



Cal State Fullerton

New Student Orientation

Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program

January 11, 2025

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

MPA Orientation Agenda



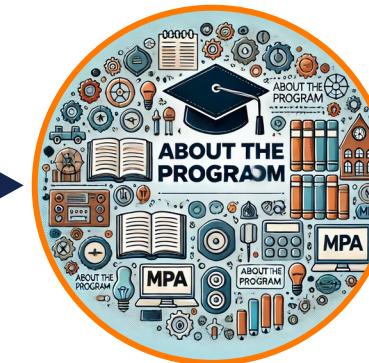
Welcome

Start the day with a warm welcome and an overview of what's ahead.



Introductions

Meet your peers and faculty to start building connections.



About the Program

Discover the key details of the MPA program.



Breakout Groups

New students meet with the program director to discuss program expectations.

Guests meet with faculty and recent alumni



Wrap Up

Review the day's key points and clarify any final questions. Network with peers.



Introduce Yourselves

Faculty

New
Students

Alumni



CSUF MPA Program by the Numbers

Awarding
degrees since
1968

The only
public MPA in
OC

93 Students in
the Program

~30 Graduates
each Year

Four
Concentration
s

Three years is
typical to
complete the
program

The Value of a CSUF MPA

- **#1:** We are the most selective public MPA program in Southern California
- **13.3:** We have the lowest student-to-faculty ratio of any public MPA program in Southern California
- **1,100:** Alumni in our network serving in all levels of government and the nonprofit and private sectors
- **1980s:** Continuously accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA)

Value of a CSUF MPA

We are the most selective public MPA program in Southern California

Our student to faculty ratio is 10.3—the lowest of any public MPA program in Southern California

1,200+ Alumni in our network serving in all levels of government, as well as nonprofit and private sectors

Continuously accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) since 1983

Distinguished Alumni in Local Government

City Managers (current and former)

Anaheim

Costa Mesa

Garden Grove

Fullerton

Irvine

Jurupa Valley

La Mirada

La Habra

Lake Forest

Orange

San Juan Capistrano

South Pasadena

Stanton

Tustin

Walnut

Whittier

Other Local Government (Current and Former)

Assistant City Manager, Newport Beach

Assistant City Manager, Huntington Beach

Chief HR Officer, Orange County

Chief Operating Officer, Orange County Power Authority

Assistant City Manager, La Mesa

Director of Strategy, Detroit, MI

Elected Director, Santa Margarita Water District

Assistant City Manager, Port Hueneme

Senior Management Analyst, San Juan Capistrano

Assistant City Manager, Novato

Supervisor, Brea Family Resource Center

Distinguished Alumni (Federal, State, Nonprofit, Private)

- **Bruce G. Lawson (1972)**: Managing Director of Fox Lawson Associates, a Division of Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.
- **Melissa Riordan (1998)**: Executive Director, Alumni & Community Relations at Cal Poly Pomona.
- **Jennifer Whyte (2008)**: Colorado Bureau of Land Management as Lead Realty Specialist/Renewable Energy Program Manager.
- **James Hodgson (2012)**: Industrial Operations Analyst for the US General Services Administration.
- **Samantha Marin Rivera (2013)**: Equal Opportunity Specialist for the USDA in the Animal Plant Health Inspection Services, Office of Civil Rights, Diversity and Inclusion.
- **Seon Chun-Burbank (2014)**: Chair of Early Childhood Education programs at Vanguard University of Southern California.
- **Claudia Keller (2017)**: Chief Mission Officer, Second Harvest Food Bank

Our Mission

To prepare our students for a career in public service by providing a core set of competencies anchored in the foundations of scholarly research and professional practice. Our students develop knowledge, skills, and public service values that equip them to be ethical and exceptional leaders in their communities who act with a commitment to public service, democratic values, accountability, social equity, and diversity.

David P. Adams, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and MPA Director

At CSUF since 2016

Ph.D. in Public Policy and Public Administration from
Auburn University

Research: Policy Outcomes, Performance, Administrative
Discretion, Collaborative Governance, Community
Resilience

MPA Courses

POSC 509 Foundations of Public Administration

POSC 521 Capstone Seminar: Public Administration
Theory

POSC 588 Collaborative Governance

Cal State Fullerton



Shelly Arsneault, Ph.D.

Professor

At CSUF since 2002

Ph.D. in Political Science from Michigan State University

Editorial Board, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*

Research: Nonprofit Management, Education Policy

MPA Courses

POSC 509 Foundations of Public Administration

POSC 521 Seminar in Public Administration Theory

POSC 526 Public Organizational Theory & Behavior

POSC 539 Seminar in Nonprofit Sector Management



Meriem Doucette, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

At CSUF since 2015

Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from the University
of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs

Admissions Coordinator

Research: Organizational Theory and Change, Feedback

MPA Courses

POSC 526 Public Organizational Theory & Behavior

POSC 446 Corruption, Ethics and Public Policy

POSC 475 Administrative Law

POSC 582 Organizational Development and Change



Sarah A. Hill, Ph.D .

Professor

At CSUF since 2007

Ph.D. in Social Science from the California Institute of Technology

Research: Education Policy, Elections Administration

MPA Courses

POSC 426 Education Politics and Policy

POSC 519 State and Local Government

POSC 528 Seminar in Public Policy

POSC 423 Diversity in Public Management



Myung-Jung “MJ” Kwon, Ph.D.

Professor

At CSUF since 2009

Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from Florida State University's Askew School of Public Administration and Policy

Research: Telework, Sustainability, Strategic Planning

MPA Courses

POSC 572 Human Resources Management for Public Organizations

POSC 522 Seminar in Public Personnel Administration

POSC 423 Diversity in Public Management



Scott Spitzer, Ph.D.

Professor

At CSUF since 2006

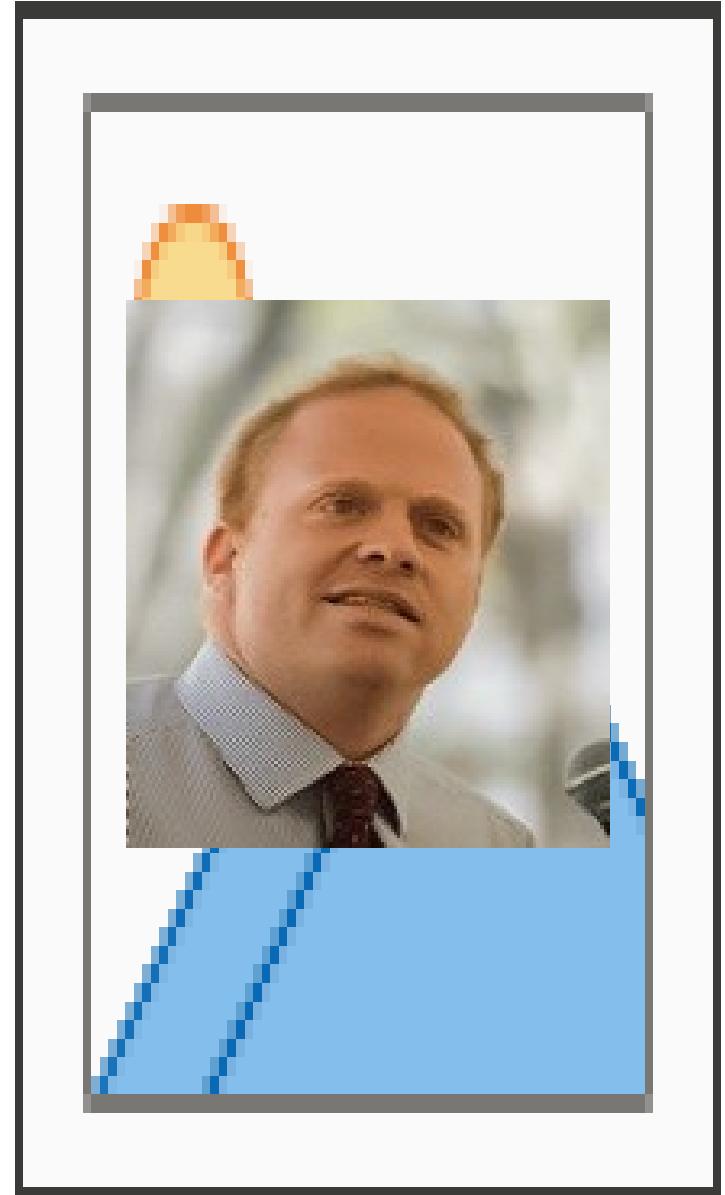
Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University

Research: Urban politics, racial politics, social welfare policy, presidential leadership

MPA Courses

POSC 427 Metropolitan Politics and Policymaking

POSC 459 Social Welfare Politics and Policy



Samuel B. Stone, Ph.D.

Professor

At CSUF since 2011

Ph.D. in Public Affairs from Indiana University's O'Neill
School of Public & Environmental Affairs

Research Areas: Financial Condition Analysis, Fines,
Fiscal Decentralization

MPA Courses

POSC 525 Local Government Management

POSC 571 Public Budgeting and Finance

POSC 583 Public Budgeting and Finance II



Yuan Ting, Ph.D.

Professor

At CSUF since 1991

Ph.D. in Political Science from Northern Illinois University

Research: Performance Assessment, Job Satisfaction

MPA Courses

POSC 523 Administrative Research and Analysis

POSC 526 Public Organizational Theory & Behavior

POSC 572 Human Resources Management for Public Organizations

POSC 522 Seminar in Public Personnel



Program Resources and Scholarships

Campus Resources and Support

Career Center (Langsdorf Hall 208)

<http://www.fullerton.edu/career/>

Children's Center

<https://asi.fullerton.edu/childrens-center>

Student Wellness

<http://www.fullerton.edu/studentwellness/>

Disability Support Services

<http://www.fullerton.edu/DSS/>

Graduate Studies (McCarthy Hall 112)

<http://www.fullerton.edu/graduate/>

Graduate Student Success Center (Pollak Library South, Room 365)

<http://www.fullerton.edu/graduate/gssc/>

Parking and Transportation Services

<http://parking.fullerton.edu/>

Pollak Library

<http://www.library.fullerton.edu/>

SOAR Graduate Student Services

http://www.fullerton.edu/graduate/soar/soar_services.php

Campus Resources and Support

Titan Dreamers Resource Center

<http://www.fullerton.edu/tdrc/>

Titan Shops

<http://www.titanbookstore.com/home.aspx>

TitanCard (Pollak Library 1st Floor – South Wing)

<http://www.fullerton.edu/IT/services/TitanCard/>

Tuffy's Basic Needs Services

http://www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/tuffys_basic_needs/index.php

Veterans Resource Center

<http://www.fullerton.edu/veterans/>

WoMen's Center

<http://www.fullerton.edu/womenscenter/>

Computer Labs

http://www.fullerton.edu/STS/computer_labs/

Career Center (Langsdorf Hall 208)

<http://www.fullerton.edu/career/>

Office of Financial Aid (Gordon Hall 146)

<http://www.fullerton.edu/financialaid/>

Time for a Break

We'll start back in about 10 minutes

Guests and Alumni in GH 339

New Students in GH 335





Cal State Fullerton

MPA Orientation

Academic Information

August 17, 2024 | Gordon Hall
335

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

Structure of the Program

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

Prerequisites

1. American Government or US History (must be completed before you begin program)
2. Economics
3. Statistics or Research Methods

Must be completed

- By the end of first year
- At an accredited college or university
- With a grade of "C" or better

When you have completed them, send transcripts to MPAdvising@fullerton.edu

Core Courses

Students must take ALL of the following courses:

POSC 509 Foundations of Public Administration

POSC 523 Administrative Research and Analysis

POSC 526 Public Organizational Theory & Behavior

POSC 571 Public Budgeting and Finance

POSC 572 Human Resources Management for Public Organizations

POSC 521 Capstone Seminar: Public Administration Theory

And at least one of the following:

POSC 519 State and Local Government

POSC 525 Local Government Management

POSC 528 Seminar in Public Policy

For students with no previous public sector managerial working experience, the following course is required:

POSC 497 Internship in Public Administration

Internship

Requirements:

- 3-unit class with written work requirements
- 300 hours of internship experience in a public or nonprofit organization

Most students intern in local government.

Students can also earn their internship credit by spending a summer in Washington, D.C. These students often intern with a federal agency or a nonprofit organization.

The internship coordinator (Antonia Castro-Graham) has a long list of placement leads with agencies/alumni who frequently contact the program to invite intern applications.

Our MPA students secure paid internships in about one-third of cases.

Advising

The MPA Director and the MPA Advisor serve as advisors to all MPA students and assist students in

- academic program planning
- selection of a concentration
- application of transfer credits
- choice of electives

Concentrations

All students must choose one of the existing concentrations:

Human Resource Management

Local Government Management

Public Finance

Public Policy

Concentrations should be *complementary*, not supplementary

Concentration in Human Resources

Concentration Core Course:

POSC 572 Human Resources Management for Public Organizations

Concentration Electives (at least two):

POSC 423 Diversity in Public Management

POSC 475 Administrative Law

POSC 522 Seminar in Public Personnel Administration

POSC 582 Organizational Development and Change

MGMT 441 Labor-Management Relations

Concentration in Local Government Management

Concentration Core Course:

POSC 525 Local Government Management

Concentration Course (at least one):

POSC 427 Metropolitan Politics and Policymaking

POSC 519 State and Local Government

Concentration Electives:

POSC 588 Collaborative Governance

ENST 595T Selected Topics in Environmental Problems*

POSC/GEOG 478 Urban Planning Principles

POSC/GEOG 484 Planning Methods

Concentration in Public Finance

Concentration Core Courses (take both):

POSC 571 Public Budgeting and Finance

POSC 583 Public Budgeting and Finance II

Concentration Electives (at least one):

POSC 421 Government & the Economy

POSC 425 Policy Analysis

ECON 416 Benefit Cost and Microeconomic Policy Analysis

ECON 417 Public Finance

Concentration in Public Policy

Concentration Core Courses (take both):

POSC 425 Policy Analysis

POSC 528 Seminar in Public Policy

Concentration Electives (take one):

POSC 421 Government and the Economy

POSC 426 Education Politics and Policy

POSC 427 Metropolitan Politics and Policymaking

POSC 459 Social Welfare Politics and Policy

POSC 539 Seminar in Nonprofit Sector Management

CRJU 405 Criminal Justice Policy

CRJU/POSC 491 Applied Policy Research

ECON 416 Benefit-Cost and

Advisor Approved “General” Electives

POSC 421 Government and the Economy

POSC 423 Diversity in Public Management

POSC 425 Policy Analysis

POSC 426 Education Politics and Policy

POSC 427 Metropolitan Politics and Policymaking

POSC 446 Corruption, Ethics and Public Policy

POSC 459 Social Welfare Politics and Policy

POSC 475 Administrative Law

POSC 519 State and Local Government

POSC 522 Seminar in Public Personnel Administration

POSC 525 Local Government Management

POSC 528 Seminar in Public Policy

POSC 539 Seminar in Nonprofit Sector Management

POSC 580 Emergency Management in Public Administration

POSC 582 Organizational Development and Change

POSC 583 Public Budgeting and Finance II

POSC 588 Collaborative Governance

POSC/GEOG 478 Urban Planning Principles

POSC/GEOG 484 Planning Methods

CRJU 404 Capital Punishment

CRJU 405 Criminal Justice Policy

ECON 416 Benefit Cost and Microeconomic Policy Analysis

ECON 417 Public Finance

ENST 595T Selected Topics in Environmental Problems
(only certain sections will count- must get MPA advisor approval in advance)

GEOG 481 Geographic Information Systems:
Introduction

GEOG 488 Land Use Analysis

PUBH 524 Public Health Administration

MGMT 441 Labor-Management Relations

MGMT 542 Labor and Employment Relations Seminar

What your program will actually look like*

1. POSC 509 Foundations of Public Administration
2. POSC 523 Administrative Research and Analysis
3. POSC 526 Public Organizational Theory & Behavior
4. POSC 571 Public Budgeting and Finance
5. POSC 572 Human Resources Management for Public Organizations
6. POSC 521 Capstone Seminar: Public Administration Theory
7. POSC 519 State and Local Government, or POSC 525 Local Government Management, or POSC 528 Seminar in Public Policy
8. Concentration Core Course/Elective
9. Concentration Elective
10. Advisor Approved Elective
11. Advisor Approved Elective
12. Advisor Approved Elective

*if you don't do the internship

Milestones

First Semester:

Take POSC 509 Foundations of Public Administration and up to ONE other course:

- POSC 523 Administrative Research and Analysis
- POSC 526 Public Organizational Theory & Behavior
- POSC 571 Public Budgeting and Finance
- POSC 572 Human Resource Management

Second Semester:

Choose concentration

Completion of 18 Units:

Eligible to join Pi Alpha Alpha with a GPA of 3.70 or higher

Third to last Semester:

Complete all of the core courses for the program and concentration

Penultimate Semester (Fall):

Take POSC 521: Seminar in Public Administration Theory.

- Prepares students for taking the comprehensive exam
- Only offered in the fall
- Must be in your final year to enroll.

Final Semester (Spring):

- Comprehensive Exam: Taken over the course of a week in mid-January.
- File Grad Check when you take comprehensive exams

How many courses to take per semester

- No more than two
- Program is 36 units (12 courses)
- $2 \text{ courses/semester} \times 2 \text{ semesters per academic year} \times 3 \text{ years} = 12 \text{ courses}$
- We typically offer two courses over the summer occasionally one in winter
- The program *can* be completed in 3 years but does not have to be. You may take as long as 5 years. There is no rush!

GPA

- Each course on the master's Study Plan must be completed with a grade of "C" (2.0) or better.
- Must maintain minimum overall GPA of 3.0 ("B") or better
- Grades in grad school: what "A"s, "B"s and "C"s mean

Repeated Courses

- *Different from undergrad:*
- For master's degree students, if a grade less than "C" (2.0) is received, the course must be repeated and passed with a grade of "C" (2.0) or better.
- A course may be repeated *only once*.
- If a course is repeated, *both* grades are included when computing the student's Study Plan and cumulative CSUF grade point average.
- Repetition of a course carries no additional unit credit toward the degree

400-Level Courses

- Not all 400-level courses count for graduate credit.
- All of the 400-level courses in the MPA program do.
- The instructor must assign separate additional assignments to graduate students for the course to count.
- Make sure your instructor knows that you are a graduate student. This is a mutual responsibility.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense in higher education. It includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism, and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty.

- Cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, fraudulent, or unauthorized means.
- Plagiarism is that act of taking the specific substance of another and offering it as one's own without giving credit to the source. For example, cutting and pasting from a website without quotation marks and a citation of the source, is an act of plagiarism.
- Use of AI without express permission or instruction from faculty is an act of academic dishonesty.

Proper Citations: each faculty member may have slightly different requirements. Read the *MPA Writing Guide*

Leaves of Absence

A LOA may be granted to conditionally classified or classified graduate students who have completed at least 6 units while in residence at this university toward the degree.

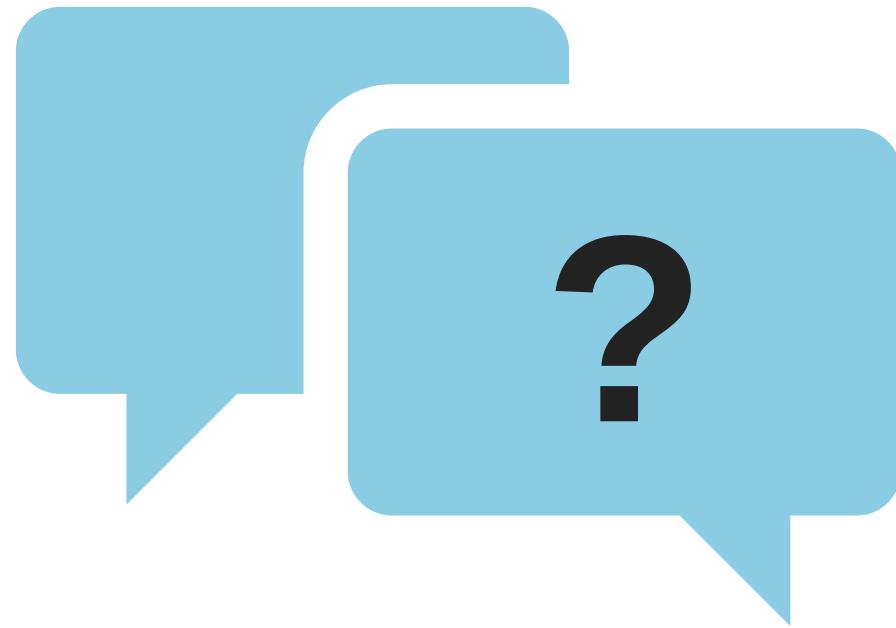
Grounds for requesting a leave of absence include:

- Illness or disability (permanent or temporary) or similar personal exigencies including pregnancy that makes it impossible or inadvisable for a student to register for classes.
- Activities which enhance a student's professional career objectives.
- Active duty in the armed forces of the United States.
- Severe financial hardship.
- Other reasons at the discretion of the Associate Vice President for Academic Programs.

Checklist for Starting the First Semester

- Register for **POSC 509 Foundations of Public Administration** and up to ONE other course:
 - POSC 523 Administrative Research and Analysis
 - POSC 526 Public Organizational Theory & Behavior
 - POSC 571 Public Budgeting and Finance
 - POSC 572 Human Resource Management
- Check your CSUF email account regularly
- Accept invitation to Canvas MPA Program course
- Read the *MPA Writing Guide*
- Get your Titan Card
- Complete the TDA tutorial: <https://www.fullerton.edu/ittraining/peoplesoft/student/tutorials/TDA/>

Questions & Answers?



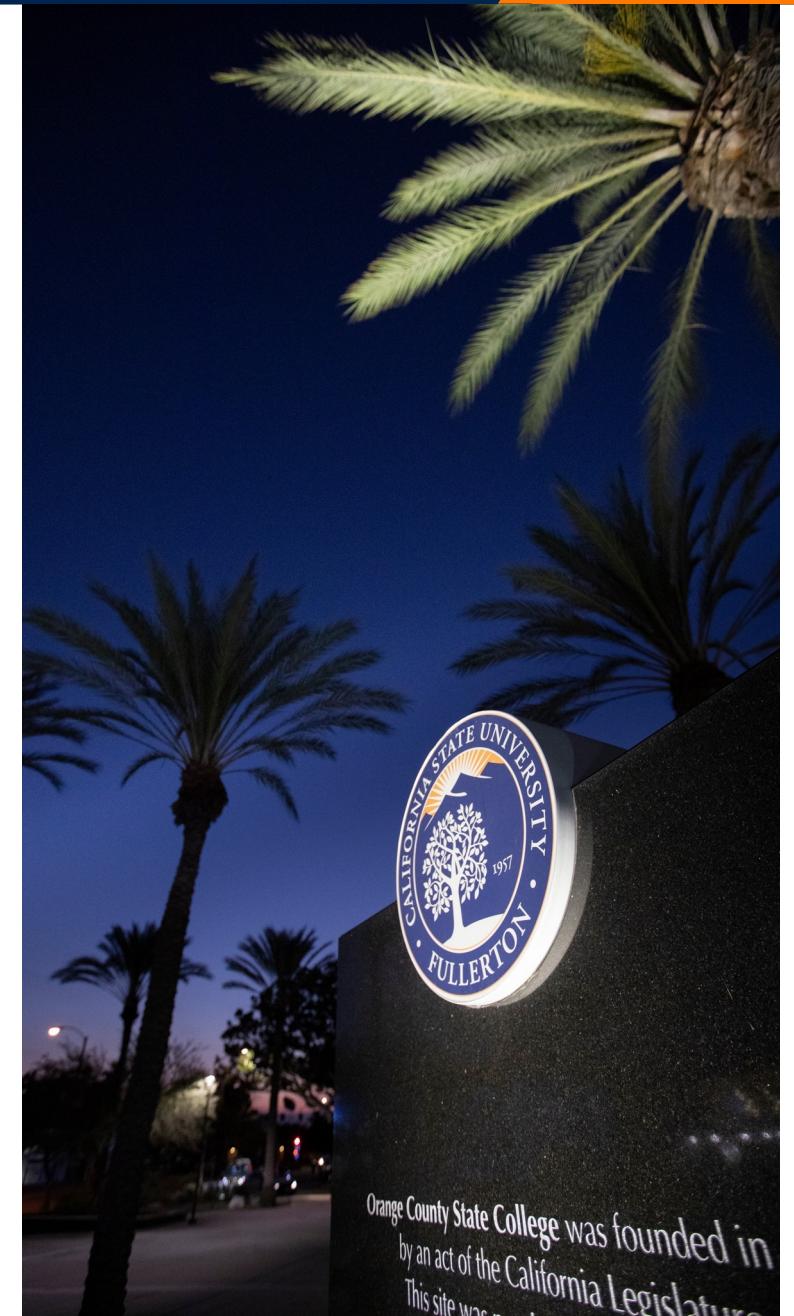
Contact Information

Division of Politics, Administration & Justice

- pajdiv@fullerton.edu
- 657-278-3521

David Adams – MPA Director

- dpadams@fullerton.edu
- dadams.io/appointments



Download this Presentation

<http://bit.ly/3SS1tc>

U

