

# Public Administration Masters (MPA)

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## *Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose*

### **Institutional Mission Reference**

The Master of Public Administration Program offers graduate students a high quality degree program in Urban Studies that meets national standards of excellence. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and discovery of new knowledge. The Master of Public Administration Program supports the University's mission of providing advanced professional education for the Hampton Roads area and the Commonwealth.

### **Institutional Goal(s) Supported**

The Masters of Public Administration Program supports the University goals of (a) quality graduate academic programs, (b) quality teaching, (c) discovery of new knowledge, and (d) community service. (See pages 3-4 of the Old Dominion University Catalog or pages 7-11, Vol. I of the NASPAA Self-Study Report). The Master of Public Administration Program also supports Strategic Initiative 2 (Excellent Graduate Programs). (See the Old Dominion University Strategic Plan.)

## *Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results*

### **Intended Outcome 1**

To create a vibrant and challenging learning environment where students can develop the theoretical knowledge and applied skills to better meet the challenges posed by a rapidly changing and dynamic environment and are sought out by public employers to become their future leaders.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success:** Annual alumni focus groups and satisfaction with job opportunities

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1:** Focus groups and student satisfaction surveys conducted at the end of each academic year indicate a high level of satisfaction with promotional and other job opportunities.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program:** As a result of assessment data for outcome number one, no changes are contemplated at this time.

### **Intended Outcome 2**

To enhance knowledge and competencies of mid-career practitioners who seek professional development and growth in federal, state, and local government, along with other non-profit organizations.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success:** Completion rates for core courses

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2:** Completion rates for core MPA courses remain high. More than 95% of the students taking the core courses complete them with a grade of "B" or better.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 2 to Improve Academic Program:** No changes are contemplated at this time as a result of assessment data for outcome number two.

**Intended Outcome 3**

To provide students with a firm grounding in the responsibilities, values, and ethical concerns of public service in order to better meet the needs of a diverse and multicultural society.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success:** Course Evaluation and Surveys. Students display knowledge of the importance of ethical concerns in their feedback.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3:** Feedback from students indicates reflective consideration of ethical dynamics within significant issues of public service.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program:** Given the positive feedback from students, no program changes are anticipated at this time.

**Intended Outcome 4**

To conduct theoretical and applied public sector research.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success:**

- \*Student knowledge of research methods, program evaluation and policy analysis
- \*Large majority of students received grade of "B" or better

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4:** The large majority of students taking research methods, program evaluation and policy analysis have completed the courses with a grade of "B" or better. However, the lowest student grade point average of any core course occurs with the research methods course.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 4 to Improve Academic Program:** At this time, no changes are contemplated to the program evaluation and policy analysis core courses. After careful review, the research methods core course has been revised. Changes involve using Microsoft Excel for statistical analysis, a different text, and more student lab-time working with data.