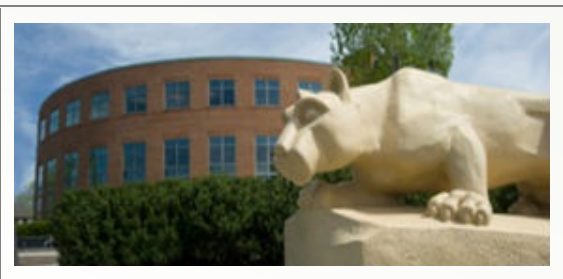


## Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration

The Ph.D. program in Public Administration (with various specialization areas) at Penn State Harrisburg offers a vibrant learning environment to provide enriching scholarship, cultivating research, and advancement in professional careers. Established in 1989, the program has a long tradition of providing advanced education in public administration and policy, as well as related fields.

The program offers unique features that allow students to customize their programs of study. In addition to the listed areas of specialization, they can design -- together with their committees -- their own specializations, by selecting courses from the programs of the School of Public Affairs or other graduate programs of the University.

Individuals with strong academic records and interest in research and teaching are encouraged to apply to the program. The program typically admits a cohort of full-time students to begin each fall semester. Applications for part-time study are considered if the applicant has a strong academic record and if his/her research interests are compatible with those of the program faculty members.



### Contact

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**PennState**  
Harrisburg

**School of Public Affairs**



**Doctor of Philosophy in  
Public Administration**

## Curriculum

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements stated in the Degree Requirements section of the Graduate Bulletin.

A Ph.D. student must first successfully complete the prerequisite courses specified by the program to make up for deficiencies, if any exist. After these are completed, a student must take a minimum of 36 credits:

- four 3-credit foundation courses
- four 3-credit research methods courses
- four 3-credit specialization area courses

All doctoral students must pass a qualifying examination, a comprehensive written and oral examination, and a final oral examination (the dissertation defense). To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program and the Graduate School.

Foundations of public administration

All the students in the program will be required to take the following foundational courses before they are eligible to take the qualifying examination.

- PADM 570. Scope and Methods (3 credits)
- PADM 571. Seminar in Organizational Theory (3 credits)
- PADM 572. Research and Theory in Public Budgeting and Finance (3 credits)
- PADM 573. Research and Theory in Public Policy and Governance (3 credits)

## Specialization Areas

State and Local Policy and Management, Governance Networks, Policy Analysis and Evaluation, Public and Nonprofit Management, Organizations and human resource management, Public Budgeting and Finance Performance Management, Criminal Justice Homeland Security Administration and Policy, Health Administration and Policy, Politics and International Politics, and Leadership.

## Courses

### Prerequisite Courses (may be waived)

#### **PADM 503 Research Methods**

Introduction to research methods relevant to public administration and public policy

#### **PADM 504 Data Analysis for Policy and Public Administration**

This course is intended to prepare students to conduct independent research in policy analysis, program evaluation, and public management. Students will not only learn statistical methods, but how to use them to evaluate public problems and suggest solutions.

#### **PADM 570 Scope and Methods of Public Administration**

Seminar on the history of public administration and its theories

#### **PADM 571 Seminar in Organizational Theory**

Seminar on selected theories of organizations and their applications to the study of public organizations

#### **PADM 572 Research and Theory in Public Budgeting and Finance**

Seminar on the seminal theories and literature on budgeting and financial administration

#### **PADM 573 Research and Theory in Public Policy and Governance**

Seminar on the seminal theories of public policy processes and policy analysis

#### **PADM 575 Advanced Research Design**

Seminar on research design issues in preparing doctoral dissertations

## Program Requirements for Admission

Requirements	More Information
<b>Education</b>	<p>Admission to the PhD program is based on the applicant's academic performance in the past and the compatibility of his/her background and interests with those of the program faculty members.</p> <p>All applicants must have completed a master's degree in a relevant field: master of public administration, master of public policy, or a master's degree in criminal justice, homeland security, health administration, political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, social work, or business management. Juris Doctorate degrees (law) will also be considered.</p>
<b>Supporting Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Official scores from the <a href="#">Graduate Record Exam (GRE)</a>—verbal, quantitative, and analytical—taken within the five years prior to the date of application</li><li>✓ A resumé that includes work experience, volunteer activities, academic and professional honors, honorary societies, extracurricular activities, offices held, any publications, and other significant activities</li><li>✓ A statement of goals and research interests, including evidence of research aptitude and interest as well as "fit" with the faculty interests in the PhD program at the Pennsylvania State University. The candidate should make the case why this Ph.D. program would be a good fit for him/her. There is no page or word limit for this statement, but it should be written clearly, coherently, and succinctly.</li><li>✓ A writing sample that reflects the applicant's background in conducting academic research and his/her potential to conduct academic research in the future</li><li>✓ At least three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty members who can comment on the applicant's potential as a doctoral student</li><li>✓ <b>One</b> official transcript from each undergraduate degree-granting college or university and post-graduate college or university the applicant attended</li></ul>

### Application Deadline

There are two deadlines for applications for the fall semester of the following academic year: **January 15** and **March 15**. For those applicants seeking research or teaching assistantships, the deadline to submit all application materials is January 15. Late applications may be considered if assistantships are still available. Applicants who wish to finance their education with their own funds or other sources (foreign governments that fund international students for PhD studies in the United States and other funding agencies, such as Fulbright commissions) are encouraged to submit their applications by **January 15**, but they may apply any time before **March 15**.