



B.A. Political Science and Master of Public Administration 4+1 Program

Political Science majors interested in a career in public service or nonprofit management may apply to the accelerated Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. The MPA program develops the skills and techniques used by managers to implement policies, projects, and programs that resolve important problems in organizations and society. Students complete both degrees in five years.

Program Requirements

- Complete the academic requirements for the B.A. in Political Science.
 - In consultation with advisors in the Political Science department and the Biden School, complete 6 credits of coursework from the MPA curriculum to dual count for the Political Science and MPA degree requirements.
- Complete the requirements for the minor in Public Policy.
 - In consultation with a Biden School advisor, complete 9 additional credits of coursework from the MPA curriculum to dual count in the Public Policy minor and MPA degree requirements.
- Upon completion of the B.A. in Political Science and minor in Public Policy, 4+1 students continue in the graduate program for one more year of coursework to complete the MPA (36 total graduate credits are required).

Specialization Options

In addition to a core curriculum covering topics such as leadership, human resources, and financial management, MPA students take specialization courses in many disciplines based on areas of interest:

- Nonprofit Management
- Public Management
- Public Policy Analysis
- Emergency Management
- Health Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Data Analytics
- Social Entrepreneurship

Application Procedure

- Students interested in the 4+1 program should speak with a Political Science academic advisor as well as a Biden School advisor to discuss individual study plans prior to application. General program questions may be directed to the Biden School Academic Support Coordinator (*refer to contact information below*).
- Upon completion of 60 undergraduate credits (including UAPP110, UAPP225, and UAPP325 from the Public Policy minor), students with a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or above may apply for the 4+1 program through the Graduate College website at <https://grad.udel.edu/>.
 - Students should apply for the program in the **first semester of the junior year**.
 - The GRE is required and should be taken by December of the junior year (*may* be waived for students with a GPA above 3.5 - waiver must be requested in application).
- The following documents are required in support of the application:
 - Three letters of recommendation
 - Official transcripts
 - Statement of interests and objectives
 - Current Resume
 - 4+1 Graduate Course Approval Form
 - Biden School Supplementary Form

Professional Development Opportunities

Through coursework and experiential learning, MPA students develop the leadership, analytical, and problem-solving skills critical to competent, values-based decision-making in diverse and changing environments.

Students say that the experience they gain is the one of the best aspects of their graduate study. Students learn and put into practice knowledge about government/nonprofit sector organizations and transferable skills such as budgeting, performance measurement, statistics, policy research/analysis, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to serve and contribute to the public good. Visit <https://www.bidenschool.udel.edu/research-public-service/research-public-service-centers> for more information on the opportunities below and many others.

- Research Assistantships
- Internships
- Public Administration/Policy Fellows
- Summer Undergraduate Public Policy Fellows
- Legislative Fellows
- Judicial Fellows
- Legislative Researcher Program
- Local Government Management Fellows

Research Assistantships allow competitively selected students to engage in real-world projects, working side by side faculty and professional staff while receiving stipend pay and tuition support.

Internships—paid work experiences that have academic and professional value—are typically completed by students between their senior year and graduate year of the 4+1 program.

Legislative Fellows Program offers selected students the opportunity to work directly with legislators to conduct nonpartisan, in-depth research on critical issues facing the state such as education reform and juvenile justice. In addition to gaining unparalleled experience, Legislative Fellows earn a competitive stipend.

Local Government Management Fellows Program allows competitively selected students to work alongside municipal leaders and attend high-level meetings to gain exposure to current local government issues, conduct research on best practices, recommend solutions, and draft management reports.

Competitive research assistantship and fellowships allow students to gain real-world experience and networking opportunities that position them ahead of other job seekers, receive a scholarship covering most of their tuition (90%), and earn a generous stipend (\$20,000).

Student Spotlight: Anna Shields (4+1: Political Science & Public Policy BA '19, MPA '20)

Anna Shields is a 4+1 B.A./M.P.A. student majoring in Political Science and Public Policy and specializing in Public Policy Analysis. Her primary interests are health, human sexuality, criminal justice, education, and labor policy. She served as a Legislative Fellow in the Senate Majority during the 2020 session. This led to a unique experience as her fellowship began in-person and then transitioned to a virtual experience once the COVID pandemic started. Her primary role was conducting policy research and drafting memos for legislators and legislative staff. She also staffed and drafted minutes for committee meetings and attended virtual policy meetings to distribute summary memos to both caucuses. In addition to her research, she had the opportunity to work with Senator Elizabeth Lockman to plan and then staff the launch of the Arts and Culture Caucus.

She is currently finishing the last semester of her MPA degree and serving as a Public Policy Fellow with the Institute of Public Administration, where she is working on the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA)'s Downtown Development District (DDD) GIS Story Map Project. She is also taking her first online class towards a graduate certificate in Human Sexuality from the University of Minnesota.

Contact Information

- Breck Robinson, Program Director and Advisor, B.A. Public Policy: robinsonb@udel.edu
- Stephanie Patterson, Biden School Academic Support Coordinator: spatters@udel.edu

Visit our 4+1 Information page at <https://www.bidenschool.udel.edu/bachelors-programs/4+1-accelerated-degrees>