The new Master of Public Administration (MPA) Municipal Manager’s Track

UMass Boston’s John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

Are you ready to make a difference?

The face of public service in Massachusetts is changing. 20-25% of city managers and top administrative officers are expected to retire in the next decade, creating a leadership void across the 351 local governments in the Commonwealth.

The municipal manager’s track of UMass Boston’s MPA program is designed to train the next generation of leaders in local government and grassroots public service, providing the credentials needed to excel in this in-demand field.

- An 18-month program designed for working adults, with evening classes and occasional weekend seminars
- Interdisciplinary courses focus on essential real-world skills and theoretical foundations, helping students gain the analytical, technical, and leadership expertise necessary for effective public management
- Our cohort model allows students to receive mentorship not only from our award-winning faculty, but from diverse peers within their cohort
- An experiential learning capstone allows students to choose a project in the field to test and apply theories learned in the classroom
- Affordable tuition at Boston’s only public research university
- Ranked as one of the top 100 MPA programs in the country by U.S. News and World Report

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The Curriculum

The 18-month, 36-credit MPA program consists of evening and weekend courses. Students in the municipal management track will complete 12 credits of core courses from the existing MPA program, 12 credits in the municipal management track, 6 weekend intensive workshops (6 credits), and a final 6-credit experiential learning capstone.

Courses include

- Public Management
- Information Management and Technology for Municipal Managers
- Analytic Skills for Policy Analysis
- Public Budgeting and Financial Management
- Human Resources Management for Municipal Managers

New electives designed specifically for the municipal manager’s track address

- Strategic Management and Leadership
- Public Accounting and Financial Reporting
- Issues in Massachusetts Local Government Law
- Collaborative Governance
- Public Affairs Dispute Resolution: Theory, Research. and Practice
- Internship in Municipal Management

Hands-on policy workshops focus on

- Systems Thinking Approaches
- Municipal Government
- Ethics and Public Policy
- Excel and Data Management
- Media and Public Policy

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