

# MPA Mission and Goals

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The Master of Public Administration program prepares entrepreneurial and innovative public service leaders and executives to be effective and successful in an increasingly complex and dynamic world and to effectively and ethically lead and manage dynamic public service organizations.

The student learning outcomes for the MPA/EMPA:

- Lead and manage in public service organizations and settings in entrepreneurial and innovative ways.
- Engage in sophisticated decision making, grounded in disciplined analytical and critical thought, to effectively address the long term needs and interests of communities, organizations, and their stakeholders.
- Understand the process as well as content dimensions of problem analysis and resolution and make effective use of state-of-the-art administrative and management practices and methods, including the effective use of technology.
- Communicate effectively, verbally and in writing.
- Exhibit competence in understanding and addressing the ethical dimensions of public service leadership and management.
- Understand the wide variation that exists in the principles, cultures, and practices of organizations and communities from different parts of the world, and the implications of this variation for effective public service leadership.
- Understand the value of diversity and inclusion and exhibit competence in ethical, effective, culturally competent leadership and management.
- Demonstrate self-confidence and capacity to deal with dynamic, complex, and ambiguous community problems and issues.
- Have the capacity to work effectively in collaboration with others through teams, alliances, and networks to achieve results.

As a program housed in an urban metropolitan public university, our MPA exists to meet the needs of those who aspire to be effective leaders and managers in public service organizations and, by extension, the organizations and communities in which they serve. We serve students at all stages of their careers, from pre-service to highly experienced, and we particularly emphasize serving the needs of experienced mid-career adult learners who are currently employed in the nonprofit, government, and health care organizations of our region.

Our mission reflects our commitment to provide a world-class graduate education to students. It is our intent that our mission and goals advance the following public service values:

- Effective public service professionals exhibit the highest level of professional competence and performance in their work, and ensure that the needs of all citizens and constituents are addressed as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- Effective public service professionals understand and maintain the public's trust through ethical and effective leadership and management, and exhibit the highest levels of transparency and accountability in all that they do.
- Effective public service professionals are respectful of and responsive to the needs of all citizens of the communities they serve, ensuring that they and their organizations exhibit the highest high standards of inclusion, fairness, equity, and accountability.
- Effective public service professionals are prepared to lead and serve in an increasingly diverse local, regional, and global environment.
- Effective public service professionals are entrepreneurial and innovative in addressing the increasingly complex and demanding challenges confronting the communities and organizations they serve.

Furthermore:

- An effective urban public university MPA program is highly responsive to, and engaged with meeting, the needs of the community in which it serves. It programs actively and effectively to attract students from its community and engages them in helping to meet the community's public service challenges.
- The UMKC MPA experience will be transformative, effectively preparing its students to succeed in public service careers and roles of significance and impact in all three sectors.