



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

MASTER OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Professional Experience

Our graduate programs are designed to help students reach their ultimate goal – whether it’s improving their professional status, obtaining a promotion, or shifting into a more enriching, high growth field. Merrimack’s graduate students can take advantage of a wide range of career planning resources and services to meet their needs. Students have the opportunity to participate in co-ops or internships which help them gain relevant work experience, apply their classroom skills in real-world settings, test drive different career options, and identify their own personal strengths and areas for career growth.

Financial Aid

Merit based scholarships are available and will be awarded based on the overall strength of your application materials. Graduate students enrolled at least half-time (a minimum of four credits per semester) may qualify for financial aid in the form of Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans. For additional information, visit www.merrimack.edu/financialaid.

The Master of Public Affairs is an innovative, interdisciplinary program that prepares students for dynamic careers as leaders in the world of public affairs and public policy.

The Master of Public Affairs program trains the next generation of public affairs workers and policy leaders to understand, evaluate, and tackle increasingly complex public issues in a globalized world. The program prepares students with the knowledge and skills to address important problems in society and to excel in the areas of ethical leadership, collaborative governance, public policy strategy, economic analysis, and more.

Students interested in pursuing the degree are interested in being civically engaged members of the community and society, and seek an active role in promoting positive change in the public and nonprofit sectors. Many are involved in providing vital services in cities and states and are influencing organizations, guiding public policy and impacting the lives of fellow citizens in real and meaningful ways. Students graduate with the accepted credential for the public service professional and an understanding of all influencing factors which contribute to the development and implementation of public policies.



Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Master of Public Affairs will become leaders and managers in a variety of careers in national, regional, and local organizations within the public, private, and non-profit sectors. The Master of Public Affairs prepares students to work as public affairs analysts, policy makers, leading administrators, researchers, consultants, and public health professionals. They may also enter careers in criminal justice, education, and health care.

Program Format

Applications for the Master of Public Affairs are accepted for the fall and spring terms. Students enrolled full time complete their degree work in one year. Students may also enroll part time and complete the degree in two years or at their own pace. Classes are held in the evening to maximize time at work or in a co-op or internship.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the graduate programs at Merrimack must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, and submit the required materials in order to be considered for admission.

Standardized test scores are not required to complete an application, though we encourage students to submit test scores if they have taken an exam.

International applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit test scores. Merrimack requires a TOEFL minimum score of 84 on the internet-based test (with a minimum score of 21 on the writing subset). For IELTS, Merrimack requires a minimum score of 6.5 (with no band below 6.0). For the Pearson Test of English Academic, Merrimack requires a minimum score of 56.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Public Affairs can be earned by completing a one-year program comprised of eight courses for a total of 32 credits.

Required Core Courses (16 credits):

- Foundations in Public Affairs
- Research Methods and Evaluation
- Public Sector Economics
- Public Affairs Internship/Strategic Capstone

ELECTIVES

Students select four electives

- Organizational Communication
- Science and Energy Policy
- Funding Government Projects
- Intercultural Communication
- International Political Economy
- Comparative Public Affairs
- State & Local Politics
- Business Law & Ethics
- Biomedical Ethics
- Immigration Policy
- Globalization & Democracy

**FOR QUESTIONS OR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT**

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