WHAT IS A MASTER’S DEGREE IN PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS?
**Undergraduate Coursework**

While there is no “right” major, undergraduate coursework should include a combination of the following:
- Social sciences (politics, sociology, psychology)
- Quantitative methods (mathematics, statistics, economics)
- Linguistic and cultural proficiency (foreign languages, anthropology, humanities)
- And other fields related to an applicant’s interests (law, science, management).

**Master in Public Affairs/Policy (MPA/MPP)**
trains students to analyze, create and implement policies to address the most pressing problems in society.

**Post-Graduate Work Experience**

Master’s degree students come from a range of professional backgrounds in the public, private and non-profit sectors. They also often have volunteer and internship experiences that showcase their focus on the public good.

**Leadership Skills**

Students often demonstrate leadership in their college and post-graduate jobs, volunteer work and extracurricular activities.

**Required Tests for Admission**

Most programs require applicants to take and submit the GRE before the application deadline; it is important to find out each school’s requirements well before the application is due.

English language test (TOEFL/IELTS) scores are usually required for all non-native English-speaking applicants unless they have received a bachelor’s or advanced degree from an accredited college/university where English is the language of instruction.

**Fellowships**

Each graduate program has its own criteria for financial aid and awards; it is important to review those policies on each school’s website. In addition, there are independent programs that provide funding assistance for graduate studies in public policy or international affairs such as:
- AmeriCorps
- Charles B. Rangel Fellowship
- Fulbright Foreign Student Program
- Thomas Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship
- Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation

**Public Policy and International Affairs Master’s Degree**

**Master in Public Administration (MPA)**
trains students for a career in the management of public programs.

**Master in Public Health (MPH)**
a non-clinical degree that trains students for a career in public health.

**Joint Degree (MPA/JD/MBA)**
trains students in public policy/IA and another discipline; i.e., law, business.

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WHERE DO PUBLIC AFFAIRS GRADUATES WORK?
Examples of Career Paths

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM COURSES:
ECONOMICS
APPLIED STATISTICS
POLITICS
LAW
HISTORY
THE SCIENCES

PUBLIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CAREERS
Policy Analyst
Foreign Service Officer
Deputy Director
Economic Advisor
Elected Official
NGO Program Director
Ambassador

VS.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CAREERS (unelected public/civil servants)
Heads of City, County, Regional, State and Federal Departments
Municipal Budget Directors
Human Resources
City Managers
Census Managers
State Mental Health Directors
Cabinet Secretaries

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Ambassador

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
The Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (ASPIA)
www.aspia.org

Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)
www.naspaa.org

Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA)
www.ippprogram.org