

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



The Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree at Montana State provides an education that enhances the professional competence of mid-career individuals and prepares pre-career students for entry level positions in the public, non-profit and private work sectors. The program provides a unique opportunity to pursue a course of study in a small group environment where students receive individual attention. Typical class size varies from 8-16 students.

## DEGREES OFFERED

### MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The MPA degree is a professional degree designed to prepare candidates for management and policy making positions in public sector agencies at the local, state and federal levels. The program stresses sound preparation in public management, personnel and financial administration. Further coursework is available in administrative law, leadership, program evaluation, local government and ethics.

Courses allow students to focus their studies on local government, administration of Native American affairs, education leadership, planning or other sub specialties. Practical experience is obtained through a supervised internship with a public or quasi-public agency.

A minimum of 36 semester credits, including a research paper and internship, is required.



DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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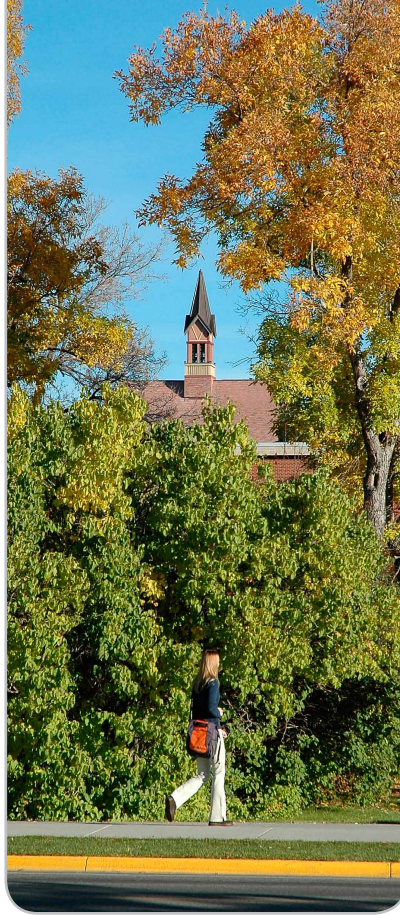
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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF GRADUATE EDUCATION





## ADMISSION

To be admitted to the MPA program, prospective degree candidates must have completed a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university with a 3.0 GPA (grade point average) during the last two years of their undergraduate education. A score of 500 on the Verbal Aptitude, or a combined score of 1,000 on the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), is expected. Applicants will also submit three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement describing how a MPA degree will contribute to their professional or career goals.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The curriculum is designed to provide a balance between conceptual knowledge of public administration and the acquisition of management and technical skills. The intended outcome of the MPA program is a skilled administrator who:

- Demonstrates awareness and knowledge of the political context of work in the public service;
- Understands and appreciates the theoretical foundations of public administration;

- Displays practical knowledge of all facets of public sector work;
- Exhibits technical competence; and
- Conducts oneself ethically, recognizing the broad responsibility toward serving the public interest in contrast to a more narrowly defined self-interest.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Department of Political Science offers a limited number of teaching assistantships, which are usually reserved for second year students. Teaching assistants receive a monthly stipend as well as a tuition and fee waiver. The Local Government Center periodically offers one research assistant position which carries a tuition waiver.

## FACULTY

### DEPARTMENT HEAD

Jerry Johnson

### PROFESSORS

Jerry Johnson - Administrative law, public lands and natural resource policy

Franke Wilmer - International organization, international law, human rights, ethnic conflict, peace studies

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Eric Austin - Organization theory, public policy, management, administrative ethics

Linda Young - International political economy, globalization and politics, the politics of food and hunger, research methods

### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Elizabeth Shanahan - Public administration theory, research methods, public budgeting, policy analysis, environmental politics

Sarah Rushing - Political theory, feminist theory

David Parker - American political institutions, political parties, campaigns, American political development



*Dan Clark, Director of the Local Government Center, speaking to a group of Montana mayors.*