Nationally accredited, the Master of Public Administration program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington prepares students to hold leadership positions in local, state and federal government and in nonprofit organizations to strengthen communities.

The flexible 42 credit-hour program teaches critical skills for effective public and nonprofit policy and management. Core courses include management, human resources, quantitative methods, policy analysis and budgeting.

OUR ALUMNI ARE Making a Difference

Over 250 UNCW Master of Public Administration program graduates work in the field. They hold leadership positions across the state and nation as town managers, town planners, budget analysts, human resources specialists, executive directors, program managers and elected state representatives.
We offer a flexible program with afternoon, evening and online classes. Students study critical skills courses and select one of seven areas of concentration.

Full-time and part-time enrollments
Most students finish in two to three years

MPA offers select online courses through the UNC Online Exchange, which extends UNCW’s course offerings.

Additional information is available at www.uncw.edu/mpa

Applications
Applications to the MPA program are considered on a continuous basis. Applicants must include official transcripts, GRE scores, three letters of recommendation, a personal statement and a résumé. All materials must be submitted to the UNCW Graduate School no later than June 15 for a fall admission and no later than December 1 for spring admissions.

Who should apply?
Mid-career professionals who want to complement and enhance their work experience
Recent college graduates interested in changing the world through public service
Professionals seeking a career change

We believe in learning by doing
Through service-based projects and internships, students enhance their understanding of public administration. Those with extensive, related work experience may be eligible to receive an internship waiver.

Department of Public and International Affairs faculty and students conduct research and participate in regional service opportunities.

Recent internships have been with:
Local city and county governments
Various local nonprofit agencies
Sustainability initiatives

Financial Assistance
The MPA program has an array of financial support opportunities available to students.

- Graduate Teaching Assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis to new and returning students
- Graduate School Scholarships for new and returning students
- North Carolina City & County Management Association (NCCCM) Scholarship for an N.C. resident pursuing a career in local government
- The Holt Oil Fellowship in Public Administration, a merit-based fellowship for a continuing MPA student
- The Stephanie F. David Scholarship for a full-time MPA student committed to public service in the nonprofit sector
- Graduate Student Travel Awards for conference, research and professional development

Concentrations:

- Public Management
- Nonprofit Management
- Urban and Regional Policy and Planning
- Environmental Policy and Management
- Coastal Planning and Management
- Public Policy Analysis
- Marine Policy