

Frequently Asked Questions

This guide gives answers to many of the questions which we receive most frequently about Temple’s MPP program. If you are looking for answers to questions which aren’t included here, feel free to reach out to us at [MPP@temple.edu](mailto:MPP@temple.edu), and we’ll get back to you as quickly as possible.

MPP Information Sessions

Each semester, we hold several virtual information sessions about the MPP program. If you’d like to join us for an info session, you can find upcoming sessions and register [here](https://liberalarts.temple.edu/academics/departments-and-programs/political-science/graduate/public-policy/next-stops). If you would like to talk to a program representative about the MPP individually, please contact us at [MPP@temple.edu](mailto:MPP@temple.edu).

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1) Time to Completion, Course Scheduling and Location

***Q: How long does it take to complete the MPP degree?***

***A:*** Students may attend classes full-time (3 courses per semester) or part-time (less than 3 courses per semester).  Full-time students can complete the program in between 1.5 and 2 years, depending on starting semester and summer coursework. Part-time students will usually take 3 years or longer.

***Q: Where and when are MPP classes held?***

***A:*** All courses required for the MPP are held during weekday evenings at Temple’s Center City Campus (TUCC) at 1515 Market St.  This campus is in downtown Philadelphia across the street from City Hall.  TUCC is near a major transportation hub (Suburban Station), and also subway and bus lines.  Classes run from 5:40 to 8:10 p.m.  Some MPP courses run once per week for the entire 14-week semester, and others run twice per week but are only 7 weeks in duration.  As a result, students can complete three courses per semester while they take only two courses at any one time.

We also offer a fully online MPP program. All online courses are offered on weekday evenings and meet synchronously from 6:30 – 7:50 p.m.

Some elective course options are also offered on Temple’s Main Campus, both in the evenings and during the day.

***Q:  Do you offer MPP courses during the summer or on Saturdays?***

***A:*** At this time, a limited number of elective courses are offered in the summer. MPP required courses are typically not offered in the summer.

***Q: When do Temple’s academic terms begin and end?***

***A:*** Fall semesters generally begin at the end of August, the week before Labor Day and end in mid-December.  Spring semesters begin in mid-January and end in the beginning of May.

See the university’s full a[cademic calendar](https://registrar.temple.edu/academic-calendar) for more details.

2) Admissions Criteria

***Q:* *What are the minimum standards for admission to the MPP degree?***

***A:*** A bachelor’s degree from a reputable university or college and an undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher (or its equivalent from a foreign institution).

***Q*: *What are the requirements for international students?***

***A:*** Please visit the university’s [Graduate School website](https://grad.temple.edu/admissions/international-applicants) for more information about admissions criteria for international students.

***Q: When should I expect to hear about admission decisions?***

***A:*** We can make admissions decisions only after we have received completed applications, and the application fee has been paid. Once an application is complete, the MPP Admissions Committee reviews the application and makes a recommendation to the College of Liberal Arts, which makes the final decision about admissions. Once the Committee makes their recommendation, applicants usually receive an official email within two weeks from the Graduate School.

***Q: What should I do after I am admitted in order to register for classes?***

***A:*** After you are admitted, the Associate Director will send you details about matriculating.  Admitted students must submit a $200 graduate course deposit. Once the deposit is received, you will receive instructions for next steps, along with your Temple ID number, username (your TUID), and password. New students will be contacted by the Associate Director to schedule an orientation session during which they will create a course plan and discuss their goals in the MPP program with the Assocaite Director and Director. After this orientation session, new students can use their Temple ID, username and password to register through the TU Portal.

3) Application Procedures, Materials, and Deadlines

***Q: What do I need to do in order to apply?***

***A:*** You can begin the online application online, and the link is available on our [website](https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/public-policy-mpp-la-ppol-mpp/cla-public-policy-mpp-admissions).  You will be provided with a unique Temple identification number and username (your TUID), and you can set your password.  Before we can view your application, Temple requires that you pay an application fee of $60.

After you begin the application form, a supplemental items checklist will populate. The remainder of your application materials should be uploaded through this checklist. We require you to submit:

* Your current resume.
* Your statement of goals, which should address why you are interested in pursuing the MPP degree.
* Official transcripts from every college and university you have attended.
* Finally, you must request two letters of recommendation from professors, supervisors, or colleagues. Letters of recommendation should be obtained from college/university faculty members familiar with academic competence. For applicants with extensive administrative experience, two of the letters may come from supervisors or colleagues in the agency or organization where the applicant has been employed.

Official transcripts should either be sent electronically to [mpp@temple.edu](mailto:mpp@temple.edu) or mailed to:

Temple University Master of Public Policy Program

837 Mazur Hall

1114 W. Polett Walk

Philadelphia, PA 19122-6090

Please plan to submit official copies of all transcripts from schools you have attended: both undergraduate, and graduate, if applicable.

***Q: Can I take MPP courses before I apply for admission?***

***A:*** Yes.  Students can take up to 9 credits as “non-matriculated” students.  If you decide to apply to the MPP program and are admitted, the credits count towards the degree if you earn a “B” or higher in those courses. Students who are considering taking MPP courses as non-matriculated students should contact the MPP Associate Director for more information.

***Q: Where should I send my application materials?***

***A:*** The MPP program application process is entirely online. Please do not send hard copy application materials, with the exception of official transcripts which may be mailed to:

Temple University Master of Public Policy Program

837 Mazur Hall

1114 W. Polett Walk

Philadelphia, PA 19122-6090

***Q: Do I need to take the GRE?***

***A:*** We do not require GRE scores for applications to the MPP program. If you already have GRE scores, or if you feel that GRE scores would substantially strengthen your application, we are happy to review them along with your application, if you choose to submit them while applying.

***Q: Can the 3.0 GPA requirement be waived?***

***A:*** The 3.0 requirement is University policy and can be waived only under extraordinary circumstances, such as a clear pattern of academic improvement over the course of a rigorous undergraduate training, particularly in upper-level courses. Applicants with a GPA below 3.0 can also inquire about taking MPP courses as a non-matriculated student as a condition for admission to the program.

***Q: When are applications due?***

***A:*** Application deadlines can be found here:

<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/public-policy-mpp-la-ppol-mpp/cla-public-policy-mpp-admissions>

We gladly accept applications early and can sometimes consider them on a rolling basis.  Feel free to submit materials as soon as they are ready, and we will try to begin the review process of your application as soon as the file has been completed.  We generally begin evaluating new application files up to one month in advance of your preferred application deadline, and we admit a new cohort for each fall and spring semester.

***Q: Will you accept applications after scheduled deadlines?***

***A:*** We may only be able to give full consideration to applications that we receive before these important deadlines.  While we sometimes may be able to accept applications after these deadlines, we cannot guarantee that late applications will be processed and evaluated in time for enrollment in your preferred semester.

***Q:  Can I transfer credits from another MPP or MPA program to Temple’s program?***

***A:*** Yes.  Students admitted to the MPP program can transfer up to 6 credits.  The credits must have been earned at a reputable institution with a grade of B or better and Temple must have equivalent courses in its course inventory.  Students who wish to transfer credits need to submit a transcript listing the courses to be transferred and set up an appointment with the MPP Director to discuss transferring into the program.  Transfer students must apply to the MPP program and generally meet the same requirements as other applicants, although their performance in another MPP or MPA program will be given special consideration in the admissions decision.

4) Curriculum and Requirements

***Q:  How many credits are required to earn the degree?***

***A:*** The MPP program consists of 36 credits, which includes eight required courses (24 credits), one internship (3 credits) and three electives (9 credits).

***Q: What are the MPP courses like?***

***A:*** MPP required courses are usually offered in classes of 25 students or less.  They provide a mixture of lecture, class discussion, and in some cases, oral reports and presentations.  You should plan on doing significant reading before each course meeting, and most classes require a mix of work both individually and also within small groups.

***Q: Who teaches MPP courses?***

***A:*** The MPP faculty includes a diverse array of faculty members from a variety of professional backgrounds and social science disciplines.  Some of our faculty members have extensive experience in government or non-profit and private sector organizations as agency heads, budget and finance directors, advisors and consultants.  Others are academics who have taught public policy courses and done research on issues related to public policy.  Brief biographical sketches of MPP faculty are included on our [program directory](https://liberalarts.temple.edu/about/faculty-staff/program/master-of-public-policy-program).

***Q: Can I join this program if I may not be able to attend some seminars?***

***A:*** We realize that many prospective MPP students work part- or full- time and may have many life obligations in addition to pursuing this degree.  However, we do have the expectation that MPP students will make attending all regularly scheduled course meetings a primary weekly priority.

***Q: How many and what kinds of electives are offered?***

***A:*** We usually offer two electives per semester (both in-person and online), as well as a list of approved electives for MPP students to take from other programs across the university, which are typically offered online or on Main Campus. The topics covered in each elective vary from semester to semester depending upon faculty availability, student interests and our efforts to rotate offerings. For more information about elective courses, please reach out to the Associate Director.

***Q: How much does the MPP curriculum emphasize statistics?***

***A:*** Students are required to take only one statistics course (PLCY 8001), which is a standard introductory graduate statistics course.  Students who wish to gain additional competency in statistics can take more advanced statistics courses in fulfillment of their elective requirements.  NOTE: It is recommended that tudents should take statistics concurrently with or before taking the Policy Analysis course and before the Program Evaluation (GUS 5165) course.

5) MPP Internships

***Q:  What are the specific internship requirements?***

***A:*** Students must register for PLCY 5085 and serve an internship of at least 250 hours. The MPP program is flexible as to how many hours per week, how many days per week, or how many weeks the intern serves in the internship as long as the aggregate number of hours is fulfilled.  However, internship sites may require a particular minimum number of hours per week that they need the intern to work.  Internship sites must verify that the intern has served the required number of hours.  MPP students must register for PLCY 5085 Internship in Public Policy and submit a final paper on the organization in which they serve their internship.  The paper is supervised by the MPP Director or his designee.

***Q: When can I serve my internship?***

***A:*** The MPP internship course (PLCY 5085) is offered every semester (Fall, Spring, Summer I, and Summer II), so students are welcome to serve their internship at any point in their time in the program.

***Q: How do I secure an internship?***

***A:*** The first step is for the student to discuss the kind of internship sites they are interested in.  This may depend upon whether the student is interested in a particular issue or policy area or a particular type of organization (eg., legislative body, executive branch agency, non-profit, etc). The MPP program may reach out to its contacts in particular organizations and/or the student may find particular organizations that have the kind of internship that they are looking for.

***Q: Can I be exempted from the internship requirement?***

***A:*** Students who are employed in public sector, non-profit or for-profit organizations that have direct relevance for public policy or public administration may use their experience in their job as qualifying experience for an MPP internship.  Students may also substitute an internship that they served as an undergraduate student as long as it was substantially similar in content and duration to regular MPP internships.  NOTE: MPP students who are exempted from the normal internship requirement must still register for PLCY 5085, pay for the 3 internship credits, and fulfill the same paper requirement as other MPP students. These exempt students are, in effect, using their current or past positions as the experiential learning that they draw on to fulfill the written internship requirements. In special circumstances, exempted students may request to take a 4th elective in lieu of the internship course.

***Q: How can I serve an internship if I work full-time in a non-public policy related job?***

***A:*** Students who work full-time in non-policy or public administration-related jobs may face special challenges in fulfilling the internship requirement.  They should work with the MPP Director and their employer to come up with an arrangement that will allow them to fulfill this requirement.

6) Tuition and Financing

***Q: Where can I find information about graduate tuition at Temple?***

***A:*** Temple’s tuition is highly competitive compared to many other schools that offer the MPP or MPA degrees, particularly if you are eligible for in-state tuition. All Online MPP students are eligible for in-state tuition, regardless of which state they reside. You can find the most up to date per-credit tuition rates [here](https://bursar.temple.edu/tuition-fees/tuition-rates-tuition-calculator).

***Q: How do I qualify for in-state tuition?***

***A:*** To be eligible for in-state tuition, you must have resided in Pennsylvania in the 12 months prior to enrolling in the MPP program.  If you list *any* out-of-state address on your application, you will be ineligible for in-state tuition.  If ensuring in-state status is an important consideration for you in applying to the MPP program, you should get in contact with the program Assocaite Director to discuss your eligibility for in-state tuition. Please note that all Online MPP students are eligible for in-state tuition, regardless of which state they reside.

***Q: Do you make grants or scholarships available for MPP students?***

***A:*** The MPP program has an extremely limited number of competitive merit scholarships available for incoming students. These scholarships are usually only awarded for fall entry applicants. In order to be considered for a merit scholarship, fall applicants must submit their application by the March 1st deadline (although no additional materials are needed in order to be considered).

In addition, the cost of our program is very competitive when compared to that of other similar degrees in the region, particularly if you are eligible for in-state tuition. Some employers subsidize their employees’ educational expenses.  Otherwise, most students finance their own educations or borrow from the regular financial aid programs. You can find information about academic aid [here](http://sfs.temple.edu/).

7) Academic Support and Advising

***Q: How should I decide which courses to take?***

***A:*** Before registration opens for the next semester, students will meet with the MPP Associate Director for an advising session. During these sessions, students discuss their course plan and which courses they should register for next semester, as well as any career advising questions or notes they have for the Associate Director.

***Q: Who can I talk to if I need help in my courses?***

***A:*** All of our instructors are personable, helpful folks and are happy to work with students on an individual basis.  If you have general questions about how to register for classes, find academic buildings, or the like, you can also ask the Associate Director.

8) Accreditation & Dual Degrees, +1, and Certificate Programs

***Q: Is the MPP program accredited?***

***A:*** Temple University programs are accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

There is an additional accreditation that MPP/MPA programs can received through the [Network of Schools of Public Policy and Administration (NASPAA)](https://www.naspaa.org/). As a smaller and MPP program, NASPAA accreditation is not something the Temple MPP program is currently pursuing. However, we are a member of NASPAA.

***Q: Do you offer dual-degree options with the MPP and other graduate programs?***

***A:*** Yes, we offer a dual [Master of Public Policy – Master of Public Health degree](https://liberalarts.temple.edu/academics/departments-and-programs/political-science/graduate/public-policy/graduate/master-public-policy-%E2%80%93-master-public-health-dual-degree). In order to join this dual degree program, applicants must submit two applications – one to each individual department for entry in the same term. Applicants who are accepted into both programs can then begin their dual degree.

With this MPH-MPP dual degree, you can complete both degrees in 3 years by earning 54 credits.  We are currently developing additional curricula for other dual degree programs, and will keep this section updated.  If you are interested in a specific dual degree possibility, please reach out and let us know [at mpp@temple.edu](mailto:at mpp@temple.edu). Information about MPH admissions can be found [here](https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/graduate-programs/health-policy-and-management-mph-hpam/health-policy-and-management-mph-admissions-information#:~:text=There%20are%20no%20prerequisites%20to,they%20are%20reviewed%20for%20admission.).

***Q: Do you offer graduate certificate programs?***

***A:*** Yes, the MPP program offers two graduate certificate programs in Public Policy and Nonprofit Management. Both certificate programs are 4 courses (12 credits). For more information on these programs, please visit our website ([Public Policy certificate](https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/public-policy-certificate-graduate-la-ppol-grad); [Nonprofit Management certificate](https://liberalarts.temple.edu/academics/departments-and-programs/political-science/graduate/public-policy/graduate)). Students enrolled in either certificate program have the option to apply to the MPP degree program during their time in the program or after completion. If they are admitted to the MPP program, they can count their certificate courses as credit toward the MPP degree requirements as long as they earn a B or higher in those courses.

***Q: Do you offer a +1 accelerated degree program combining undergraduate studies and the MPP?***

***A:*** Yes.  Participants in this program can count up to 12 credits toward both their Temple undergraduate program and also toward the MPP degree. You can find more information about the MPP +1 program [here](https://liberalarts.temple.edu/students/accelerated-degrees).

If you are interested, please meet with your undergraduate advisor and have them email [mpp@temple.edu](mailto:mpp@temple.edu) certifying that you meet the 3.5 GPA requirement and have enough open electives in your schedule to complete the MPP +1. We will contact you about the next steps in this application process after that time.

You can find more information about the Graduate School, as well as view its policy manual at [Temple University’s Graduate School Policies](http://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/graduate-policies/) page.

Contact Information for Program Representatives

MPP Program e-mail [MPP@temple.edu](mailto:MPP@temple.edu)

**MPP Program Director** Dr. Elise Chor

e-mail: [Gary.Mucciaroni@temple.edu](mailto:Gary.Mucciaroni@temple.edu)

office: 444 Gladfelter Hall

**Associate Director**  **Kasey Trapp**

e-mail: [kasey.trapp@temple.edu](mailto:kasey.trapp@temple.edu)

phone: (215) 204-7817

office: 837 Mazur Hall