



DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) degree at West Chester University is designed to meet employer and student needs by preparing individuals to advance the practice of public affairs and administration at the highest levels.

The DPA at WCU focuses on the development of core skills in strategic management, public sector economic and financial decision-making, and policy advocacy and leadership, preparing students to engage in the highest levels of program and policy evaluation. Interdisciplinary at its core, the DPA program allows students to select a concentration (in consultation with an advisor) from among the departments of Public Policy & Administration, Criminal Justice, Geography and Planning, and Graduate Social Work.

Students also complete a series of dissertation seminar courses leading to a piece of applied scholarship that demonstrates a high level of competence in applying the DPA competencies to the solution of an actual organizational or public problem/issue. Recent dissertation research conducted by our students has examined motivation and public service values in law enforcement professionals, University-community partnerships, collaborative government, affordable housing, and long term health care issues.

Many of our DPA students present their resulting work at regional and national conferences. Students are also able to work alongside faculty members on research projects. Recent topics include the Pennsylvania pipeline issue and its impact on local communities, caregiving during COVID, teleworking and managerial styles, and program evaluations related to nonprofit organizations.

Ultimately, our graduates can:

- Lead and manage in public governance
- Participate in and contribute to the public policy process
- Analyze data using a variety of research methods
- Evaluate and synthesize information, think critically, and propose solutions
- Facilitate stakeholder involvement in agenda-setting, formulating, implementing, and evaluating policy
- Articulate and apply a public service perspective
- Make evidence-based and ethical decisions regarding public policy and organizational outcomes
- Communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 100% online
- Offered through our AACSB-accredited College of Business and Public Management
- Graduate assistantships available
- Faculty who are also practitioners
- Interdisciplinary concentrations
- Personalized dissertation process
- 18% projected industry growth through 2026 (according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

OUTCOMES

Our graduates are successful in a variety of industries. Many can be found in local, state and federal government; nonprofits (including founding their own organizations), law enforcement, and education administration.

Our graduates are employed in various industries, including but not limited to:

- Pennsylvania State Legislature
- Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health
- United States Department of Defense
- United States Secret Service

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Official online application
- Personal statement - address required 6 prompts
- Official transcripts for undergraduate and graduate study
 - Students whose master's degrees are not in public administration, public affairs, policy analysis, political science, public health or nonprofit management or a related field, and/or do not have relevant work experience, may be required to complete additional coursework in public administration.
- Three letters of recommendation required (two letters are required from an academic source and one from a professional reference).
- Professional writing sample
- Resume or vita

Applicants may apply online at www.wcupa.edu/applynow.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

wcupa.edu/dpa

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