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

School of Public Policy & Administration
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Fax: 302.831.3296
Email: sppa@udel.edu
www.sppa.udel.edu

Educate • Explore • Engage • Empower

Doctoral Study at SPPA

SPPA at the University of Delaware is a leader in the integration of instruction, research, and professional practice. The Ph.D. Urban Affairs & Public Policy program is an interdisciplinary, research-oriented degree that focuses on analysis of the critical policy challenges of our times. Our program prepares scholars to create usable knowledge that can inform decision-making and improve the quality of life in communities at all scales, from cities to nations.

Why Urban Affairs & Public Policy?

The challenges of our times are not neatly bundled in disciplinary packages as political, economic, or sociological problems. Our doctoral program prepares scholars to approach these multifaceted challenges from creative vantage points, reflecting diverse, international perspectives that transcend disciplinary views and embody the highest research standards.

A concern for the global policy challenges and opportunities of an urbanizing world cuts across all of our research.

Our students work alongside faculty and researchers to create new knowledge and develop innovative approaches to expand the possibilities for community enhancement and policy improvement.

Alumni Profile

More than 100 degrees have been earned in our Ph.D. program since 1980. Our graduates work in all sectors and in all parts of the world—half of our alumni have academic careers, while others work with government or nonprofit organizations, or for think tanks and research organizations.
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.

There is a full calendar of social events, seminars, and lectures by special guests. SPPA graduate students have many opportunities to become involved in and lead student, SPPA, and University-wide activities.

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

Core Courses
UAPP822 Proseminar in Governance, Planning, & Policy
UAPP830 Proseminar in Public Management & Leadership
UAPP901 Processes of Social Inquiry
UAPP961 Academic & Professional Development for Doctoral Students
UAPP971 Quantitative Analysis in Public & Nonprofit Sectors
UAPP702 Research Methods in Urban & Public Policy
UAPP808 Qualitative Methods

Other Coursework & Dissertation
Upon completion of the required coursework and a passing grade on the qualifying exam, students participate in a doctoral dissertation proposal workshop. From there, they select coursework that supports their dissertation proposal, defend their proposal, and complete their dissertation research. Students typically complete the Ph.D. degree in 4 years of full-time study.

Research Assistantships
SPPA’s competitive research assistantships provide students the opportunity to participate in policy research for public and nonprofit organizations. Research assistants receive a stipend and tuition scholarship, and typically work 20 hours per week in one of these affiliated interdisciplinary research and public service centers:
- Institute for Public Administration
- Center for Community Research and Service
- Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research
- Center for Historic Architecture and Design
- Disaster Research Center

Ph.D. students are also eligible for teaching assistantships, which provide valuable experience for academic careers. In addition, Ph.D. students may be considered for a number of research fellowships that support their dissertation and research for scholarly publication.

Applying is easy!
Visit www.udel.edu/gradoffice/apply/

The majority of our Ph.D. students are enrolled full time, but we do consider admission for highly qualified part-time students. Admissions decisions are based upon a careful assessment of the applicant’s academic foundations and goals, research interests, and career objectives.

Admission
Admission requires a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in urban affairs, public policy, public administration, or a related social science with a strong academic record; three letters of recommendation; GRE scores; TOEFL scores (for international students); resume; and personal statement. A record of achievement in related work, public service, or volunteer experience is preferred.

In addition, applicants must include a non-refundable application fee and should complete a SPPA Supplementary Information Form.

Apply to the program by the Priority Deadline to be considered for an assistantship.

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