

## MPP FAQ

*Before you are apply / deciding if the MPP is right for you:*

**What kind of jobs can I get with an MPP?** Check out our [Alumni](#) page to see the jobs our graduates have. Also, look over our [Community Advisory Board](#) page and see what kinds of work people do in policy and with an MPP.

**What is the difference between a Master of Public Policy degree and a Master of Public Administration degree?** Generally, students who get a Master of Public Administration (MPA) intend to work in leadership roles in government and non-profits. Typically, an MPA focuses more on management and administration skills. While students that get an MPP, though certainly qualified to take on these same leadership roles, tend to be more interested in analysis and evaluation to identify public problems and propose community based and data driven solutions. The MPP focuses more on dealing with quantitative and qualitative data, and analysis of public problems and solutions.

**I work full-time, is it possible to do the MPP part-time?** Yes. Many of our students do the program part-time. That usually consists of them taking 1-2 classes a semester and they typically finish in 3-4 years.

**Is this program available online?** No. Though some courses may be available remotely many are not, and students are required to attend classes in Albuquerque, NM.

**How much does the program cost?** The MPP is a 42-credit program, check [here](#) for current UNM rates.

**I work in policy/evaluation. Is it possible to get class credit for the work I do?** Yes. We do give waivers for students that are working in the field, you will need to discuss this possibility with the MPP Director.

**I am interested in the MPP but not sure it is the right path for me, what should I do?** Email the MPP director and introduce yourself. Ask them to meet and chat about if this is the right choice for you, they are happy to do so.

**Does UNM waive application fees?** No.

**Can I start the MPP in spring semester?** No, the MPP is a cohort model and students are only accepted for the fall semester.

**Is it a rolling deadline for applications?** No, there are two deadlines each year: February 15 and June 15. While you can apply at anytime your application will not be reviewed until these deadlines.

**What are my options for funding?** The MPP has a limited number of partial assistantships and UNM has some scholarships and funding available. See more [here](#).

**Does the MPP have funding for international students?** Currently, the MPP only has a limited number of *partial* assistantships to grant to selected students. This means that, while international students are eligible for these positions, it may not be enough for them to procure their required visas. This is because the USA requires students to be fully funded to be able to receive the visa that most students require, and the MPP can only offer partial funding. Learn more about visa requirements [here](#).

**Does UNM require English language tests for international students?** Yes, read more [here](#).

**Is the GRE required to apply?** No.

**Does the MPP have any pre-reqs for admission?** Yes. An undergraduate degree (in any area) and a B or better in an Intro to Statistics class.

**What if I have not taken an Intro to Stats course, or I have but did not receive a B or better?** You can still apply. You can be accepted into the MPP without this pre-req, but you will not be officially admitted until you complete the class. You will need to complete this requirement by August 1 in order to be admitted in time for fall semester. Please indicate your plans to complete this requirement in your letter of intent.

**Where should I take the Intro to Stats class?** Any Intro to Stats class will do at any university or community college. You can take MATH 1350 at UNM or CNM or you can take this [online course](#).

**What if I am already in a graduate program? Can I transfer?** Yes. If you are interested in doing this, you should reach out to MPP admin and begin the conversation and find out what credits are transferable.

**I am interested in doing a dual degree with the MPP and another UNM Master's program, what should I do?** You will need to apply for and be accepted by both programs. You will also need to create a course plan illustrating how you will complete both degrees and finish them both in the same semester. You also need a written rationale explaining why you need both degrees. Both documents will need to be approved and signed by each department and then submitted to the Graduate School for final approval.

**What if I am already in a graduate program at UNM and want to also do an MPP? Can I do a dual degree with the MPP?** Possibly. You need to reach out to the MPP and let them know you are interested in doing this. You will have to submit a course plan and written rationale, they must be signed by both departments and submitted to the Graduate School for approval. Submission of these materials must take place **within three semesters** of your acceptance to the first graduate program.

*Application process:*

**I have been out of school for a while and worry that I do not have any professors that can write me a recommendation letter, what should I do?** We highly recommend doing your best to get a letter of recommendation from a previous professor, many would remember you simply if you got an A in their course. However, if you cannot find any professors to write a letter for you it is all right to have all three recommendations be from professional relations.

**What if I cannot find a suitable writing sample?** You should email the MPP admin or director and ask for instructions on writing a writing sample.

**What should I include in my letter of intent?** Tell us why you want to pursue a degree in public policy, and what work, academic, and personal experiences you bring to the program. Please indicate if you plan to study full or part time (this is for planning purposes only and will not impact the admissions decision). And if you have not taken the pre-requisite of an Intro Stats course, please mention that and how you plan on completing that requirement before fall semester begins.