

The graduate program in **Public Policy** at UMass Dartmouth is an interdisciplinary academic department that, utilizing an online course format, offers a Master of Public Policy (MPP) program, as well as graduate certificates in environmental policy, educational policy, and public management. All of the Department's programs of study emphasize core instruction in the practical and applied dimensions of policymaking.

Utilizing an interdisciplinary approach, the academic offerings of the department emphasize the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills to policy arenas including management, planning, political leadership, program evaluation, and policy analysis.

Graduates are prepared for a wide variety of employment opportunities and career advancement, including working in government, in private and non-profit sectors, in research organizations, and as consultants worldwide.

Programs Offered

The Department of Public Policy offers several online graduate program options to its students. These include three graduate certificate programs, a Master of Public Policy (MPP) program, and a joint Juris Doctor (JD)/MPP program associated with UMass School of Law.

- The online **Master of Public Policy (MPP)** is the Department's signature degree, caters to students seeking employment in state, federal, and municipal governments, non-profit organizations, and business, trade, and labor associations.
- The online **Education Policy Graduate Certificate** offers students an excellent opportunity to develop both advanced knowledge and practical skills that can be applied in a variety of educational and policy settings.
- The online **Environmental Policy Graduate Certificate** offers an excellent opportunity to achieve advanced knowledge and professional certification in the formulation and implementation of policies that achieve sustainable operations.
- The online **Public Management Graduate Certificate** exposes students to the essential principles of public management within the context of public policy.

Related Options

MPP + JD

A joint degree program offered by UMass Law and the Department of Public Policy gives you the opportunity to enroll in the Master of Public Policy program and the Juris Doctor program simultaneously after completing your first year of law school.

The joint JD/MPP degree program lets you integrate advanced policy studies and a law school education in a structure that is compatible with part-time as well as full-time study.

Sample Careers

- Urban and Regional Planners (median salary \$71,490)
- Lawyers (median salary \$119,250)
- Town Managers (average salary \$92,346)
- Public Policy Analysts (average salary \$59,312)
- Campaign Managers (average salary \$60,329)
- State Representatives (average salary \$45,583)

Admissions Info

A completed graduate certificate waives the GRE requirement, letters of recommendation, personal statement, resume, and transcript retrieval for those considering application to the Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program. In addition, each class counted towards the graduate certificate will be accepted into the MPP program (for certificate holders who apply and are accepted into the MPP program) so long as the student earned a 3.0 (B average) or higher in the course.

Students successfully completing the graduate certificate who wish to apply to the MPP program are expected to achieve a B (3.0) or higher in each of the four (4) courses taken to comprise the graduate certificate program. Students who fail to meet this minimum requirement are unlikely to be admitted to the MPP program. Apply to the MPP now at Online & Continuing Education.