

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:

- Policy Outcomes
- Administrative Discretion
- Community Resilience

Courses: POSC 509, 521, 588

Faculty Profile



Shelly Arsneault, Ph.D.

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

Research: Nonprofit Management, Education Policy

Courses: POSC 509, 521, 526, 539

Faculty Profile



Sean Angst, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. from USC Price School
- Research cited in NYT and LA Times

Research Focus:

- Housing Policy
- Community Development
- Racial Justice

Publications: Journal of Urban Affairs,
Housing Policy Debate

Faculty Profile



Meriem Doucette, Ph.D.

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

Research: Organizational Theory, Change Management

Courses: POSC 526, 446, 475, 582

Faculty Profile



Elaine Frey, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. and M.A. from George Washington University

Research Areas:

- Environmental Economics
- Energy Economics
- Applied Microeconomics

Courses: POSC 421, 428

Faculty Profile



Sarah A. Hill, Ph.D.

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

Research: Education Policy, Elections
Administration

Courses: POSC 426, 519, 528, 423

Faculty Profile



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

- Professor
- At CSUF since 2009
- MPA Advisor
- Ph.D. from Florida State University

Research: Telework, Sustainability, Strategic Planning

Courses: POSC 572, 522, 423

Faculty Profile

Scott Spitzer, Ph.D.



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

Research: Urban Politics, Racial Politics,
Social Welfare

Courses: POSC 427, 459

Faculty Profile

Samuel B. Stone, Ph.D.



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

Research: Financial Analysis, Fiscal Policy

Courses: POSC 525, 571, 583

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
- Computer Labs
fullerton.edu/STS/computer_labs

Graduate Support

- Graduate Studies Office
fullerton.edu/graduate
- Graduate Student Success Center
fullerton.edu/graduate/gssc

Student Services

Administrative Services

- TitanCard Services
fullerton.edu/IT/services/TitanCard
- Office of Financial Aid
fullerton.edu/financialaid
- Titan Shops
titanbookstore.com

Support Centers

- Career Center
fullerton.edu/career
- Veterans Resource Center
fullerton.edu/veterans

Health & Wellness Resources

Wellness Services

- Student Wellness
fullerton.edu/studentwellness
- WoMen's Center
fullerton.edu/womenscenter

Support Services

- Disability Support Services
fullerton.edu/DSS
- Tuffy's Basic Needs Services
fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/tuffys_basic_needs

Campus Life Resources

Family Support

- Children's Center
asi.fullerton.edu/childrens-center
- Titan Dreamers Resource Center
fullerton.edu/tdrc

Campus Access

- Parking and Transportation Services
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



Public Administration

Division of Politics,
Administration, and Justice

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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