Master of Public Administration, 2023-2024 Catalog
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MPA Program Faculty:
Dr. Jennifer Wilking (Chair, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice), Dr. Ginger Alonso, Dr. Diane Schmidt, Dr. Sarah Smith, Dr. Matthew Thomas, Dr. Charles C. Turner (MPA Program Coordinator), Dr. Paul Viotti, and Dr. Lori Weber.

See https://www.csuchico.edu/pols/people/index.shtml for biographies of MPA Program faculty.

Requirements and Additional Information:
Please review the university catalog at for the prerequisites for admission to classified status, the requirements for advancement to candidacy, information about the professional paper, comprehensive exam, and thesis plans, the graduate writing proficiency requirement, graduate grading requirements, the graduate advising requirement, and the specific requirements for the Master of Public Administration program. A link to the university catalog description of the program is available at:


The General MPA Option  Core Requirements: 18 Units

POLS 602  Public Administration and Democracy
POLS 631  Seminar in Research Methods
POLS 660A  Seminar in Public Management
POLS 660B  Seminar in Public Personnel Administration
POLS 660C  Seminar in Administration of Public Financial Resources
POLS 662  Seminar in Organizational Theory in the Public Sector
Electives: 15-18 Units

POLS 600  American Institutions and Public Organizations
POLS 601  Seminar in State and Local Government
POLS 652  Legal and Ethical Issues in Health and Human Services
POLS 653  Environmental Policy and the Law
POLS 654  Behavioral Health Policy and Administration
POLS 655  Aging Policy
POLS 656  International Public Administration
POLS 657  The Criminal Justice System: Institutions and Public Policy
POLS 658  Criminological Theory
POLS 659  Collaborative Community Management
POLS 661  Seminar in Public Administration
POLS 664  Public Policy in Health and Human Services
POLS 665  Issues in Global Public Health
POLS 667  Administration and Planning
POLS 668  Public Policy Formation
POLS 669  Public and Non-Profit Program Evaluation
POLS 671  Topics in American Politics
POLS 672  The U.S. Presidency
POLS 673  The U.S. Congress
POLS 689  Intern/Fieldwork in Public Administration
POLS 689P  MPA Professional Internship
POLS 697  Independent Study

Culminating Activity Requirement: 1-4 Units

Students are required to complete POLS 680A (Research Plan/Culminating Practicum) and either: the professional paper plan (POLS 680B Culminating Practicum) or the comprehensive examination (no course credit). In exceptional cases, the thesis plan (POLS 699T Master’s Thesis) is also an option. Please see the catalog and consult with the MPA coordinator for specific requirements.

The Option in Health Administration

Core Requirements: 18 Units

POLS 602  Public Administration and Democracy
POLS 631  Seminar in Research Methods
POLS 660A  Seminar in Public Management
POLS 660B  Seminar in Public Personnel Administration
POLS 660C  Seminar in Administration of Public Financial Resources
POLS 662  Seminar in Organizational Theory in the Public Sector

Option Requirement, Three Courses Selected From: 9 Units

POLS 652  Legal and Ethical Issues in Health and Human Services
POLS 654  Behavioral Health Policy and Administration
POLS 655  Aging Policy
POLS 664  Seminar in Public Policy in Health and Human Services
POLS 665  Issues in Global Public Health
One (or Two) Electives Selected From: 3-6 Units
POLS 600 American Institutions and Public Organizations
POLS 601 Seminar in State and Local Government
POLS 653 Environmental Policy and the Law
POLS 656 International Public Administration
POLS 657 The Criminal Justice System: Institutions and Public Policy
POLS 658 Criminological Theory
POLS 659 Collaborative Community Management
POLS 661 Seminar in Public Administration
POLS 667 Administration and Planning
POLS 668 Public Policy Formation
POLS 669 Public and Non-Profit Program Evaluation
POLS 671 Topics in American Politics
POLS 672 The U.S. Presidency
POLS 673 The U.S. Congress
POLS 689 Intern/Fieldwork in Public Administration
POLS 689P MPA Professional Internship
POLS 697 Independent Study

Culminating Activity Requirement: 1-4 Units
Students are required to complete POLS 680A (Research Plan/Culminating Practicum) and either: the professional paper plan (POLS 680B Culminating Practicum) or the comprehensive examination (no course credit). In exceptional cases, the thesis plan (POLS 699T Master’s Thesis) is also an option. Please see the catalog and consult with the MPA coordinator for specific requirements.

The Option in Criminal Justice

Core Requirements: 18 Units
POLS 602 Public Administration and Democracy
POLS 631 Seminar in Research Methods
POLS 660A Seminar in Public Management
POLS 660B Seminar in Public Personnel Administration
POLS 660C Seminar in Administration of Public Financial Resources
POLS 662 Seminar in Organizational Theory in the Public Sector

Option Requirement #1: 6 Required Units
POLS 657 The Criminal Justice System: Institutions and Public Policy
POLS 658 Criminological Theory

Options Requirement #2, One Course Selected From: 3 Units
POLS 476 Police Administration and Management
POLS 651 Judicial Politics
POLS 654 Behavioral Health Policy and Administration
One (or Two) Electives Selected From: 3-6 Units
POLS 600 American Institutions and Public Organizations
POLS 601 Seminar in State and Local Government
POLS 652 Legal and Ethical Issues in Health and Human Services
POLS 653 Environmental Policy and the Law
POLS 655 Aging Policy
POLS 656 International Public Administration
POLS 659 Collaborative Community Management
POLS 661 Seminar in Public Administration
POLS 664 Public Policy in Health and Human Services
POLS 665 Issues in Global Public Health
POLS 667 Administration and Planning
POLS 668 Public Policy Formation
POLS 669 Public and Non-Profit Program Evaluation
POLS 671 Topics in American Politics
POLS 672 The U.S. Presidency
POLS 673 The U.S. Congress
POLS 689 Intern/Fieldwork in Public Administration
POLS 689P MPA Professional Internship
POLS 697 Independent Study

Culminating Activity Requirement: 1-4 Units
Students are required to complete POLS 680A (Research Plan/Culminating Practicum) and either: the professional paper plan (POLS 680B Culminating Practicum) or the comprehensive examination (no course credit). In exceptional cases, the thesis plan (POLS 699T Master’s Thesis) is also an option. Please see the catalog and consult with the MPA coordinator for specific requirements.