Did you know?

- Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus.
- Penn State World Campus has enrolled students from all fifty states and all seven continents.
- Our online courses involve frequent interactions between students and instructors.

Penn State World Campus
The Pennsylvania State University
128 Outreach Building
University Park PA 16802

800-252-3592
www.worldcampus.psu.edu

Master of Public Administration
An Exceptional University for Exceptional Learners

Since the Penn State World Campus launched its pilot programs in 1998, it has grown to include exceptional learners from all fifty states, more than sixty-two countries, and all seven continents. These students are part of our global learning community, interacting with faculty and exchanging ideas and expertise with one another as they strive to meet their educational and career goals.

“The Penn State public administration master’s program is entering a truly exciting period in its development. In recent years we have seen growing interest in globalization, comparative studies of best practices around the world, greater attention to ethics and values, and the role of the nonprofit sector in governance. Our program is keeping abreast of these changes in matters of curriculum, faculty research and outreach, and program delivery—which is becoming available online.”

—Dr. Jeremy Plant
Lead Faculty, School of Public Affairs
Professor of Public Policy and Administration

A Degree That Fits Your Career,
A Program That Fits Your Life

You will interact with respected faculty members and fellow graduate students throughout your studies. The faculty who teach online are the same nationally recognized faculty members who teach on campus. This means that the degree you earn online is the same degree as a student on campus earns, and your diploma is identical to that of a student who attended classes on campus.

A master of public administration (MPA) is the industry-standard professional degree for public service professionals. Penn State’s MPA program is designed for persons who want to pursue leadership careers in government and nonprofit organizations. Our program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

The MPA degree program is designed to be completed entirely online, allowing you to study whenever and wherever you want.
Did you know?
The federal government is facing a general personnel crisis. Nearly 60 percent of federal employees are older than 45, and estimates suggest that about 550,000 federal employees will leave the government in the next five years.

Penn State’s Master of Public Administration

Become a Public Administration Leader

Apply What You Are Learning—Today
As you gain new skills and confidence through our program, you can begin to constructively influence your current work environment.

While you interact with experienced faculty and peers from different public and nonprofit sectors, you can further develop your abilities to understand, analyze, and control your current organizational environment; manage more effectively; and promote positive change.

Network with Classmates
The online environment of the public administration degree program is highly interactive and collaborative. You can share experiences with your peers, as you learn from each other and create a dynamic professional network of colleagues. The course content comprises far more than a textbook on a screen; it is reinforced and enhanced by interaction with your fellow students and the faculty.

The Benefits of Online Learning
With our online delivery format you can complete your MPA degree program without ever setting foot on campus. You will receive the course content and complete the activities using your computer and Web access. The courses have fixed start and end dates, but you decide when to do your course work to meet assignment deadlines. You can achieve your career goals without sacrificing your personal commitments or family time.

Also, instead of hearing a lecture once, then relying on your notes as you would in a traditional classroom setting, you can access the course materials as often as needed to match your specific learning style.
This 36-credit master’s degree program blends theoretical and applied concepts and provides “real-world” experiences for the novice administrator. Our curriculum is designed to help you effectively manage organizational environments; gain the tools, knowledge, and experience necessary to promote positive change; and develop managerial and analytical skills that can be applied immediately to your job.

**Required Courses (18 credits)**

- P ADM 500 Public Organization and Management
- P ADM 502 Governmental Fiscal Decision Making
- P ADM 503 Research Methods
- P ADM 505 Human Resources in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors
- P ADM 506 Management Information Systems for Public and Health Administration
- P ADM 510 Organizational Behavior

**Elective Courses (15 credits)**

*Available in concentration areas such as:*
- Criminal Justice
- Government Administration
- Health Care Management and Policy
- Human Resources Management
- Information Resource Management
- Policy Analysis

**Capstone Master’s Project (3 credits)**

- P ADM 594 Research Topics

**How Long Will It Take to Complete the Program?**

The typical student course load is two to three courses per year. At this rate, you can complete the MPA degree program in four to five years.
Frequently Asked Questions

» Why is Penn State the best choice for me?

Flexibility and convenience:
Penn State knows that adults need flexible and convenient learning options in order to continue meeting their professional and personal commitments. You can take courses when and where you please, earning your degree at your own pace.

Reputation:
Penn State is universally regarded as one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. Putting a Penn State degree on your résumé is a great way to broaden your career options and prove to current and potential employers that you are a well-educated professional.

Accreditation:
Penn State is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and has an outstanding reputation as a research and teaching university. The Master of Public Administration program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). Penn State’s School of Public Affairs has been designated the University’s flagship school of public affairs.

» Is this the real Penn State?

Yes. Penn State values online education as highly as it does resident instruction. No distinction will be made on your official Penn State transcript or diploma that your courses were completed at a distance. The credits you receive are exactly the same as those awarded to on-campus students.

» What types of student support are available?

As a distance education pioneer, Penn State has developed a nationally recognized support system for students who are geographically removed from campus. With our amazing team of academic advisers, technical support experts, customer service representatives, and Penn State instructors, we’ll help you get where you want to go—successfully—through distance education.
Experience in Distance Education
As a distance education pioneer, Penn State has developed a nationally recognized support system for students who are geographically removed from campus. Our offerings have received high satisfaction ratings from students in terms of course content and student services.

Connect with Classmates
Interact with dedicated, goal-oriented peers from across the nation, creating a network of great ideas. As you communicate daily with other professionals, you’ll gain insights that you can apply to your job immediately.

Library Services
You will be able to access one of the leading university research libraries in North America—Penn State’s University Libraries system, which holds more than 5 million volumes and 68,000 serials. You can search the online catalog and review databases as if you were sitting at a terminal in any Penn State library.

Learner and Technical Support
Without having to set foot on campus, you will have access to many of the same support services that residential students enjoy. Additionally, procedures such as advising, course scheduling, and registration are available through World Campus Student Services. World Campus HelpDesk personnel are available to offer technical support.

Admissions decisions for the master of public administration degree program are based on the quality of the applicant’s credentials relative to those of other applicants, and on a review of the complete application portfolio.

A student applying to the master’s degree program must include the following in his/her application portfolio:
- online application form and fee
- statement of career and educational goals
- three references
- résumé
- official transcripts from all institutions attended
- GRE or GMAT, if GPA is less than 3.0
- TOEFL score, if applicable

For More Information
Contact Us
psuwrd@psu.edu • www.worldcampus.psu.edu
800-252-3592 (toll free within the United States)
814-865-5403 (local and international)
814-865-0741 TTY • 814-865-3290 Fax

Student Services Hours (inquiries and registration)
8:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Admissions Hours
8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Academic Advising Hours
8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

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Penn State World Campus is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.
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