

**Office of the President  
California State University, Chico**



**Executive Memorandum EM 17-006**

**September 5, 2017**

**From:** Gayle E. Hutchinson, President

**Subject:** Discontinuation of the Option in Local Government Management within the Master of Public Administration

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate and the concurrence of the Provost, I approve the Discontinuation of the Option in Local Government Management within the Master of Public Administration, effective Fall 2018.

<b>Policy Title:</b>	EM 17-006 Discontinuation of Option in Local Government Management within the Master of Public Administration
<b>Contact:</b>	College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
<b>Supersedes:</b>	N/A
<b>Revision:</b>	N/A
<b>Enabling Legislation or Executive Order:</b>	N/A

## Discontinue Graduate Program: See EM 15-005

Program Name: Option in Local Government Management

Complete only if applicable  
Program named above  
is:

Option within Master of Public Administration (degree program name)

Certificate

### Rationale:

The MPA program has unanimously voted in our September 2016 meeting to discontinue our "option in local government management" for the following reasons. Note that we are continuing the MPA program and also its option in Health Administration, but with enrollments not higher than 6 students for the past 5 years in the local government management option-we feel this is no longer sustainable. Furthermore, we provide the following reasons:

- Over fifteen years ago we lost faculty who regularly taught in this option, and since then we have been unable to secure the resources (e.g., faculty with this area of specialization) to continue to regularly offer enough courses in this option. We find that relying upon one faculty member to teach almost all courses in an option is not a sustainable practice nor does it comply with our accreditation standards, whereby we are compelled to offer a program that exposes students to a variety of our program faculty. On a specific note, some of the courses lost in this option were due to collaboration with the masters in geography program, which was suspended some time ago.
- Students (6) who are currently in this option have repeatedly expressed frustration with the lack of courses. They have expressed this concern directly in meetings with the MPA coordinator, and the coordinator has provided substitutions, often with courses outside our department (such as EDMA, CMST, and MBA courses-but these programs have limited resources as well and their courses are often full or not offered regularly enough.
- In addition, our program committee feels that this option has now become somewhat redundant, since the focus of our general MPA program IS upon local government management, as evidenced in both our mission and our job placement statistics (e.g., most of our graduates pursue local government available at:  
[http://www.csuchico.edu/pols/graduate/MPA%20Program\\_May%202016.pdf](http://www.csuchico.edu/pols/graduate/MPA%20Program_May%202016.pdf)

**Relationship of the program to the University's Strategic Plan, College Strategic Plan, Academic Plan and other statements of mission, goals and values.**

The mission of the Master of Public Administration program is to develop and enhance the theoretical understanding, knowledge and skills of current and future managers in public service with particular emphasis on the North State region.

The option in local government management started in the late 80s/early 1990s (exact date not known). While the option does not have its own separate mission, it was designed to enhance the above mission of the MPA program. Specifically, the option was designed to provide a specialization directed at cultivating key competencies needed for successful leadership in higher levels of local government management. These key competencies are reflected in our program student learning outcomes, which are designed to deliver the competencies outlined by our national accreditation organization, the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (see links and list below).

The option provided an opportunity to augment the MPA mission which aligns with the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice's mission "to provide students with the educational experiences and environment to become familiar with and competent in the attitudes, subjects, and skills of the discipline of political science, the capacity to attain career success that allows them to utilize the knowledge, skills, and judgment acquired in our program, and a sense of civic responsibility."

Furthermore, the option augments the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences' mission to "prepare students to be knowledgeable in the methods and scope of the behavioral and social sciences, to be skilled in their respective disciplines, and to be prepared to undertake a lifelong path of learning and service to their community" and the university's mission "to assist students in their search for knowledge and understanding and to prepare them with the attitudes, skills, and habits of lifelong learning in order to assume responsibility in a democratic community and to be useful members of a global society."

CSUC MPA Student Learning Outcomes: <http://www.csuchico.edu/pols/graduate/>

NASPAA Competencies: To lead and manage in public governance; to participate in and contribute to the policy process; to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions; to articulate and apply a public service perspective, and; to communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.

**Plan for teaching out students currently enrolled in the program.**

As of spring 2017, we have 6 students who are enrolled in the Local Government Option. Half of those students (3) are graduating this spring 2017, and the MPA coordinator has provided course substitutes where needed for these students so they may graduate in a timely manner with this option. The MPA coordinator has discussed the potential elimination of this program with the remaining 3 students, and program plans are developed with these students so they may also substitute the courses we can no longer regularly offer (or offer at all) in this option (due to lack of faculty resources).

**CSU Chico**

Curriculum Services

JAN 11 2017

**RECEIVED**

**Required Signatures**

**The Department of** Political Science and Criminal Justice

**has reviewed and approved this program discontinuation.**

Mahalley D Allen  
Chair, Department Curriculum Committee

4/1/16  
Date

Mahalley D Allen  
Department Chair

4/1/16  
Date

**The College of** BSS

**has reviewed and approved this program discontinuation.**

Ruth  
Chair, College Curriculum Committee

12/19/16  
Date

Ruth  
College Dean

12/19/16  
Date

**The Graduate Council has reviewed and approved this program discontinuation**

Sharon Barzani  
Dean of Graduate Studies

1/11/17  
Date

**Send signature page with proposal attached to Curriculum Services at Undergraduate Education, zip 680**

Curriculum Review Completed

3/2/17  
Date

Note: As stated in EM 15-005: Although this document identifies many of the issues deemed essential for a thorough, open, and complete discussion and debate, those involved in pursuing program discontinuation should recognize that it would be inappropriate to judge all programs by the same standards or specify the range of information necessary to make a considered recommendation in each particular case. Therefore, the Academic Senate may 1) consider issues not specifically listed in this document and 2) recognize that some issues listed in this document may not be pertinent to a specific case. The goal is to help the Academic Senate reach an informed recommendation based on the evidence provided.