

PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The discipline of Public Governance in the School of Management, Information Technology and Governance offers internationally recognised postgraduate qualifications including an Honours programme and a Master of Public Administration programme (coursework Master's degree with dissertation) at the Westville campus.

BACHELOR OF ADMINISTRATION (HONOURS) IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

Responding to local development challenges in a rapidly changing global era, this programme is designed to equip students with 'scarce' skills and professional ethos sought by public service in South Africa, across the continent and beyond. Students have the opportunity to obtain advanced knowledge of public governance, management, policy, and administration while learning to think critically and act strategically. Through the research component of the programme, students acquire skills and values for conducting research in a variety of public and non-governmental contexts that is relevant, responsible and innovatively addresses contemporary public governance challenges. The programme prepares students for the workplace and/or continued study at the Master's level.

Programme structure

This is a one-year two-semester programme offered on the block release schedule (six consecutive days per month over each semester). Students must successfully complete three of the core modules during the first semester and the remaining core module along with the two electives offered during the second semester. The research project begins in the first semester and is completed in the second semester.

Programme modules

The following modules will be presented in the programme:

Core modules

- Public Service Delivery: Theory and Practice
- Research Methodology
- Public Sector Financial Management
- Public Sector Human Resource Management
- Honours Research Project

Electives

- Public Policy Analysis
- Advanced Local Government and Management
- Development Planning and Project Management
- Civil Society and Governance

Note: Two electives from the list as offered during the second semester

Eligibility

Applicants should be in possession of a Bachelor of Administration or equivalent degree, with an average mark of at least 60% for their major subjects in their final year of the Bachelor's degree.

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MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

Given the need for public and NGO sector capacity development domestically, regionally, continentally and globally, MPA programme outcomes are devised to create a new cadre of managers who analytically and synergistically become knowledgeable change agents. Students learn to identify research problems based upon societal issues and needs, implement research techniques in the workplace or other institutional settings, and embed ethical considerations and values in research undertakings. Students are expected to gain and apply in-depth problem-solving skills and critical reflective reasoning at an advanced academic and practitioner level, generating competitive advantage in the labour market whether at entry level or seeking promotion. Dissertations that meet certain criteria may lay the foundation for accessing doctoral study, if desired.

Programme structure

This is a two-year four-semester programme offered on the block release schedule (six consecutive days per month over each semester) during the first year and dissertation research during the second year. Prior to undertaking dissertation research, students must successfully complete three of the core modules during the first semester and the remaining core module along with the two electives offered during the second semester. Programme delivery is part-time.

Programme modules

The following modules will be presented in the programme:

Core modules

- Research Methodology and Applied Techniques
- Public Administration and Development Management: Theory, Processes and Practices
- Advanced Public Sector Financial Management
- Advanced Public Sector Human Resource Management

Electives

- Project Planning and Management
- Legislative and Ethical Foundations of Public Administration and Development Management
- Advanced Provincial and Local Governance
- Sustainable Development and Governance
- Managing Rural Development
- Globalisation and Development

Dissertation research and write-up

Note: Two electives from the list as offered during the second semester

Eligibility

The successful applicant must have a Bachelor's degree and have a minimum of five years working experience, at least three years of which should be in a senior position within the private, public or NGO sector. Applicants may be required to undergo a competency assessment based on criteria determined by the Discipline of Public Governance.

Programme teaching methods

For both programmes, lectures, simulated workplace activities, problem-based learning, project-based learning, e-learning approaches and presentations are held in the School. Attendance is compulsory.

Programme teachers

The programmes will be taught by lecturers in the discipline and invited practitioners.

Closing dates for applications

- 30 November for the first semester of the ensuing year.
- 30 June for the second semester of the current year.

Contact us

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Note: The programmes/modules offered are subject to student enrolments. Admission to all programmes is by selection.



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