Urban Politics and Policy | 3 |
| MPP 502 | Professional Development Skills | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Select one from list of Electives | 3 |
| Hours | 10 |
| Spring | |
| MPP 403 | Public Budget and Finance 3 |
| MPP 413 | Intergovernmental Relations 3 |
| Select one from the list of Electives | 3 |
| Hours | 9 |
| Year 2 | |
| Fall | |
| MPP 501 | Public Policy Internship 3 |
| SOWK 502 | Power, Oppression, Privilege, and Social Justice 3 |
| Select two from list of Electives | 6 |
| Hours | 12 |
| Total Hours | 31 |

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master's degree, graduates will be able to:

- Draw on a variety of disciplinary perspectives, such as politics, economics, sociology, and history, to understand the complexity of urban issues.
- Identify sources of urban power and their impact on city conditions, on potential systematic biases, and how likely these biases could be overcome.
- Analyze a city budget and evaluate it from different stakeholder positions.
- Analyze urban issues using multiple technical approaches: statistical techniques; fiscal analysis; needs assessments, community impact studies, and program evaluations.
- Experience working in the public policy arena in a government agency, non-profit, research, or private sector organization.