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 a 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

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) earned during the last two years of their undergraduate education. A score of 150 on the Verbal Reasoning or a combined score of 300 on the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is expected. Because of the language inten-
sity of the MPA program, the verbal score is the more important of the Verbal and Quantitative sections. Applicants should also submit a Personal Statement. This Personal Statement is an opportunity for applicants to describe personal and professional objectives, research interests, applicable experience or any other information relevant to the admissions review. Lastly, applicants must submit three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant's ability to be successful as a graduate student.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The degree requirements given below are effective for students admitted to the program in the Fall Semester of 2010 or after. 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:

- PSCI 551: Quantitative Research Methods
- PSCI 552: Public Policy Processes
- PSCI 554: Foundations of Public Administration
- PSCI 555: Human Resources Management
- PSCI 557: Public Budgeting and Finance
- PSCI 558: Organization Dynamics
- PSCI 520: Leadership and Government Administration
- PSCI 560: Ethics and Public Service

Electives

Students will select three elective courses that support both their intellectual interests as well as their professional/career objectives. These three courses will be identified and selected in cooperation with either the MPA Director or the student's committee chair.

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

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

Assistant Professors

- Sarah Rushing: Political Theory, Feminist Theory

Visiting Assistant Professors

- Eric Raile: Public Policy Analysis, Comparative Politics, Sustainable Organizations

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