



Public Administration

Division of Politics, Administration, and Justice

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Public Administration Program

MPA Student Orientation

Spring 2026

Welcome

Welcome

We are glad you are here.

Today is about meeting each other, getting oriented, and helping you feel confident about the program.

Acknowledgment

We gather on the ancestral lands of the Tongva and Acjachemen peoples. We honor their past, present, and future stewardship, and we commit to learning and working with respect for this place.

Agenda

Large Group	Breakouts	Large Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions• Why CSUF?• Mission, Vision, Values• Public Administration Student Association (PASA)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">New Students<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faculty Profiles• Curriculum• Milestones• Scholarships and AwardsFamily/Friends and Current Students<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting your MPA Student• Navigating Grad School• Success Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Success and Support• Campus Resources• Contact Information• Large Group Q&A

Introductions

Why CSUF

Program by the Numbers

- **1968:** Year the program began awarding degrees
- **93:** Current students enrolled Fall 2025
- **~30:** Graduates each year
- **4:** Concentrations offered
- **3 years:** Typical time to degree

The Value of a CSUF MPA

- **9:1** student–full time faculty ratio
- **1,200+ alumni** leading in government, nonprofit, and private sectors
- **NASPAA accredited** continuously since the 1980s
 - Reaccredited for 6 years (2025)
 - Recognized for excellence and commitment to public service

Mission, Vision, Values

Our Mission and Vision

Mission

We prepare leaders to address complex social issues, uphold democratic values, and foster ethical, equitable, and inclusive public service in Orange County and beyond.

Vision

To be recognized for excellence in value-driven public service and community engagement.

Our Values

Values

Accountability Promoting democratic transparency, responsiveness, and evidence-informed decision-making to uphold public trust and integrity.

Ethics Advancing integrity, fairness, and service to the public good by fostering ethical reasoning and critical awareness in public administration.

Collaboration Cultivating collaborative skills for cross-sector partnerships, networked governance, and inclusive stakeholder engagement.

Lifelong Learning Instilling habits of continuous learning, reflective practice, and professional development to support adaptive leaders and long-term impact.

Public Administration Student Association (PASA)

Join PASA

the Public Administration Student Association

- Open to undergrad and graduate PA students
- No GPA or unit requirements
- Opportunities for networking, professional development, public service and building community

Breakout Groups

Breakout Groups

Breakout Group 1: New Students

- Program structure
- Concentrations
- Milestones

Breakout Group 2: Family, Alums, Current Students

- Supporting your MPA Student
- Understanding the program
- Navigating Grad School
- Success Strategies

Faculty

Core Faculty

- Eight full-time faculty members
- Diverse research and strong professional experience
- Active in scholarship and community engagement



David P. Adams, Ph.D.

David P. Adams, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & MPA Director

At CSUF since 2016 | Ph.D., Auburn University

Research

- Environmental Governance
- Collaborative Policy
- Public Institutions
- Technology in Governance



Courses

- Foundations of PA
- Capstone Seminar
- Collaborative Governance

Shelly Arsneault, Ph.D.

Shelly Arsneault, Ph.D.

Professor; Vice Chair of PAJ

At CSUF since 2002 | Ph.D., Michigan State University



Research

- Nonprofit management
- Education policy

Courses

- Foundations of PA
- Nonprofit Management
- Education Policy

Sean Angst, Ph.D.

Sean Angst, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

At CSUF since 2024 | Ph.D., USC Price

Research

- Housing policy
- Community development
- Racial justice



Courses

- Administrative Research & Analysis
- Policy Analysis

Meriem Doucette, Ph.D.

Meriem Doucette, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

At CSUF since 2015 | Ph.D., University of Georgia

Research

- Organizational theory
- Change management



Courses

- Organizational Theory
- Ethics
- Organizational Development
- Leadership

Elaine Frey, Ph.D.

Elaine Frey, Ph.D.

Professor

Ph.D., George Washington University

Research

- Environmental economics
- Energy economics
- Applied microeconomics



Courses

- Environmental Policy
- Administrative Research & Analysis

Sarah A. Hill, Ph.D.

Sarah A. Hill, Ph.D.

Professor

At CSUF since 2007 | Ph.D., Caltech

Research

- Elections administration
- Education policy



Courses

- State & Local Government
- Public Policy
- Diversity in Public Management

Myung-Jung “MJ” Kwon, Ph.D.

Myung-Jung “MJ” Kwon, Ph.D.

Professor; MPA Advisor

At CSUF since 2009 | Ph.D., Florida State University



Research

- Public sector innovation
- E-government

Courses

- Human Resources Management
- Public Personnel Administration
- Diversity in Public Management

Samuel B. Stone, Ph.D.

Samuel B. Stone, Ph.D.

Professor

At CSUF since 2011 | Ph.D., Indiana University

Research

- Financial analysis
- Fiscal policy
- Local government management



Courses

- Public Finance
- Public Budgeting
- Local Government Management

Scott Spitzer, Ph.D.

Scott Spitzer, Ph.D.

Affiliated Faculty; Professor

At CSUF since 2006 | Ph.D., Columbia University

Research

- Urban politics
- Racial politics
- Social welfare



Courses

- Urban Politics
- Metropolitan Politics & Policy

Curriculum

Program Structure

- **Total Units: 36** (12 courses)
- Prerequisites
- Core courses
- One concentration
- Electives
- Internship (required if no public sector experience)
- Comprehensive Exam (embedded in Capstone)

Concentrations

Choose one concentration:

- Human Resource Management
- Local Government Management
- Public Finance
- Public Policy

Tip: Choose a concentration that complements your role and goals.

Milestones

Your Path to Success

This timeline represents typical progression. Your path may vary; meet with the MPA advisor to build your sequence.

Prior to First Semester

- Attend orientation
- Review student handbook
(https://csuf-mpa.github.io/mpa_handbook/)
- Complete required paperwork

Resources

- Academic calendar
(<https://apps.fullerton.edu/AcademicCalendar/>)
- Campus map (<https://www.fullerton.edu/campusmap/>)

Semester One

- Complete POSC 509: Foundations of Public Administration
- Take one additional core
- **Important:** Take POSC 509 in your first (or second) term.
- **Tip:** Use this semester to build foundational knowledge and skills.
- **Recommendation:** Join PASA, the Public Administration Student Association.

Semester Two

- Meet with the MPA advisor
- Declare concentration
- Complete two core courses
- Map your timeline to completion

At 18 Units

- Maintain 3.0+ GPA
- Consider *Pi Alpha Alpha* (3.7+ GPA)
- Progress review with advisor

Years 2–3

- Finish three concentration courses
- Complete remaining core

Capstone Prep (Penultimate Semester)

- Verify prerequisites
- Enroll in POSC 521 (Capstone) for final semester
- Begin comprehensive exam prep

Final Semester

- File graduation check
 - Spring deadline: early February
 - Fall deadline: early September
- Complete Capstone and comprehensive exam
- Submit required documentation
- Register for commencement

Scholarships & Awards

Scholarships & Awards

- Lawson Internship in Public Service Award
 - \$2,000 for MPA student in 497
 - Fall & Spring; Spring deadline: Feb 1
- Alan Saltzstein Excellence Award
 - \$1,000 (6–12 units)
 - Fall & Spring
- MPA Alumni Scholarship
 - \$1,000 for first-semester students
 - Fall only (awarded in Spring)

Graduation Awards

- Sidney Baldwin Award (MPA Outstanding Student)
 - Based on GPA & Comprehensive Exam
- Outstanding Public Administration Undergraduate
- Spirit of Public Service Award
- Irving Stone Best Paper Award

Success & Support

Keys to Graduate School Success

Academic

- Start assignments early
- Study groups
- Keep detailed cross-course notes
- Use office hours
- Protect work–life–school balance

Professional

- Network with classmates
- Join associations
- Consider Pi Alpha Alpha (3.7+)
- Build faculty relationships
- Start career planning now

Time Management

- Plan \approx 3 hours of study per course hour
- Track deadlines
- Break big projects into small, dated tasks

Q & A

End of Breakout

MPA Program Website

<https://paj.fullerton.edu/publicadministration/master/>

Explore:

- MPA Home
- Mission, Vision & Values
- Admissions
- Student Hub
- Curriculum
- Alumni Information

Campus Resources

Campus Resources: Academic & Graduate Support

Academic Support

- **Pollak Library**
library.fullerton.edu
- **Computer Labs**
fullerton.edu/STS/computer_labs

Graduate Support

- **Graduate Studies**
fullerton.edu/graduate
- **Graduate Studies Center (GSC)**
fullerton.edu/graduate/gsc

ID, Campus Access, & Logistics Money, Records, & Enrollment

- **TitanCard**
fullerton.edu/IT/services/TitanCard
- **Parking & Transportation**
parking.fullerton.edu
- **Titan Shops**
titanbookstore.com
- **Financial Aid**
fullerton.edu/financialaid
- **Registrar**
fullerton.edu/registrar
- **Student Wellness**
fullerton.edu/studentwellness

Support Services & Resource Centers

Student Support

- **Career Center**
fullerton.edu/career
- **Disability Support Services**
fullerton.edu/DSS
- **Veterans Resource Center**
fullerton.edu/veterans

Identity-Based Resource Centers

- **Women's Center**
fullerton.edu/womenscenter
- **Titan Dreamers Resource Center**
fullerton.edu/tdrc
- **Asian Pacific American Resource Center**
fullerton.edu/aparc
- **Native American & Indigenous Resource Center**
fullerton.edu/dirc/resource-centers/naiss
- **Losquadro Keller LGBTQ+ Resource Center**
fullerton.edu/lgbtq

Additional Support Resources

Basic Needs

- **Tuffy's Basic Needs**
fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/tuffys_basic_needs
- **ASI Food Pantry & Food Resources**
fullerton.edu/basic-needs/calfresh/food

Family Support

- **Children's Center**
asi.fullerton.edu/childrens-center

Contact

Contact Information

MPA Support Staff

- Email: mpaprogram@fullerton.edu
- Phone: 657–278–3521

MPA Advisor – Myung–Jung Kwon

- Email: mpaadvisor@fullerton.edu
- Spring 2026 Office Hours (Virtual and In-Person):
 - Mondays: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 - Wednesdays: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

MPA Director – David P. Adams

- Email: dpadams@fullerton.edu
- Spring 2026 Office Hours (Virtual and In-Person):
 - by appointment at <https://dadams.io/appointments>

Questions?

Large Group Q & A

Thank You for Attending



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