

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Citizens demand and deserve a first-class public sector, at the national, provincial, regional and local level. Although elected leaders determine policy and shape many events and outcomes, appointed officials play a critical role in policy formulation, implementation and management of public sector programs. A professional degree in public administration prepares a person for a career in public policy and public management. Public Administration graduates are also attractive to the for-profit sector and other employers because of their understanding of governance, management and leadership in complex organizations.

THE SCHOOL'S MISSION

To be a leading regional, national and international centre for teaching, research and community outreach in public policy and management in the public sector.

THE SCHOOL AND ITS PROGRAMS

The School of Public Administration is one of five professional units in the Faculty of Management. With a tradition dating back to 1936, the School is a major Canadian institution in its field. It is growing and diversifying, and is an exciting place to study. The five programs offered by the School provide a professional education essential to management careers in a modern public service.

The School offers 1 and 2-year Master of Public Administration degree and a 4-year program leading to a Master of Public Administration (MPA) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degrees, the latter from the Faculty of Law. As well the School, in partnership with the School of Information Management, offers a joint 3-year MPA/MLIS degree. Another offering is the Graduate Diploma in Public Administration, earned generally in 1 year after completion of nine core classes of the 2-year (eighteen class) MPA program. The four programs are available on a full- or part-time basis.

The School also offers a special part-time MPA (Management) program for

mid-career employees. It was established to prepare executives in public service for broader responsibility and is now being extended nationally and internationally in a distance - online format.

The School participates with other faculty units to deliver the four-year Bachelor of Management program, composed of classes in public administration, environmental studies, information management and business administration.

The faculty and staff are heavily involved in scholarly research and national and international consulting, and have close relations with professional societies. These activities benefit students in the classroom, on projects in the field, and as sources of income for student assistantships.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The public sector comprises governments and their agencies, from the international level to the local level. It also includes other types of publicly funded bodies.

The goals of governments are to serve and protect their citizens. As the world becomes more interdependent and public affairs more complex, the challenges of meeting those goals become greater.

Every government has two distinct "parts"- elected members who govern and a career bureaucracy that serves. Public servants make up the latter group.

Democratic governments are distinct from organizations in other sectors in several ways, including:

- the highest officials are elected by the public;
- the bureaucratic head of any organization in the sector reports to a group of elected persons (e.g. Cabinet, Municipal Council), generally through one of them;
- for most public bodies, taxation is the primary source of revenue; and
- the internal environment (visioning and goal-setting, decision-making, managing, accountability, relationships, and conduct) is different than in the private sector.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Public administration is the profession of those employed in government, the not-for-profit sectors, and the academic study of these sectors. Public policy and management are the two major elements of public administration. The School believes its graduates must understand and be able to practice both elements.

Employees of governments come from every academic and technical background. They range from generalists to scientific experts to technicians and support staff in hundreds of occupations. Their role is to serve their society with a high degree of professionalism, dedication and integrity.

A Canada-wide issue is managing the aging of employees in the public services and introducing "new blood". Demographics show that this is a time of

opportunity for bright, well-educated people entering the public service.

FACULTY

The School has seven full-time faculty, one limited-term faculty and seven adjunct professors, two professor emeritus, six part-time lecturers, and two support staff.

Faculty members have written, edited or co-edited over forty books plus innumerable book chapters and articles. They have been members of or served on commissions and task forces of many types at all levels of government, including Royal Commissions. They also have scholarly research and consulting projects that enrich classroom discussions and often involve students.

The faculty uses modern teaching styles, including practical field projects in federal, provincial and municipal government offices and Internet based materials.

STUDENTS

Our 120 full and part-time graduate students in the on-campus MPA program and approximately 100 part-time students in the online MPA(M) program come from across Canada and other countries. Their first degrees are in the arts, natural and social sciences, the humanities, and the professions. Any degree is appropriate.

The mean age of the students in the MPA program is 25 years. The recent gender mix has been half female and half male.

Mature students pursuing a degree program on a part-time basis enrich their classes because of their additional life and professional experiences.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The School assists its students to meet the financial obligations of the program in three ways: 1. The university graduate scholarships based on academic stand-

ing. 2. The Internship program, which was started in 1984. During the summer inter-session between the two years of study, students are employed in positions in the public sector. The School negotiates the position and tasks. The employer evaluates the student's performance. Students receive a class credit, full salary, and relevant experience. For the past five years, there have been more positions available than students to fill them. 3. The School offers financial assistance to students through assistantships. There are many teaching, research and project assistantships available each year.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Enrolment in the School is limited to approximately 45 FTE per year. In general, competitive applicants will have attained at least an upper second class standing (B+ average) in their undergraduate degree.

Approval of admission is based on an assessment of a student's previous academic work, professional experience and/or promise, letters of reference and a statement of intent.

Foreign applicants whose native tongue is not English must complete a TOEFL test and the score must be submitted to the School of Public Administration. Applicants must achieve a score of 580 or better to meet the requirements of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

International applicants must also submit the results of one of the following tests: the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT).

On the recommendation of the School the Faculty of Graduate Studies approves all students for study in the School. The School of Public Administration joins with the Faculty of Law to approve students for the MPA/LLB program and the School of

Information Management to approve students for the MPA/MLIS program.

EMPLOYMENT

Our graduates have an excellent record of establishing careers quickly. The School's reputation and close, positive relations with governments and other employers ensure career-setting employment opportunities.

INQUIRIES

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