

# **Master of Public Administration Program**

MPA Student Orientation

Spring 2025



# Agenda

- Welcome and Program Overview
- Introductions
- Program Structure and Requirements
- Faculty Profiles
- Academic Information
- Program Resources and Scholarships
- Campus Resources
- Questions & Answers

## Program by the Numbers

- Awarding degrees since 1968
- The only public MPA in Orange County
- 83 Students in the Program
- ~30 Graduates each Year
- Four Concentrations
- Three years typical to complete the program

# The Value of a CSUF MPA

- #1: Most selective public MPA program in Southern California
- 13.3: Lowest student-to-faculty ratio of any public MPA program in Southern California
- 1,100+: Alumni network serving in all levels of government and nonprofit/private sectors
- Continuously accredited by NASPAA since the 1980s

# Our Mission

## Mission

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

## Vision

Our vision is to be a program recognized for excellence in value-driven public service and community engagement.

## Values

- Accountability
- Ethics
- Collaboration
- Life-long Learning

# MPA Program Faculty

## Core Faculty Members

- Nine full-time faculty members
- Diverse research interests and expertise
- Strong professional experience
- Active in research and community engagement



# Program Director

## David P. Adams, Ph.D.

- Associate Professor and MPA Director
- At CSUF since 2016
- Ph.D. from Auburn University

### Research:

- Public Policy Outcomes
- Collaboration
- Environmental and Energy Policy
- Environmental Justice



**Courses:** Foundations of PA, Capstone Seminar, Collaborative Governance

# Faculty Profile

## Shelly Arsneault, Ph.D.

- Professor and Vice Chair of PAJ
- At CSUF since 2002
- Ph.D. from Michigan State University
- Editorial Board, Journal of Public Affairs Education

### Research:

- Nonprofit Management
- Education Policy

**Courses:** Foundations of PA, Nonprofit Management, Education Policy



# Faculty Profile

## Sean Angst, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. from USC Price School
- At CSUF since 2024

### Research Focus:

- Housing Policy
- Community Development
- Racial Justice



### Courses:

- Administrative Research and Analysis
- Policy Analysis

# Faculty Profile

## Meriem Doucette, Ph.D.

- Associate Professor
- At CSUF since 2015
- Ph.D. from University of Georgia

### Research:

- Organizational Theory
- Change Management



### Courses:

- Organizational Theory
- Ethics
- Organizational Development
- Leadership

# Faculty Profile

## Elaine Frey, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. from George Washington University

### Research Areas:

- Environmental Economics
- Energy Economics
- Applied Microeconomics

### Courses:

- Environmental Policy
- Administrative Research and Analysis



# Faculty Profile

## Sarah A. Hill, Ph.D.

- Professor
- At CSUF since 2007
- Ph.D. from California Institute of Technology

### Research:

- Elections Administration
- Education Policy



### Courses:

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

# Faculty Profile

## Myung-Jung "MJ" Kwon, Ph.D.

- Professor and MPA Advisor
- At CSUF since 2009
- Ph.D. from Florida State University
- Editorial Board, International Journal of Public Administration



### Research:

- Public Sector Innovation
- E-Government

### Courses:

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

# Faculty Profile

## Samuel B. Stone, Ph.D.

- Professor
- At CSUF since 2011
- Ph.D. from Indiana University

### Research:

- Financial Analysis
- Fiscal Policy
- Local Government Management



### Courses:

- Public Finance
- Public Budgeting
- Local Government Management

# Faculty Profile

## Yuan Ting, Ph.D.

- Professor
- At CSUF since 1991
- Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University

### Research:

- Performance Measurement
- Job Satisfaction
- Public Sector Management



### Courses:

- Human Resources Management
- Public Personnel Admin.
- Capstone Seminar

# Affiliated Faculty Profile

## Scott Spitzer, Ph.D.

- Professor
- At CSUF since 2006
- Ph.D. from Columbia University

### Research:

- Urban Politics
- Racial Politics
- Social Welfare



### Courses:

- Urban Politics
- Metropolitan Politics and Policy

# Academic Information

- Program Structure
- Concentrations
- Program Milestones
- Scholarships & Awards
- Graduation Awards
- Keys to Graduate School Success
- Campus Resources Overview

# Program Structure

- Total Units: 36 (12 courses)
- Prerequisites
- Core courses
- Concentration
- Electives
- Internship (required for students without public sector experience)
- Comprehensive Exam

# Concentrations

Choose one concentration:

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

Concentrations should be complementary, not supplementary

# Program Milestones Overview

## Your Path to Success

This timeline represents typical program progression. Your actual path may vary depending on your enrollment status, course availability, and individual circumstances. Always consult with the MPA advisor to plan your specific course sequence.

# Program Orientation

## Prior to First Semester

- Attend MPA program orientation
- Review student handbook
- Meet with faculty advisor
- Complete required paperwork

## Resources Available:

- Orientation Schedule
- Academic Calendar
- Campus Map

# First Semester Foundations

## Semester One

- Complete POSC 509: Foundations of Public Administration
- Take one additional core course

**Important:** POSC 509 must be taken in your first semester - it's a prerequisite for many courses.

# Program Planning

## Semester Two

- Meet with MPA advisor
- Declare concentration
- Complete two core courses
- Develop program completion timeline

## Mid-Program Achievement

### 18 Units Completed

- Maintain 3.0+ GPA
- Consider Pi Alpha Alpha membership (3.7+ GPA)
- Review progress with advisor

**Note:** Pi Alpha Alpha membership offers networking opportunities and recognition of academic excellence.

# Advanced Program Phases

## Concentration Completion (Years 2-3)

- Complete three concentration courses
- Finish remaining core courses

## Capstone Preparation (Penultimate Semester)

- Verify completion of all prerequisites
- Enroll in POSC 521
- Begin comprehensive exam preparation

# Final Steps

## Final Semester

- File graduation check
  - Spring deadline: Early February
  - Fall deadline: Early September
- Complete comprehensive exam
- Submit all required documentation
- Register for graduation ceremony

# Graduation & Beyond

## Ceremony Preparations

- Order cap and gown
- Attend graduation ceremony
- Join alumni network

## Next Steps:

- Join Alumni Association
- Connect on LinkedIn
- Sign up for alumni newsletter

## Scholarships & Awards

- Lawson Internship in Public Service Award
  - \$2,000 for MPA student in 497
  - Fall & Spring semesters
  - Spring deadline: February 1st
- Alan Saltzstein Excellence Award
  - \$1,000 for MPA student (6-12 units)
  - Fall & Spring semesters
- 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 and Comps performance
- Outstanding Public Administration Undergraduate
- Spirit of Public Service Award
- Irving Stone Best Paper Award (\$100)

# Keys to Graduate School Success

## Academic Success

- Start assignments early
- Form study groups
- Keep detailed notes from all courses
- Visit office hours regularly
- Maintain work-life-school balance

## Professional Growth

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

## Time Management Tips

- Plan for 3 hours of study per course hour
- Use a planner for assignment deadlines
- Break large projects into smaller tasks

# Campus Resources Overview

## Essential Support Services Available:

- Academic Support
- Student Services
- Health & Wellness
- Campus Facilities
- Administrative Services

# Academic Support Resources

## Library & Research

- Pollak Library  
[library.fullerton.edu](http://library.fullerton.edu)
- Computer Labs  
[fullerton.edu/STS/computer\\_labs](http://fullerton.edu/STS/computer_labs)

## Graduate Support

- Graduate Studies Office  
[fullerton.edu/graduate](http://fullerton.edu/graduate)
- Graduate Student Success Center  
[fullerton.edu/graduate/gssc](http://fullerton.edu/graduate/gssc)

# **Student Services**

## **Administrative Services**

- TitanCard Services  
[fullerton.edu/IT/services/TitanCard](http://fullerton.edu/IT/services/TitanCard)
- Office of Financial Aid  
[fullerton.edu/financialaid](http://fullerton.edu/financialaid)
- Titan Shops  
[titanbookstore.com](http://titanbookstore.com)

## **Support Centers**

- Career Center  
[fullerton.edu/career](http://fullerton.edu/career)
- Veterans Resource Center  
[fullerton.edu/veterans](http://fullerton.edu/veterans)

# Health & Wellness Resources

## Wellness Services

- Student Wellness  
[fullerton.edu/studentwellness](http://fullerton.edu/studentwellness)
- WoMen's Center  
[fullerton.edu/womenscenter](http://fullerton.edu/womenscenter)

## Support Services

- Disability Support Services  
[fullerton.edu/DSS](http://fullerton.edu/DSS)
- Tuffy's Basic Needs Services  
[fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/tuffys\\_basic\\_needs](http://fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/tuffys_basic_needs)

# Campus Life Resources

## Family Support

- Children's Center  
[asi.fullerton.edu/childrens-center](http://asi.fullerton.edu/childrens-center)
- Titan Dreamers Resource Center  
[fullerton.edu/tdrc](http://fullerton.edu/tdrc)

## Campus Access

- Parking and Transportation Services  
[parking.fullerton.edu](http://parking.fullerton.edu)

# Contact Information

Division of Politics, Administration & Justice

- Email: pajdiv@fullerton.edu
- Phone: 657-278-3521

MPA Director - David Adams

- Email: dpadams@fullerton.edu
- Appointments: dadams.io/appt

# Questions?

Questions & Answers

**Thank You for Attending**



Division of Politics,  
Administration, and Justice  
**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program  
New Student Orientation**