



**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**  
CSU BAKERSFIELD™

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MPA Guide

## PROSPECTIVE STUDENT GUIDE

# MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,  
BAKERSFIELD

FALL & SPRING





# Prospective Student Guide

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# MPA Application Period & Contact Info

## Spring 2026:

**August 01, 2025 - November 30, 2025**

- Apply through: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
  - Online Application, official transcripts, resume, letters of recommendation, and statement of purpose must be submitted by November 30, 2025.
  - If you cannot provide all the documents above by the stated deadline, please apply for the next term.

## Fall 2026:

**October 01, 2025 - June 30, 2026**

- Apply through: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
  - Online Application, official transcripts, resume, letters of recommendation, and statement of purpose must be submitted by June 30, 2026.
  - If you cannot provide all the documents above by the stated deadline, please apply for the next term.

### MPA Director

Dr. Chandra Commuri, Ph.D  
Email: [ccommuri@csub.edu](mailto:ccommuri@csub.edu)  
Office: BDC 105A

### MPA Assistant Director

Dr. Creed Tumilson, Ph.D  
Email: [ctumlison@csub.edu](mailto:ctumlison@csub.edu)  
Office: BDC 118A

### BPA Graduate Programs Advisor

Luis Hernandez, M.P.A., MBA  
Email: [MPA@csub.edu](mailto:MPA@csub.edu)  
Office BDC 120A

### International Admissions Office

Email: [internationaladmission@csub.edu](mailto:internationaladmission@csub.edu)  
Phone: (661) 654-6113  
Website: <https://www.csub.edu/isp/contact-international-students>

### Financial Aid Office

Email: [finaid@csub.edu](mailto:finaid@csub.edu)  
Phone: (661) 654-3016  
Office: SA 114  
Website: [www.csub.edu/financial-aid](http://www.csub.edu/financial-aid)

# MPA Mission Statement and NASPAA Accreditation

The MPA program will foster and enhance critical thinking, communication, management, a public service perspective, and engagement in the policy process among present and future managers in government, nonprofit, and health care organizations within the San Joaquin Valley. The critical skills learned from this curriculum will ensure that managers in the government, nonprofit, and health care sectors exercise governance in an inclusive and socially responsible manner.

## MPA Student Learning Outcomes

### Communication and Relationship Management

The student will communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.

### Critical Thinking and Analytical Reasoning

The student will analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions.

### Management and Leadership

The student will lead and manage in public governance.

### Public Service Perspective

The student will articulate and apply a public service perspective.

### Policy Process Engagement

The student will participate in and contribute to the policy process

## Pi Alpha Alpha, Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration

Pi Alpha Alpha is the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. There are more than 160 chapters around the world at NASPAA member schools. Pi Alpha Alpha is run by *NASPAA: The Global Standard in Public Service Education* and is directed by the NASPAA. Committee members are appointed by the NASPAA President for terms up to three years.

Pi Alpha Alpha encourages and recognizes outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration. It fosters integrity, professionalism, and effective performance, promote the advancement of quality in the education and practice of the art and science of public affairs and administration. Membership identifies those with the highest performance levels in educational programs preparing them for public service careers.

Each spring, eligible CSUB MPA students are invited to join Pi Alpha Alpha. Generally, MPA students who have earned a GPA of 3.7 or above are eligible to be inducted. We hope you will be among them.

For more information visit: <http://pialphaalpha.org/>

# Application Requirements & Classification

The application process is as follows:

1. Complete the online application at <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>.
  - Upload your resume as part of the online application.
  - Upload your statement of purpose as part of the online application.
    - The statement of purpose should be no more than two pages.
    - Discuss your background and why you are pursuing a Master of Public Administration (MPA).
2. Provide two letters of recommendation (*Academic or Professional*) if your overall undergraduate GPA is below a 3.0.
  - Letters of recommendation can be requested through the online application.
  - Or emailed directly to [MPA@csub.edu](mailto:MPA@csub.edu)
3. \*Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended.
  - You do not have to provide transcripts if you graduated or are graduating from CSUB.
  - Any transcript from a college/university outside of the USA will require a course-by-course evaluation. This can be done with a company such as: [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org), please contact WES directly for instructions and costs.
4. International Students, please refer to the next page for additional requirements.

\*Request official transcripts to [MPA@csub.edu](mailto:MPA@csub.edu) or mail official transcripts to the following address:

**ATTN: BPA Graduate Programs Office**  
**College of Business & Public Administration**  
**Mail Stop: 20 BDC/ 120A**  
**9001 Stockdale Hwy.**  
**Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022**

Students are fully admitted into the MPA under one of the following classifications:

- **CLASSIFIED** Admission - Requires an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above.
- **CONDITIONAL** Admission - For students with an overall undergraduate GPA under 3.0. Conditional consideration is generally offered to baccalaureate students with GPA 2.75-2.99; However, Conditional admission is also considered for those applicants with significant professional career experience.

# International Student Requirements

After submitting your online application through [Cal State Apply](#), International Admission will email you items 1 and 2 from the list below.

## 1. Affidavit of Financial Support

- All international students must complete the CSUB Financial Affidavit.
- If you are on a government scholarship, complete this form. List your government as your sponsor. Your government does not need to sign.
- If you are on an athletic scholarship, list CSUB Athletics as your sponsor. CSUB athletics must not sign but provide your scholarship/award letter.

## 2. International Student Insurance Agreement Form

- All students must fill this out, even if your government or athletic scholarship covers your insurance. If you have dependents, they will be charged for health insurance.

## 3. Bank Statement and/or Proof of Financial Support:

- Bank statements in English reflect and certify \$34,000 in your or your sponsor's account (no older than six months).
- For students sponsored by a government, please provide your "Admissions Purposes Financial Guarantee."
- For students sponsored by Athletics, please provide your scholarship letter.

## 4. English Proficiency Requirements: One from below:

- TOEFL - score of 79 or above. Scores can be sent electronically to CSUB via school code 4110
- IELTS - score of 6.5 or above
- Duolingo English Test – Minimum score of 105 for GRAD
- PTE minimum score of 58

## 5. Clear Copy of Your Passport

- A clear copy of the picture page of your unexpired Passport

Once you have obtained documents 1 through 5, UPLOAD them through this link: <https://www.csub.edu/isp/document-upload>, or MAIL them to:

**ATTN: International Admissions  
California State University Bakersfield  
9001 Stockdale Highway  
Mail Stop: 71 ENT  
Bakersfield, CA 93311 United States of America**

# MPA Admission Decision Timelines

Admission decisions are made by the MPA Director and are distributed to students at the email address provided during the application process.

Students are admitted into the MPA program under one of the following classifications:

- **CLASSIFIED** Admission - Requires an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above.
- **CONDITIONAL** Admission - For students with an overall undergraduate GPA under 3.0. Conditional consideration is generally offered to baccalaureate students with GPA 2.75-2.99; However, Conditional admission is also considered for those applicants with significant professional career experience.

## Fall 2026 Admission Timelines

<b>Application completed by:</b>	<b>Program admission decision by:</b>
March 31, 2026	April 30, 2026
April 28, 2026	May 28, 2026
June 3, 2026	July 3, 2026
June 30, 2026 (deadline)	August 1, 2026

## Spring 2026 Admission Timelines

<b>Application completed by:</b>	<b>Program admission decision by:</b>
October 1, 2025	October 31, 2025
November 1, 2025	December 1, 2025
November 30, 2025 (deadline)	December 19, 2025

# MPA Program Curriculum

All admitted students must complete the following courses:

## Foundation Courses

*(2 may be taken as an undergraduate student, 6 units)*

1. **PPA 4010** - Analytical Methods in Administration
2. **PPA 4038** - Public Policy-Making Process
3. **PPA 5000** - Survey of Public Administration
4. **PPA 5020** - Program Evaluation

## Core Courses

*(All 6000-level courses require Classified standing)*

1. **PPA 6100** - Public Human Resources Administration
2. **PPA 6110** - Public Finance & Budgeting
3. **PPA 6520** - Public Management & Organizational Change
4. **PPA 6530** - Policy Analysis
5. **PPA 6990** - Case Study (or **PPA 6980** - Master's Paper)
6. **PPA 6860** - Internship – Should not be taken during the first semester.
  - For an internship waiver, please refer to the next page.

## Elective Courses

- All admitted students are required to take 3 elective courses in addition to the courses listed above (may be 5000 or 6000-level). These are TBA and may be taken Fall, Spring or Summer.
- Up to 6 graduate units may be transferred from other institutions.
  - Transfer courses require a course description and/or syllabus for evaluation before they can be applied as a course requirement.
- Most courses are in the evening, and some are on Saturday mornings to accommodate working students.

## Course Load

MPA students may take courses at their own pace. To be considered a full-time student, you must enroll in at least two courses per semester. To graduate within 2 years (4 semesters) you should enroll in 3 courses per semester. MPA students *may not take 4 or more courses* (12 units or more) without expressed approval of the MPA Director.

## Grade Point Average (GPA)

MPA students must maintain an overall 3.00 GPA per semester enrolled. MPA Students must receive a grade of “B” or better in each foundation and core course. Students must retake foundation and core courses with grades of B- or lower. The MPA Director may approve exceptions to this rule in extenuating circumstances.

# Internship Waiver Guidelines

All MPA students are required to fulfill the internship requirement to graduate. However, the internship requirement may be waived if a student meets **one** of the following criteria:

1. At least one year of experience in a supervisory or managerial role in a public, healthcare, or nonprofit organization.
2. At least one year of experience as a specialist whose work is important to the public sector (example: consultant to a city department).
3. At least one year of experience in a supervisory or managerial role in the private sector. The student should show clearly how public administration education enabled him/her to become a better professional.

## **Request a waiver:**

- Email a letter to request the internship waiver:
  - Address the letter to:  
  
Dr. Commuri  
MPA Program Director  
Department of Public Policy & Administration  
California State University, Bakersfield
  - The letter should include the following information:
    - Request a waiver and briefly explain why you are qualified for the waiver (including number of years of professional experience and types of organizations where you gained such experience).
    - Describe recent positions, duties, projects, and tasks to show that:
      - You have managed people, budgets, or projects
      - You have worked in teams that required the exercise of your professional knowledge.
- Attach a current resume to your email:
  - Your resume should include at least the following sections: your contact information, education, work experience, skills summary, and at least three references with their detailed contact information (including name, title, affiliation, street address, phone, fax, and email).
- Email the letter and your resume to Dr. Chandra Commuri at:  
[ccommuri@csub.edu](mailto:ccommuri@csub.edu)

# Academic Roadmaps

2-Year Fall Admission	
Year One	Year Two
Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 4010</li> <li>• PPA 4038</li> <li>• PPA 5000</li> </ul>	Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6110</li> <li>• PPA 6530</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>
Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 5020</li> <li>• PPA 6100</li> <li>• PPA 6520 <b>or</b> Elective</li> </ul>	Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6990</li> <li>• PPA 6520 <b>or</b> Elective</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>
Summer Semester is <b>optional</b> , and those interested in taking summer courses should discuss their roadmap with the MPA Director or Graduate Programs Coordinator	

3-Year Fall Admission		
Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 4010</li> <li>• PPA 5000</li> </ul>	Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6110</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>	Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6530</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>
Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 4038</li> <li>• PPA 5020</li> </ul>	Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6100</li> <li>• PPA 6520</li> </ul>	Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6990</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>
Summer Semester is <b>optional</b> , and those interested in taking summer courses should discuss their roadmap with the MPA Director or Graduate Programs Coordinator		

2-Year Spring Admission	
Year One	Year Two
Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 4010</li> <li>• PPA 4038</li> <li>• PPA 5000</li> </ul>	Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 5020</li> <li>• PPA 6520</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>
Summer Semester is <b>optional</b> , and those interested in taking summer courses should discuss their roadmap with the MPA Director or Graduate Programs Coordinator	
Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6100</li> <li>• PPA 6110</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>	Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6990</li> <li>• PPA 6530</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>

3-Year Spring Admission		
Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 4010</li> <li>• PPA 5000</li> </ul>	Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 5020</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>	Spring Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6100</li> <li>• PPA 6520</li> </ul>
Summer Semester is <b>optional</b> , and those interested in taking summer courses should discuss their roadmap with the MPA Director or Graduate Programs Coordinator		
Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 4038</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>	Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6110</li> <li>• PPA 6530</li> </ul>	Fall Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPA 6990</li> <li>• Elective <b>and/or</b> Internship</li> </ul>

# Tuition and Fees Per Semester

Tuition is expected to increase by 6% annually for the next five years, starting with the 2024-2025 academic year.

For more information, please visit the [Financial Aid Office](http://www.csub.edu/financial-aid) at [www.csub.edu/financial-aid](http://www.csub.edu/financial-aid) or contact Financial Aid at 661-654-3016.

## 2025-2026 Academic Year Graduate Student Fees per Semester:

Item Fee	0 to 6.0 Units	6.1 and Above
Graduate Tuition/Fee	\$2,340.00	\$4,032.00
ASB Fee	237.20	237.20
Health Facility Fee	3.00	3.00
Health Service Fee	200.50	200.50
Instructional Related Fee	91.25	91.25
Runner Card Fee	6.00	6.00
Student Union/SRC Fees	460.05	460.05
Campus Programming Fee	25.00	25.00
Student Representation Fee	2.00	2.00
<b>TOTAL FEES</b>	<b>\$3,365.00</b>	<b>\$5,057.00</b>

If you are **not a resident of California**, you must add \$444.00 for each unit you take to your tuition total.

### Example Non-Resident Tuition for a graduate who wishes to register for three classes (9 units):

- Total California Resident Tuition and Mandatory Fees: \$5,057.00
- Multiply the number of units (9) by \$444 Non-Resident Fee = \$3,996.00
- Add the three amounts together for a total = \$9,053.00

Students may be exempt from non-resident classification if they are a teacher, military service member, California high school graduate who has attended a California high school at least three years, or a dependent child of California residents. If so, you must apply for an exemption every semester through Enrollment Services.

# Campus Map

Interactive map: <https://maps.csub.edu/>

