



**Public Administration**

Division of Politics, Administration, and Justice

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

# **Master of Public Administration Program**

## MPA Student Orientation

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Fall 2025

# Welcome

# Agenda

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

# Why CSUF

## Program by the Numbers

- **1968:** Year the program began awarding degrees
- **1:** The only public MPA program in Orange County
- **83:** Current students enrolled
- **~30:** Graduates each year
- **4:** Concentrations offered
- **3 years:** Typical time to degree

# The Value of a CSUF MPA

- #1: Most selective public MPA program in Southern California
- **13.3:** lowest student-faculty ratio among public MPAs in SoCal
- **1,200+** alumni across government, nonprofit, and private sectors
- NASPAA accredited continuously since the 1980s

# Mission & Values

# Our Mission

## 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.

## Values

- Accountability
- Ethics
- Collaboration
- Lifelong Learning

# Faculty

## Core Faculty

- Nine 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

- Public policy outcomes
- Collaboration
- Environmental & energy policy
- Environmental justice

### 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.

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.

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**

# Academic Information

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

# 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

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Choose one concentration:

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

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

# Milestones

# Program Milestones Overview

## Your Path to Success

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

# Program Orientation

## Prior to First Semester

- Attend orientation
- Review student handbook ([https://csuf-mpa.github.io/mpa\\_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.

# Program Planning

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## Semester Two

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

# Mid-Program Achievement

## At 18 Units

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

# Advanced Phases

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## 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 Steps

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## 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 ≈ 3 hours of study per course hour
- Track deadlines
- Break big projects into small, dated tasks

# Campus Resources

# Campus Resources Overview

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

# Academic Support Resources

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## Library & Research

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

## Graduate Support

- Graduate Studies (<https://www.fullerton.edu/graduate>)
- Grad Student Success Center (<https://www.fullerton.edu/graduate/gssc>)

## Administrative

- TitanCard (<https://www.fullerton.edu/IT/services/TitanCard>)
- Financial Aid (<https://www.fullerton.edu/financialaid>)
- Titan Shops (<https://www.titanbookstore.com>)

## Support Centers

- Career Center (<https://www.fullerton.edu/career>)
- Veterans Resource Center (<https://www.fullerton.edu/veterans>)

## Wellness Services

- Student Wellness (<https://www.fullerton.edu/studentwellness>)
- WoMen's Center (<https://www.fullerton.edu/womenscenter>)

## Support

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

## Family Support

- Children's Center (<https://asi.fullerton.edu/childrens-center>)
- Titan Dreamers Resource Center (<https://www.fullerton.edu/tdrc>)

## Access

- Parking & Transportation (<https://parking.fullerton.edu>)

# Contact

# Contact Information

## Division of Politics, Administration & Justice

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

## MPA Director – David P. Adams

- Email: dpadams@fullerton.edu
- Appointments: <https://dadams.io/appointments>



## MPA Advisor – Myung-Jung Kwon

- Email: mkwon@fullerton.edu

Questions?

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Q & A

**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**