



B.S. Organizational & Community Leadership and M.A. Urban Affairs 4+1 Program

Organizational & Community Leadership majors interested in a career that addresses many of the critical challenges facing communities at all levels, from neighborhoods to the nation: health, education, housing, civil rights, poverty, economic growth, and environmental quality may apply to the accelerated Master of Arts in Urban Affairs and Public Policy (MA) degree. We equip our students with the diverse knowledge and experience needed to address policy challenges from creative vantage points, and we encourage them to adopt a truly global outlook on policy solutions. Students complete both degrees in five years.

Program Requirements

- Complete the academic requirements for the B.S. in Organizational & Community Leadership.
 - In consultation with Biden School advisors for the OCL and M.A. programs, complete 6 credits of coursework from the M.A. curriculum to dual count for the OCL and M.A. 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 M.A. curriculum to dual count in the Public Policy minor and M.A. degree requirements.
- Upon completion of the OCL degree and minor in Public Policy, 4+1 students continue in the graduate program for one more year of coursework to complete the M.A. (36 total graduate credits are required).

Areas of Research

The program's faculty pre-defines several areas of strength for Biden School, but students are also free to develop their own area of research with the advice and consent of their academic advisor. The pre-defined areas of research include:

- Urban & Regional Planning
- Health Policy
- Nonprofits & Philanthropy
- Disaster Science & Management
- Media & Public policy
- Environmental Policy
- Historic Preservation
- Housing & Community Development

Application Procedure

- Students interested in the 4+1 program should speak with an OCL 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 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
 - Biden School Supplementary Form
 - 4+1 Graduate Course Approval 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
- Policy Fellows
- Summer Undergraduate Public Policy 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: Josh Solge (MA, '20)

Josh has been working at Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement as part of their Nonprofit Sector Advancement team. The focus is to produce a number of strategic initiatives DANA can organize in order to improve the health of Delaware's nonprofit sector and make it easier for NPOs to thrive. Josh's role has been to gather and analyze information for the research team. His work has included an extensive literature review, conducting surveys of DANA membership, interviewing leaders of major philanthropic foundations and heads of state agencies, as well as coordinating focus groups to gather input from the leadership of nonprofit organizations. Josh will co-write DANA's final Sector Advancement Plan to be released in June 2020.

Contact Information

- Danilo Yanich, Program Director, M.A. in Urban Affairs & Public Policy: dyanich@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>