Required Courses for the MPA

PPA 500–Foundations of Public Policy and Administration (3)
Concepts of the discipline; fundamentals of public organization theory, policy formulation and analysis, and administrative and management processes; managing the public interest; and ethics in government.

PPA 555–Government Budgeting and Finance (3)
Prerequisites: PPA 518 or ECON 101 or ECON 300 or equivalent with a grade of "C" or better. Presents the major concepts and skills associated with budget preparation for all levels of government. Topics include: budget processes and formats, basic principles of government accounting, revenue, and capital budgeting

PPA 577–Public Sector Human Resources Management (3)
Historical development of civil service/merit system; laws which affect operations of personnel system; analysis of the various components of a personnel system; impact of labor negotiations; role of personnel system as a change agent.

PPA 660–Seminar in Organization Theory and Behavior (3)
Examination of theories of organizations and behavior of members therein. Among the subtopics: generalist management, bureaucracy, organization structure and design, systems theory, motivation, leadership, decision-making, group and team dynamics, power and conflict, culture, organization change and development.

PPA 670–Policy Issue Analysis (3)
Introduces theories and approaches to policy analysis. The core of the course follows the policy analysis cycle and includes: problem recognition, problem definition, development of alternative solutions, analysis of alternatives, selection of policy options, policy implementation and evaluation.

PPA 696–Research Methods in Public Administration (3)
Prerequisite: PPA 517 or STAT 108 or equivalent with a grade of "C" or better. Covers the techniques of public sector research. Topics include research design, survey research, and statistical analysis.

PPA 697–Directed Research (1-3)
Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy, completion of required MPA courses, consent of instructor.