The School of Public Policy & Administration offers the following graduate programs:

- Master of Public Administration
- M.A. in Urban Affairs & Public Policy
- Ph.D. in Urban Affairs & Public Policy
- M.A. in Historic Preservation
- M.S. in Disaster Science & Management
- Ph.D. in Disaster Science & Management

The Delaware Difference
Integrating Academic Excellence with Professional Experience

The School of Public Policy & Administration (SPPA) integrates classroom instruction, research, and applied practice to equip our graduates with the leadership, project implementation, and critical-thinking skills necessary for professional success.

Our diverse, socially conscious community of faculty and staff are committed to teaching academic and professional best practices, and our active alumni network helps mentor and connect students with career opportunities.

Located near the northern tip of Delaware in Newark, our campus is convenient to many East Coast cities, including Wilmington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and New York City.

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Educate • Explore • Engage • Empower

A Career as a Disaster Professional

Megatrends such as increasing globalization, global warming, and heightened public awareness of the frequency, extent, and impact of disasters reinforces the need for disaster professionals. Whether serving federal, state, or local government as a consultant or academician, you can contribute to disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Why Disaster Science & Management?

The goal of our doctoral program is to create exceptional professionals who advance the understanding and application of the science focused on disasters, and who can serve as leaders and stewards of the discipline.

University of Delaware is home to the world-renowned Disaster Research Center, which serves as a focal point for discipline-specific, as well as cross-disciplinary, disaster-related research activities. The faculty and staff working in the center and teaching classes come from various professional and academic backgrounds, allowing our students to benefit from their diverse perspectives.

Our record in disaster research and graduate education serves as an exceptional foundation for the interdisciplinary Disaster Science & Management graduate degree program.

Relevant Experiences

Field experiences help students differentiate and translate between the controlled classroom environment to the complexities found in the field, which supports sound research and professional practices. International experiences are often available, and our students draw on a broad base of ongoing and new opportunities for collaboration in the required International Comparative Aspects of Disasters course.
Our Commitment to Diversity

Addressing complex and dynamic problems depends on understanding, respecting, appreciating, and valuing different perspectives and experiences. SPPA is committed to offering its students an interdisciplinary and multicultural education. That commitment is expressed in our curriculum, study abroad opportunities, faculty and staff, and student community.

Personal Attention

Students interact closely with faculty and staff on academic matters and research and public service projects. We are fully invested in the academic and professional success of our students.

Scholarships and Aid

Scholarships and financial assistance are awarded on an annual basis and governed by the availability of funding.

Curriculum

All doctoral students have 9 credits of dissertation, 3 credits of seminar, and 15 credits of electives that are intended to enhance and broaden their scholarly involvement in the program. The remaining 15+ credits of coursework are in a thematic area (9+ credits) and research methods (6+ credits).

Thematic Areas of Coursework

- Organizations, management, and leadership
- Built and natural environment and society
- Vulnerability and resilience
- Policy and planning
- Simulation and modeling
- Health systems leadership – public health disaster planning and response

Research Methods Courses

- CEIE641 Risk Analysis
- EDUC665 Elementary Statistics
- EDUC350 Qualitative Research in Education
- ECON877 Advanced Benefit-Cost Analysis
- MAST664 Decision Tools for Policy Analysis
- APEC601 Survey Operations Research I
- APEC602 Survey Operations Research II
- APEC603 Simulation Modeling and Analysis
- APEC802 Operations Research Applications
- POSC816 Philosophy of Science and Research Design
- SOCIO707 Data Collection and Analysis
- STAT800 Estimation and Statistical Inference I
- UAPP691 Quantitative Analysis in Public and Non-Profit Sectors
- UAPP704 Statistics for Policy Analysis
- UAPP808 Qualitative Methods for Program Evaluation
- UAPP827 Program and Project Analysis (cost-benefit analysis)