VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Updated 2026

Master of Public Administration Program (MPA)
Frequently Asked Questions

Q.) ***What are the admission requirements?***
A.) General requirements for admission are:
-A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
-Undergraduate GPA 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
-Submission of a resume
-Submission of a career goal statement
-Three letters of recommendation

Q.) ***How do I apply?***
A.) Prospective applicants complete the same application for admission to Valdosta State University graduate school that all other students submit. The application process is completely online. The application may be downloaded directly from the graduate school website at www.valdosta.edu/gradschool . If you have questions or concerns you may contact the graduate school by e-mail at gradschool@valdosta.edu or by phoning toll-free at 1.800.618.1878, locally at 229.333.5694, or by writing to the Graduate School, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698.

Q.) ***Once accepted, how will I register?***
A.) Students will be given further instructions once they have been admitted into the program. Course schedules and information about classes for the next semester may be obtained by accessing the VSU Registrar website at https://www.valdosta.edu/registrar/

Q.) ***How Do I Obtain Texts and Other Materials?***
A.) Texts and other required materials may be ordered online from the VSU Bookstore at https://valdosta.ecampus.com/

Q.) ***What is the cost for enrolling in the online program?***
A.) Current tuition costs may be obtained by accessing the VSU Bursary website at https://www.valdosta.edu/bursary

Q.) ***How many courses should I take each term?***
A.) Most students take from one course (three semester hours) to three courses (nine semester hours) per semester. The normal full-time student load will be three (nine semester hours) per semester

Q.) ***How long will it take to complete my degree?***
A.) Students who enroll in the program at the rate of nine semester hours per semester and successfully meet course requirements will be able to complete the requirements in four consecutive semesters. Students will be allowed to enroll at the beginning of any semester.

Q.) ***Will Valdosta State University limit the number of students that may enroll?***
A.) No. We restrict class size to about 25 students, but will run multiple sections when appropriate.

Q.) ***What are the computer requirements to complete this course?***
A.) Computer/Internet Access- The program requires students to have access to a computer capable of downloading course materials, including streaming video.
B.) Computer skills- Basic word processing and spreadsheet skills are required. Ability to use the Internet is a must.

Q.) ***What courses will be offered during any given semester?***
A.) All required courses in the program are offered on a regular cycle. PADM 7300 (Foundation Seminar, required for all students during their first semester) and PADM 7900 (exit requirement, taken during the student's final semester) are offered each semester.

Q.) ***I'm not sure if I can handle 3 courses. How much time should I expect to spend on each course?***
A.) This will vary from student to student and from course to course. The amount of time per course should not exceed that required in our more traditional courses, however. Students taking three courses and working full-time find themselves pushed, but most also find it manageable. If you are concerned about this, you may want to start part-time.

Q.) ***Will I have regular class meeting times?***
A.) There will be a regular schedule that must be met in terms of material completed by a given date, but there will not be a specific time you must be online. Some professors may request that you join a chat room at a given time, if you can do so.

Q.) ***Will I have an advisor?***
A.) Yes, each student will be assigned an advisor who will monitor her/his progress in the program. Advising will be conducted using e-mail or Microsoft Teams.

Q.) ***Will I have access to the library?***
A.) GALILEO, Georgia's cutting-edge Internet library access will be available to all students. GALILEO gives each student access to thousands of journals online, as well as the holdings of every unit in the University System of Georgia. Go to the VSU homepage, click on "library," and you may learn how to access GALILEO. In addition to journals and articles available on-line, students may request articles through VSU's Odum Library.

Q.) ***What if I have computer problems during the semester?***
A.) VSU's instructional technology personnel are available to assist you with any problems.

Q.) ***Is financial aid available for this program?***
A.) Yes. You may obtain information on financial aid by going to the VSU Financial Aid website at https://www.valdosta.edu/financial-aid/

Q.) What course load is considered full time in the MPA program?
A.) 9 hours per semester.

Q.) How many hours can be transferred in from another MPA program?
A.) 6 hours.

Q.) ***If transferring coursework into the program, how old can it be?***
A.) The coursework has to be within 7 years of the completion of our program (your graduation date).

Q.) How long does it take to come off of a probationary period?
A.) 9 graded hours with no grade below a B.

Q.) What are the concentrations?
A.) Our MPA program has three areas of concentration which are taught completely online: Public Policy, Public Sector Management, and Human Resource Management. All courses of a concentration must be approved by the student's advisor.

Q.) What are the graduation requirements?
A.) Program must be completed with all hours accounted for. Please refer to your program of study worksheet. (24 hours of core, 12 hours of concentration which is a total of 36 hours)

Q.) When do I need to submit an Application for Graduation?
A.) Applications for degree should be turned into the Registrar's office two semesters before expected graduation.

Q.) What is the Application for Graduation fee and who do I pay?
A.) Current graduation fee and payment maybe obtained by accessing the VSU Registrar website at https://www.valdosta.edu/registrar/

Q.) What is the main difference between Public Sector Management and Public Policy?
A.) Public Sector Management involves more of the context that management takes place in, and Public Policy focuses more on policies and the implications there of.

Q.) What are the types of occupations considered for each concentration (Public Policy & Public Sector Management?
A.) The Master of Public Administration degree is a generic management degree and there is not much of a difference in the types of occupations between the Public Policy concentration and the Public Sector Management concentration. Public Policy is sometimes considered more of a "Think Tank "position.

Q.) How many weeks are in a full-term semester?
A.) 15 weeks of courses and 1 week of testing to total 16 weeks

Q.) What is the minimum GPA score accepted for admittance to the MPA program**?**
A.) 2.5 but meeting the minimum does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

Q.) Are any MPA courses blocked for transient students?
A.) No

Q.) ***Can an undergraduate student take graduate courses in his last two semesters before he graduates? If so, how many?***

A.) Yes, but the student must meet specific requirements as listed in the Graduate Catalog. Their GPA has to be high enough and they must meet with their advisor. As to how many up to 9 hours but no more than 6 per/semester.

Q.) ***Can I be accepted into the MPA program prior to graduation or pending transcripts.***

A.) Yes, you can be accepted conditionally pending final transcripts.

Q.) What is the format for the online courses?

A.) The University System of Georgia (which VSU is a part) uses the Desire 2 Learn platform. Most courses will be accessible through myVSU's BlazeView.