

MPA Graduate Update: 2017-2018

Our NASPAA accreditation is a sign of quality a student can rely on. Beyond the rigorous review completed each seven years, the MPA program is continually assessed and students are followed to gain an understanding of their unique view of public service (and their role in it) before and after completing the program.

What follows is an overview of the MPA program itself and of the 2017-2018 graduating class specifically.

Assessment

Students graduating in 2017-2018 were assessed within the capstone course, PAD 6923 Applied Research II, using these three rubrics:

- Managerial/Policy/Organizational Research Question and Inquiry Skills
 - Intended outcome: The student will use inquiry, a theoretical framework, and quantitative or qualitative analysis to examine a research question and draw analytical conclusions.
- Managerial/Policy/Organizational Leadership Written Communication Skills
 - Intended outcome: The student will use clear and concise written communication needed by Public Administration professionals.
- Managerial/Policy/Organizational/Leadership Oral Communication Skills
 - Intended outcome: The student will use clear and concise oral communication needed by Public Administration professionals.

Cumulative scoring for the 2017-2018 graduating class shows that most meet or exceed the rubrics however, as a group, improvement is still needed. Oral communication has risen steadily over the last two years but written communication has been a larger hurdle. Continued support by faculty and increased access to university resources are two priorities set to improve written communication.

Student Numbers

2017-2018 saw a slight decrease in the number of applicants to the MPA program. Of the 102 applicants for the MPA program, we admitted 96 applicants with 62 active (enrolled).

Of the graduates reporting their current employment status, the following were the dominant employment areas:

Employment Sectors:	2016-2017
State or National Government	3
Local or Regional Government	14
Nonprofit Sector (local)	13
Private Sector	5
Military Service	1
Status Unknown	11
Total Number of Graduates	47

In years past students have also continued their education within doctoral or JD studies or continued in the military.

Student Enrollment

Demographics of populations of interest to our accrediting body show a diverse cohort that contributes positively within the program.

The total number of students enrolled in the MPA program in Fall 2017 is 168 students:

Out of State Students	4%
International Students	2%
Female Students	58%
Part-time students:	76%
Persons of Diversity	73%



Students who enroll full-time can complete the program in two years with continuous full-time employment, while part-time students can complete the program in two and a half years, depending on how many courses are taken each semester. The data below show the completion rate for the cohort of 59 students who entered the program during 2012-2013:

<u>Initially Enrolled</u>	<u>Graduated in 100%</u>	<u>Graduated in 150%</u>	<u>Graduated in 200%</u>
59	30	40	43

Of the 59 active students in our cohort, 43 students graduated from the program. Thirteen students are labeled 'inactive' through a variety of reasons: withdrawing formally, dismissal due to grades or taking a break from courses long enough to be made inactive in the system; two students are persisting to graduation.

Student Support

Funding in 2017-2018 remained constant with years past. Graduate Research Assistantships were reduced due to budget reductions and scholarship awards remained the same. Roughly 7% of all students receive financial aid from the department through scholarships or GRA positions. Additional funding support is available through multiple sources we regularly advertise to our students.

UTSA MPA Mission Statement

The MPA program at The University of Texas at San Antonio educates responsible leaders and ethical public servants through a curriculum incorporating original research and practice. The program's diverse graduates, representing a wide range of professional and community backgrounds, serve the public locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Bridging research and practice, MPA graduates demonstrate the decision making, management, communication and analytical skills necessary to sustain a responsive and effective public sector.