

**ASKEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**COMBINED BA or BS to MASTER OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION (MPA) PATHWAY**

WHAT IS THE COMBINED BA or BS and MPA PATHWAY?

This program is designed for academically exceptional students who wish to prepare for public service careers and gain practical career skills through experiential learning opportunities. Qualified students in any undergraduate major who are accepted into the combined pathway may take up to **12 hours** of graduate courses in public administration that will count for completion of both their bachelor's degree and the professional MPA degree.

The MPA degree normally requires completing 42 credit hours of graduate study, including an internship, following receipt of the bachelor's degree. Students who complete the pathway can receive the MPA degree by taking only 30 graduate credit hours following their bachelor's degree, saving both time and tuition costs.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE DEMAND FOR MPA GRADUATES?

Career opportunities for our graduates is expected to be strong. About 27% of the U.S. workforce has positions in either governmental or not-for-profit organizations. The Master of Public Administration degree prepares graduates to become managers or analysts at all levels of government – local, state, federal, and international – and in domestic nonprofit organizations, international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and for-profit businesses that work closely with governments.

WHAT IS THE REPUTATION OF FSU's MPA DEGREE?

The Askew School is the top rated MPA program in Florida and is ranked in the **Top 25 Public Affairs** programs by U.S. News and World Reports. Most faculty members are former practitioners, which provides our students with great professional networking opportunities for attaining employment and internships. The School's outstanding faculty has ranked consistently in the **Top 10** globally in their publication in top-rated refereed publications.

HOW DOES OBTAINING AN MPA DEGREE MAKE SENSE FOR SOMEONE IN MY MAJOR?

The Askew School's MPA degree program provides students with specific knowledge and skills in managing people, money, and information and teaches students how to conduct analyses that inform top decision makers. Our specializations in nonprofit managing, local government management, budgeting and financial management, procurement, emergency management, health policy, and evidence-based policymaking prepare students for long-term success in managing complex organizations. Because we emphasize developing both management and policy analysis skills, the Florida State MPA degree is a graduate professional degree that is applicable in a wide variety of settings for student from all majors.

HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY TO ENROLL IN THE COMBINED PATHWAY?

Acceptance to this combined bachelor's-to-MPA pathway is competitive. To enroll, accepted students must have:

- Senior status or be an Honors student with junior status
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.2 at FSU
- Completed 24 hours at FSU

The attached application form must be submitted to the Askew School's office at 627 Bellamy or emailed to coss-pad-advising@fsu.edu. Accepted students will receive a letter of acceptance from the Askew School and will then have to complete the Undergraduate Request to Take Graduate Courses form from the Registrar's Office.

WHICH GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES ARE OPEN TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE ACCEPTED INTO THE COMBINED PATHWAY?

Undergraduate students who are accepted for the combined pathway may enroll in any graduate level (e.g. 5xxx or 6xxx level) course taught by the Askew School that **does not** have a graduate course prerequisite. Students should seek advice from the academic program specialist, school director, or any other MPA faculty member prior to enrolling to assure that the course is appropriate for their career aspirations. For specific information on the requirements for the MPA degree, and for its several specializations, see the *MPA Handbook* available on-line at the Askew School's web site <http://askew.fsu.edu/>.

DOES ACCEPTANCE INTO THE COMBINED PATHWAY ASSURE ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE MPA DEGREE PROGRAM?

Acceptance of undergraduate students into the combined pathway does *not* assure admission to the graduate school or to the MPA degree program. Students accepted to the combined pathway should subsequently make formal application for admission to the graduate school and the MPA degree program during their senior year <https://admissions.fsu.edu/graduate/>. Grades *below B-* are not allowed to count for the MPA degree, although they can be counted towards the student's BA or BS.

CAN A STUDENT IN THE COMBINED PATHWAY PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE JOINT MASTERS PATHWAYS OF THE SCHOOL?

Yes. Graduate public administration courses will be accepted by the Askew School toward completion of the joint masters pathways offered in partnership with the College of Social Work (Master of Public Administration/Master of Social Work [MPA/MSW]), the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice (Master of Public Administration/Master of Science in Criminology [MPA/MSC]), and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (Master of Public Administration/Master of Science in Planning [MPA/MSP]).

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**APPLICATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE ACCEPTANCE TO THE
BA or BS/MPA COMBINED PATHWAY**

Name: _____ FSUID: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Term/Year to Start: _____

Local Telephone: _____ Local Address: _____

Major(s): _____ Minor(s): _____

Major Advisor: _____ Planned BA/BS Graduation Date: _____

Cumulative GPA (FSU Only): _____

Total Credit Hours Completed at FSU: _____

Total Credit Hours Completed (if Different from FSU only): _____

This application should be submitted to the Askew School's main office at 627 Bellamy or by email to cos-pad-advising@fsu.edu. It should be accompanied by a resume of 1-2 pages that summarizes institutions attended, diplomas and honors received, positions in organizations, work history, and a summary of any community or other service activities.

A signed one-page statement indicating why you want to pursue the combined pathway is also required.

Thank you for your interest in our program!

FOR ASKEW SCHOOL USE ONLY:

GPA & Standing Confirmed by: _____ Date: _____

Academic Programs Coordinator: _____ Date: _____

School Director: _____ Date: _____

Accepted? Yes ___ No ___

Acceptance Letter Date: _____