MPP-FAQ’s

What is an MPP? What can I do with it?

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree is the professional degree for analyzing, evaluating, and solving all aspects of policy. MPP graduates work with quantitative and qualitative data to develop, assess, and evaluate alternative approaches to current and emerging issues. A MPP provides students with the direct skills and experience to work in the public, private, or non-profit sector.

What is a dual bachelors/graduate (MPP) degree program?

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) program is an accelerated dual degree program for students interested in public policy related fields. The MPP requires 48 credit hours. The UNC Graduate School allows up to 12 undergraduate credit hours to double count as MPP credits. Therefore, the MPP can be completed with only one additional year of school. Most of the double counting of credits will take place during the second semester of senior year.

What does the curriculum look like?

The MPP curriculum includes courses on data science and analysis, policy design and impact analysis, a communications course, a management/consulting course, a professional development seminar, and field electives in one of the following policy concentrations:

- Education and Labor Markets
- Environment and Human Welfare
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Business and Public Policy
- Social Policy, Inequality, and Social Entrepreneurship
- Health Policy, Bioethics, and Human Rights
- International Development Policy
- Global Conflict and Cooperation

Students will choose one of the two following tracks to guide their learning:

- Track A: Policy Design and Innovation
- Track B: Policy Design and Impact/Impact Evaluation

Can I take classes in other graduate programs?

The UNC Graduate School offers over 160 Master’s and Ph.D. programs in over 80 disciplines. Elective courses give MPP students the opportunity to take classes in other disciplines, though admission to specific courses may be contingent on individual professor approval.
What are the requirements or opportunities in the program?

In addition to coursework, the UNC MPP offers a variety of rigorous opportunities to build real-world policy skills. Students will complete a 12- to 15-week internship in a policy setting. Additionally, students will complete a final capstone project in which they will be paired with a client and work to solve a policy issue.

What is the internship like?

The MPP requires an internship/work experience which can be done either over the summer or during the fall and spring semester (full year). The internship should be 12-15 weeks (full-time summer, part-time academic year). We encourage a paid work/internship experience. Students will simultaneously enroll in a professional development seminar for a total of 2 academic credits. Local, regional, state, national or global internships are acceptable and should align with your public policy interests and career goals.

What is the cost? How does this compare to other MPP programs?

The cost of the MPP additional year is $19,052 for residents and $37,344 for non-residents. This is less than the tuition for comparable programs and is only one year rather than two. Additionally, the GRE is not required for the MPP dual degree, and the application fee is waived.

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<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Resident Tuition</th>
<th>Non-Resident Tuition</th>
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<td>UNC-CH (MPP)</td>
<td>$19,052</td>
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Who can apply to the MPP program?

Undergraduate students from any and all majors can apply to the MPP program in the fall of their senior year, as long as they fulfill all of the prerequisites. Application is available in August.

What are the prerequisites for the program?

The public policy major and minor cover all prerequisites for the program. Non-policy majors and minors should take ECON 101, PLCY 210/210H, PLCY 460, and PLCY 581.
How large is the program?

The inaugural cohort has 34 students.

Who are the professors? If I am a Public Policy major or minor, will I have the same professors I have already met?

Professors come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are from UNC Public Policy and other professional schools at UNC; others will be professors of the practice, meaning they have experience in a professional environment.

Where will my classes be?

MPP classes will be on UNC’s campus. The program will have a brand-new headquarters on Rosemary Street for studying, meeting, and hanging out.

What does the application look like?

The online application involves a resume, transcript, personal statement, and two letters of recommendation. The GRE is not required, and the application fee is waived for dual degree students.

I have more questions. What should I do?

For other questions, email Melissa Edwards, MPP Coordinator at mredward@email.unc.edu.