The mission of the Carolina MPA program is to prepare public service leaders. We help students reach their potential for leadership through rigorous academic study and practical experience. Our students have the opportunity to work with faculty who are engaged in helping state and local officials solve public problems. Carolina MPA graduates attain leadership positions in every level of government and in organizations that support the public interest. The degree is offered either by a full-time, two-year on-campus format or via MPA@UNC, a flexible part- or full-time online format.

Some of our courses include:
- Public Institutions and Values
- Organizational Theory
- Analysis and Evaluation
- Professional Communications
- Human Resource Management
- Public Financial Management
- Law for Public Administration
- Public Service Leadership

Students gain experiences through a Professional Work Experience (PWE) practicum. The PWE provides students an opportunity to apply and refine learning, further develop their competencies in a public service work environment, and gain additional experience for career and professional development.

Students may also choose to focus in one of five areas:
- Local Government
- Nonprofit Management
- Community and Economic Development
- International Relations
- Public Health

Carolina MPA graduates develop a wide range of skills and competencies:
- Lead, manage, and engage others in public service
- Build professional relationships in a variety of organizational settings
- Understand and communicate diverse perspectives
- Manage financial resources
- Manage human capital
- Analyze information for decision making
- Identify, collect, manage, and interpret relevant qualitative and quantitative data

“What is most significant, and most valuable, about public administration is that we serve citizens to advance the common good.”

—Denhardt & Denhardt, The New Public Service
WHERE OUR STUDENTS GO

Our graduates are leaders in local, state, and federal government and the nonprofit sector.

Carolina MPA First Destination Data

Sectors

- Government
  - Local: 11%
  - State: 21%
  - Federal: 10%

- Nonprofit: 18%
- Military: 9%
- Private Industry: 26%
- Other: 5%

Locations

- North Carolina: 43%
- South (excluding NC): 28%
- West: 6%
- Northeast: 4%
- Midwest: 4%
- South: 28%
- Other (including international): 15%

WHY YOU NEED US

Now more than ever employers need dedicated and qualified professional staff in every area of their organizations. Along with the tangible skills needed to navigate today’s complex workplaces, our program focuses on vital public service values such as:

- Accountability and transparency
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Respect and equity
- Professionalism and ethics

Our faculty are national leaders in their specialty areas, and many teach state and local government officials at the School of Government. This practical expertise guarantees the relevance of the courses they teach and ensures the consistency and interrelation of a wide range of topics presented in our curriculum. As a result, the Master of Public Administration Program at UNC-Chapel Hill is consistently ranked among the top 25 programs in the country by U.S. News and World Report and is 5th in the area of city management.

HOW YOU CAN CONNECT WITH US

HOST an information session about your organization with our students.

RECRUIT and interview students for either full-time or PWE (intern) positions.

POST a job by emailing us your employment and PWE opportunities and we’ll share this information.

CONTACT us.

- PWE practicum:
  Susan Austin, Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Professional Work Experience
  austin@sog.unc.edu  ·  919.966.4159

- Full-time hiring opportunities and information sessions:
  Allison Binkley, Associate Director of Career Services
  binkley@sog.unc.edu  ·  919.843.5029

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South (excluding NC): 28%