

Public Administration

The Field of Public Administration

Studying public administration can help students become more effective participants in a democratic society, both as makers of public policy and as individuals affected by those policies. Students receive instruction in such subjects as personnel administration, budget preparation, public relations, and techniques of management appropriate to the administration of public policy.

The Program

All faculty members bring to their classes extensive backgrounds. They combine theories of public administration with practical applications.

Professors dealing with aspects of American government and administration either have held responsible positions in government or have acted as consultants to various office holders or agencies. Several have been active in political campaigns and some have run for office themselves. Faculty-student interaction is enhanced by the individualized instruction and assistance available in most upper-division classes.

The program offers several projects through which students may gain practical experience while earning academic credit. Internship programs are available and often place students in paid positions with local government offices and

agencies, where they may be involved with city planning and zoning issues, public relations efforts, special research topics, budget preparations, or related areas.

Careers in Public Administration

Public administration graduates are prepared for careers in government at the city, county, state, national, and international levels, as well as employment in nonprofit community organizations. Participation in the Public Administration Internship Program gives graduates practical experience and introduces useful contacts for securing employment.

Related Careers

Some public administration graduates who have not gone to work for the government or nonprofit agencies have found employment in the private sector. Others have pursued advanced education and law, public administration, and political science.

Future Education

Teaching at a community college generally requires an M.A. Teaching at the university level usually requires a Ph.D. Persons pursuing careers in government service may find it helpful to secure an M.A. or M.P.A. (Master of Public Administration) for professional advancement.

General Preparation

The basic skills needed for success in political science include the ability to read well, write clearly, and speak in an articulate fashion.

High School Preparation

Students should meet California State University's admission requirements in terms of college preparatory course requirements, grade point average, and test scores. In addition, students should avail themselves of opportunities to take additional work in literature and composition, social sciences, and history.

College Program

Students should consult the university's *General Catalog* for specific major and university requirements. Community college transfers should consult their catalogs to ensure that courses taken are Fresno State transferable (baccalaureate level).

General Education

Students should complete as many of the Fresno State General Education requirements as possible during the freshman and sophomore years, whether they are attending Fresno State or a community college. Community colleges can certify up to 39 of the units required in Fresno State's General Education pattern.

California State
University, Fresno

Department of
Political Science

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B.A. in Public
Administration

Minor in Public
Administration

Master of Public
Administration
(M.P.A.)

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Public Administration

A good background in the social sciences — particularly economics, history, sociology and anthropology — and in psychology, literature, philosophy, and composition is helpful.

Suggested Related Activities

Employment as an intern in a public or non-profit organization is a very useful background both for the public administration major and for future professional career opportunities. Most public administration students complete an internship as a part of the major requirements.

Course Requirements

Since program changes occur, students should consult the *General Catalog* and a Fresno State adviser prior to registering for courses.

Lower Division

Freshman-Sophomore level courses (may be taken at a community college, if offered)

Methods of Analysis of Quantitative Political Data (Fresno State PL SI 90)

Modern Politics (Fresno State PL SI 1)

Upper Division

Junior-Senior level courses (to be taken at Fresno State)

Administrative Analysis: Management and Organization

Introduction to Public Administration

Public Budgeting and Economic Policy

Public Personnel Management

Public Policy Making

Additional Requirements and Electives

California Politics

Comparative Administration

Constitutional Law

Municipal Government

Public Administration Internship

Seminar in Political Thought

State and Local Governments

Topics in Public Administration: Finance,

Personnel, Organizational Theory, Ethics,

Administrative Behavior, Public Relations

Independent Study

For additional information, write

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<http://www.csufresno.edu/polysci/degrees/index.shtml>

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PLEASE NOTE: This document is for general informational purposes only. The information is subject to change; consult the appropriate department or an academic adviser. Entering freshmen must follow the revised General Education program effective fall 1999 and thereafter. The university catalog and schedule of courses are available online at www.fresnostate.edu/ClassSchedule and www.fresnostate.edu/catalog.

Revised 6/09