PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

OVERVIEW
The Master of Public Administration Program at the University of Vermont joins vigorous study of the foundations of public administration with the practice of public administration in the real world. Vermont’s small size, open local and state government, and wealth of nonprofit organizations make for an ideal environment in which to directly engage with the public administration field. More information on the M.P.A. program can be found on the Master of Public Administration website.

DEGREES
- Public Administration AMP
- Public Administration M.P.A.

FACULTY
Conner, David S.; Assistant Professor, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; PHD, Cornell University
Farley, Joshua C.; Professor, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; PHD, Cornell University
Heiss, Sarah Noel; Assistant Professor, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; PHD, Ohio University
Koliba, Christopher J.; Professor, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; PHD, Syracuse University
Kolodinsky, Jane Marie; Professor, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; PHD, Cornell University
McMahon, Edward; Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; EDD, University of Vermont
Tobin, Daniel; Assistant Professor, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; PHD, The Pennsylvania State University
Zia, Asim; Associate Professor, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; PHD, Georgia Institute of Technology

Courses
PA 206. Intro Cont Public Affairs. 3 Credits.
Contemporary policy issues including government and the economy, the role of leadership, ethical and moral issues in public policy, and other contemporary issues impacting society. Prerequisites: CDAE 100 level course.

PA 260. Smart Resilient Communities. 3 Credits.
Focus on social ecological systems integration framework to determine community resilience, enable smart design processes at the nexus of food, energy and water systems and learn practical skills, such as early warning systems, ubiquitous computing and interactive scenario planning techniques. Prerequisites: CDAE 102 or Graduate standing. Cross-listed with: CDAE 260.

PA 295. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
Current issues and new developments in public policy and public administration. Prerequisite: Permission.

PA 296. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
Current issues and new developments in public policy and public administration. Prerequisite: Permission.

PA 301. Foundations of Public Admin. 3 Credits.
Survey of major elements of management in the public and nonprofit sectors with special attention given to problems arising from political imperatives generated by a democratic society.

PA 302. Org Theory & Behavior. 3 Credits.
Examination of basic classical and contemporary theory, research on human relations, internal structures, environments, types, diverse workplaces, general properties of complex organizations and bureaucracies.

PA 303. Research & Evaluation Methods. 0 or 3 Credits.
Conceptualization, collection and analysis of primary and secondary data; interpretation, and communication of results of applied research and/or evaluation studies for decision makers. Separate lab required.

PA 305. Public and Nonprofit Budgeting. 3 Credits.
A focus on the budget as the primary policy and planning document in public and nonprofit organizations.

PA 306. Policy Systems. 3 Credits.
The study and application of system-level public policy frameworks, theories and models to contemporary policy problems and solutions.

PA 307. Administrative Ethics. 0 or 3 Credits.
Administrative behavior with a focus on ethical dilemmas that arise in the bureaucracy. An examination of a number of moral issues and ways to resolve them.

PA 308. Decision Making Models. 3 Credits.

PA 311. Policy Analysis & Program Eval. 3 Credits.
A seminar providing hands-on knowledge in policy analysis and program evaluation using case studies of current analysis projects and problems. Specific techniques include planning, survey administration, forecasting, cost benefit analysis, and impact assessment.

PA 312. Mgmt in Hlth Services & Med Care. 3 Credits.
Addresses major issues and challenges faced by health services managers relating to established and evolving social, economic, and professional policies in a context of practical problem assessment and appropriate resolution. Cross-listed with: BSAD 331, PH 317.

PA 313. Public Policy Implementation. 3 Credits.
A seminar considering aspects of the public policy implementation process from initiation to completion and evaluation with regards to system design, policy goals, communication, compliance, and political environment.

PA 314. Administrative Law. 3 Credits.
Examines legal foundations of public administration focusing on legal issues of most importance to present or future administrators.
PA 315. Hlth Srvc & Med Care in US. 3 Credits.
Defines the milieu of issues and challenges faced by managers in the health services setting.

PA 317. Systems Anly & Strategic Mgmt. 3 Credits.
Students will be introduced to systems thinking and network dynamics with a particular focus on managing across organizational and sectoral boundaries, including public-private partnerships, intergovernmental arrangements, and strategic alliances. Tools to undertake strategic analysis and planning will be explored.

PA 318. Admin Theory & Practice. 3 Credits.
Extensive examination of literature pertaining to the practice and theory of public administration. Explores public/private partnerships, intergovernmental management, ethics, and administrators as agents for organizational change.

PA 319. State Administration. 3 Credits.
Elements of public management at the state level i.e. the state/federal relationship regarding control; management within the force field of local conflict and cooperation; and management within the context of inter-agency conflict and cooperation. Cross-listed with: POLS 224.

PA 320. Local Government Admin. 3 Credits.
This course is a primer on local government administration in the US using the case method to experience the complexity of the challenges one confronts in the field.

PA 321. Negotiation & Mediation. 3 Credits.
Explores the principles of today’s negotiations and mediations through readings, heavy emphasis on practical exercises between students, and case analyses of actual negotiations. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

PA 323. Non-Profit Administration. 3 Credits.
Course reviews the history of, and managerial challenges inherent to, the non-profit sector in the United States and explores sector’s relationship to the governmental and business sectors.

PA 325. Health Care Policy. 3 Credits.
This course addresses policy issues affecting the structure, performance and change in the U.S. health care system, with a specific focus on the role of health care managers. Pre/co-requisite: CDAE 102, CDAE 124, or Instructor permission.

PA 326. Community Economic Development. 3 Credits.
Examines how rural and urban communities address poverty, unemployment and other economic problems through job creation and retention, workforce training and support, and other development strategies. Cross-listed with: CDAE 326.

PA 327. Nonprofit Governance & Devel. 3 Credits.
In-depth exploration of nonprofit governance and fund development, focusing on the responsibility of a board of directors including governing documents, fiduciary responsibilities and revenue development.

PA 334. Organizational Behav& Cultures. 3 Credits.

PA 342. Sustainability & Transportatn. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the complex interconnection of engineering, policy, science and social science that characterize transportation systems, mobility problems and solutions. Interdisciplinary teams conduct case studies. Prerequisite: Instructor permission required. Cross-listed with: CE 312, TRC 312.

PA 375. Public Administration Capstone. 3 Credits.
The Capstone is designed to provide MPA students with a summative experience that ties learning competencies to evidence drawn from their course of study. Pre/co-requisites: Core MPA courses either prior to Spring semester or simultaneously.

PA 380. Internship. 3-6 Credits.
Supervised administrative experience culminating in a written report.

PA 391. Master’s Thesis Research. 1-6 Credits.
Thesis topic must be approved by faculty advisor.

PA 392. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.
A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

PA 395. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
For advanced students within areas of expertise of the faculty. Varied course offerings. Contemporary topics. Instructor Permission.

PA 397. Readings & Research. 1-6 Credits.
Readings, with conferences, term paper, to provide graduate students with specialized knowledge in an area in which an appropriate course is not offered.