T

he DPA is a practitioner-oriented degree that helps students develop the essential leadership, management, communication, and problem solving abilities necessary to succeed in today’s professional environment. The courses in the program are designed to suit the information and skill needs of professionals currently in the field. We build upon students’ experiences and promote an atmosphere of enthusiastic learning. Our faculty is devoted to the notion that learning is a life-long endeavor that challenges students to grow and develop into well-rounded individuals. Courses at the foundation and core levels, theoretical and methodological levels, and advanced/elective levels guide students through this growing process, allowing them to gain knowledge from expert faculty members in the field. Offered through the Department of Political Science of Valdosta State University.

Doctor of Public Administration

The DPA is for Management Careers in Governmental or Non-Profit Organizations and Agencies.

DPA Courses

Required courses are offered on a two-year cycle, with twelve semester-hours of core (including methodology) courses offered each fall and spring semester. Concentration courses will be offered each semester, including summer semesters.

Core Courses – 15 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 9000</td>
<td>Administration and Government</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 9010</td>
<td>Financial Management for Public and Non-Governmental Org.</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 9020</td>
<td>Managing Human Resources in Public and Non-Governmental Org.</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 9060</td>
<td>Information and Data Management</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM /SOCI 9070</td>
<td>Culture of Formal Work Organizations</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methods – 9 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 9030</td>
<td>Logic of Inquiry in Public Administration</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 9040</td>
<td>Research Methods in Public Administration</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM</td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM /PSYC 9050</td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration Area – 15 hours

Each student is to identify an area of concentration no later than upon completion of 18 hours of coursework. Once an area of concentration has been identified the student will work with her/his major advisor to develop a program of study, which will govern the remainder of the student’s coursework. The DPA Coordinator, the Head of the Department of Political Science, and the Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School must approve this program of study.

Guided Electives – 6 hours

Guided elective courses must be approved by the DPA Coordinator.

Capstone and Applied Project Courses – 9 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 9990</td>
<td>Capstone Seminar</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 9999</td>
<td>Final Project/Organizational Analysis</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Required for the Degree 54 hours

Course Delivery

Students will be required to attend orientation and seminars on-campus conducted over one weekend (Friday/Saturday) at the beginning of each fall and spring semester. The remainder of coursework will be conducted online, making the program available to working practitioners at distant locations.

Expected Outcomes

Recipients of the DPA degree will have:

- A comprehensive understanding of the career field.
- Basic skills and a broadened perspective required of managers/administrators.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Knowledge of current technology used in the field.
- Sensitivity to diverse groups.

Obtaining Information

Registration and other information may be obtained online or by calling the offices listed below.

University personnel are available to answer any questions you may have concerning the admissions procedure or the DPA program at the following numbers:

**Admission Information**

General Requirements for Admission to the Program are:

1. A master’s degree from an accredited or approved college or university.
2. A satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
3. An acceptable cumulative graduate grade point average.
4. A resume.
5. A career goal statement, and
6. Three letters of recommendation.

**Application Requirements**

Application materials may be obtained online or on campus from the Graduate School. To expedite the admissions process, applicants and official transcripts should be submitted directly to:

- The Graduate School
- Valdosta State University
- 1500 N. Patterson St.
- Valdosta, GA 31698-0005.

**Guided Electives – 6 hours**

Guided elective courses must be approved by the DPA Coordinator.

**Capstone and Applied Project Courses – 9 hours**

- PADM 9990: Capstone Seminar
- PADM 9999: Final Project/Organizational Analysis

**General Requirements for Admission to the Program include:**

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**Capstone and Applied Project Courses – 9 hours**

- PADM 9990: Capstone Seminar
- PADM 9999: Final Project/Organizational Analysis

**Total Required for the Degree** 54 hours
Faculty Information

An outstanding faculty serves the DPA program. All courses are taught by a well-qualified diverse faculty. Most faculty members in the program are housed in Political Science, but faculty members may also be drawn from related programs at VSU. Faculty members hold degrees from a wide variety of universities located around the nation. In addition, many of the faculty members have extensive experience in public and non-governmental agencies or in the military. All faculty members are committed to helping students succeed in the program.

The DPA program will allow you to explore advancing your level of knowledge in the field of public administration. The DPA blends theoretical learning with practitioner-oriented training to provide students with a well-rounded understanding of the public sector environment. Students can utilize this type of instruction in a variety of professional settings ranging from federal, state, and local government, to agencies and departments, to not-for-profit organizations. A seasoned faculty provides a high standard of teaching designed to broaden students’ methodological and analytical skills, while offering practical forums for the application of these skills.

The DPA program is an innovative program designed to meet the needs of professionals seeking advanced training in their field.

Valdosta State University is a Regional University of the University System of Georgia. It is an equal opportunity educational institution which does not discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or disability of the individual.