

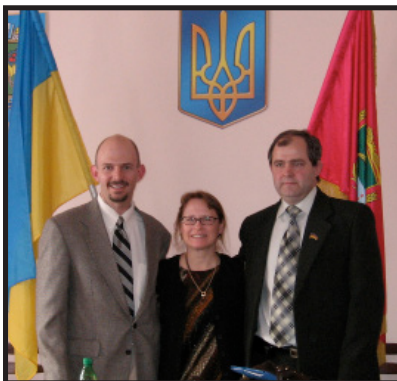


THE GRADUATE SCHOOL | MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Department of Political Science

## DEGREES OFFERED

- Masters in Public Administration



Dr. Eric Austin (left) and Dr. Susan Gilbertz (center - MSU-Billings) meet with municipal leaders during a trip to Kharkiv, Ukraine.

The mission of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at MSU is to provide students with professionally relevant, and theoretically grounded training, enabling them to become effective and ethically reflective practitioners, guided by values of integrity and service, as they pursue careers in the diverse settings of democratic governance. The Masters of Public Administration degree is a professional degree designed to prepare candidates for supervisory, analytical support and policy-making positions in public sector agencies, as well as non-profit organizations, working at the local, state and federal levels. The program stresses sound preparation in wide range of administrative competencies. Coursework is available in policy development, administrative law, leadership, program evaluation, local government, and ethics. Available courses support specialization in local government, non-profit management, administration of Native American affairs, education leadership, planning and other subspecialties. Students can gain practical experience through a supervised internship with an agency of the student's choosing.

Through their experience in the program, MPA students build their capacities in the following areas:

- To lead and manage in public governance settings;
- To participate in and contribute to the policy process;
- To analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions;
- To articulate and apply a public service perspective;
- To communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Admission standards for full admission to MSU's MPA Program are:

- Completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
- A GPA of approximately 3.00 and a Verbal GRE score of approximately 151. Neither GPA nor GRE scores are exclusionary by themselves and a sum of at least 844 from

continued

## Graduate Program Contact Information:

Montana State University  
 2-143 Wilson Hall  
 P.O. Box 172240  
 Bozeman, MT 59717-2240  
 Tel: (406) 994-4141  
 Fax: (406) 994-6692  
 Email: [eaustin@montana.edu](mailto:eaustin@montana.edu)  
 Web: [www.montana.edu/polisci/](http://www.montana.edu/polisci/)



the following formula is the combined GPA/GRE standard: (Verbal GRE X 4) + (Undergraduate GPA X 80).

- For International students who are not native English speakers, an English proficiency test such as the TOEFL or IELTS is required. For the TOEFL a score of 80; for the IELTS a score of 7.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The degree requirements given below are effective for students admitted to the program in the Fall Semester of 2016. The curriculum is structured so that full time students (those taking 9 credits per semester) should be able to graduate in two academic years. Students taking 6 credits per semester can graduate in three years. The MPA degree requires completion of 36 credits.

### Core Required Courses 15 credits:

- PSCI 520 Government Leadership and Ethics (3 credits)
- PSCI 551 Research Methods for Public Administrators (3 credits)
- PSCI 552 Public Policy Processes (3 credits)
- PSCI 554 Foundations of Public Administration (3 credits)
- PSCI 558 Organization Dynamics (3 credits)

### Electives

Students will select six elective courses that support both their intellectual interests as well as their professional and career objectives. We encourage students to explore the Political Science course catalog as well as course offerings from other departments to identify potential electives. Elective courses will be selected in cooperation with either the MPA Director or the student's Professional Paper Chairperson. Pre-career students (those entering the program with fewer than two years of progressively responsible professional work experience) will be required to complete a 3 credit, 300 work-hour internship as one of the two elective courses.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Political Science Department offers a limited number of teaching or research assistantships. Assistants receive a monthly stipend as well as a tuition and fee waivers. The Local Government Center and Wheeler Policy Center periodically offer research assistant opportunities that also carry stipends and tuition waivers.

## FACULTY

### **Professors**

- Jerry Johnson: Administrative Law, Public Lands and Natural Resource Policy
- Franke Wilmer: International Organizations, International Law, Human Rights, Ethnic Conflict, Peace Studies

### **Associate Professors**

- Eric Austin: Organization Theory, Public Policy, Management, Administrative Ethics
- Elizabeth Shanahan: Public Administration Theory, Research Methods, Public Budgeting, Policy Analysis and Environmental Politics
- Paul Lachapelle: Extension Community Development Specialist



- David Parker: American Political Institutions, Political Parties, Campaigns, American Political Development
- Linda Young: International Political Economy, The Politics of Food and Hunger, Energy & Agricultural Trade Policy.
- Sarah Rushing: Political Theory, Feminist Theory

### **Assistant Professors**

- Eric Raile: Public Policy Analysis, Comparative Politics, Sustain-

*MPA students routinely participate in field research projects such as this winter use survey in the Gallatin National Forest.*