

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) – Catalog Year 2025-2026

FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Public Administration degrees allow students to engage with communities in building their future. Specifically, we prioritize commitments to public and social issues, develop the capacity for organizations to help individuals reach their goals, and allow you to hone your own skills for leadership, management, collaboration, budgeting, and evaluation. Coursework explores the history and values of public service, while building real-world skills in areas such as managing people and resources, designing and evaluating programs, conducting human resources functions, collaborating with others and across sectors, making ethical decisions and communicating effectively in diverse environments. Major courses are offered primarily online, although students may complete non-major courses in-person, online, or through a combination of both. Students may also choose to earn one or more of the following certificates: Leadership, Equity, Advocacy and Policy, Strategic and Collaborative Management, and/or Public and Nonprofit Management. Highly qualified, eligible undergraduate students are provided with the unique opportunity to begin working on their Master of Public Administration or Master of Public Policy degree as an undergraduate in our Pathways BA/MPA or BA/MPP program.

CU DENVER ACADEMIC ADVISING

Advisor: SPA Academic Advising

Email: SPA.Advising@ucdenver.edu

Phone: 303-315-0021

Office Location: 1380 Lawrence St., Suite 525, Denver, CO 80204

Advising Hours: By appointment

How to schedule an advising appointment:

Current undergraduate public administration students can schedule an academic advising appointment through our online scheduling system. Prospective students, students wishing to change their major to public administration, and those interested in public administration can email spa.advising@ucdenver.edu for an advising appointment.

COURSEWORK THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The following is a “bucket” of requirements students can complete prior to transferring to CU Denver, including equivalent Colorado Community College System (CCCS) courses. To determine the equivalencies of courses to be completed at non-CU Denver institutions, students can visit www.transferology.com. It is critical students connect with a CU Denver academic advisor to ensure planned courses will transfer and apply to CU Denver degree requirements. All non-CU Denver coursework must be completed with a C- or better to be eligible for transfer.

Students interested in completing an Associate (A.A. or A.S.) Degree or a [Colorado Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement or Degree with Designation \(DWD\)](#) must work with their community/junior college academic advisor to create an academic plan that accounts for all degree or transfer articulation agreement requirements. Colorado Community College Students may also explore the option to complete [Reverse Transfer](#) at CU Denver.

CU Denver Requirements	CU Denver Credits	CCCS Equivalent Courses & Notes	CCCS Credits
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40		
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3	ENG 1021	3
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3	ENG 1022	3
Mathematics	3 - 4	GT-MA1 (MAT 1240 or MAT 1260 recommended)	3-4
Arts	3	GT-AH	3
Humanities	3	GT-AH or GT-HI	3
Behavioral Sciences	3	GT-SS	3-4
Social Sciences	3	GT-SS or GT-HI*	3-4
Natural/Physical Science with lab	4 - 5	GT-SC1	4-5
Natural/Physical Science without lab or Math	3 - 5	GT-SC2 or GT-MA1 (except the course used for Core Math) or GT-SC1	3-5
International Perspectives	3	Additional GT-AH, HI, SS* (see note below)	3
Cultural Diversity	3	To be completed at CU Denver. This requirement must be completed with an upper-division course and CCCS courses will not apply.	
Requirements continued on following page			
SPA Graduation Requirements	6-16		

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SPA Foreign Language	0 - 10	e.g., SPA 1012 or ASL 1122 Students have several options to fulfill this requirement. Please consult a CU Denver SPA Academic Advisor.	
SPA Social Sciences	6	Any two additional SS3 courses.	
General electives	4-30		
Electives		<i>Students select any approved course that will transfer to CU Denver and/or to help them complete their associate's degree. Students are encouraged to use Transferology to check transferability. The BA in Public Administration will accept up to 30 credits of CTE coursework in EMS, FST, or LEA subject areas.</i>	
Maximum Applicable Transfer Credits Recommended:	60	<i>Depending on foreign language completion, students will have varying amounts of general elective credit remaining at CU Denver.</i>	

***The applicability of Guaranteed Transfer (GT Pathways) courses to specific CU Denver Core Curriculum requirements requires completion of a block of five courses: two GT-AH course; one GT-HI course; one GT-SS course; and one additional GT-AH, GT-HI, or GT-SS course.**

SAMPLE PLAN – COURSEWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT CU DENVER

Based on successful completion of 60 applicable transfer credits and the complete “bucket” of requirements outlined above, students would have the following requirements remaining to complete at CU Denver. At CU Denver, students must tailor this plan based on the evaluation of previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, individual preferences related to course load, summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, or add-on programs such as minors, concentrations, or double-majors.

Note: this plan assumes students have completed the SPA Foreign Language proficiency requirement. Students who have not fulfilled this requirement must work with a CU Denver SPA Academic Advisor to modify this plan. (Students must demonstrate foreign language proficiency through a 2nd semester college-level course equivalent (e.g., SPA 1012 or ASL 1122), proficiency testing through CU Denver’s Department of Modern Languages, or submitting their high school transcript demonstrating completion of a 2nd year (Level II) high school course with a minimum grade of “C-” (1.7) in the 2nd semester of the 2nd year). Students are strongly encouraged to submit their high school transcripts during the admission process for quick evaluation of foreign language completed in high school.

This sample plan will adjust accordingly depending on what electives a student completed while at community college. Students will work directly with their academic advisor to determine how many general electives they have left once they are admitted to CU Denver. The number of general electives can also change depending on whether the students has completed the SPA Foreign Language requirement. While not required, students are encouraged to pursue a minor or concentration as a way to structure their general electives. Common minors include Business, Communication, English, Ethnic Studies, History, Human Development & Family Relations, Law Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Spanish. Students may complete none or many minors that fit within their remaining degree requirements. Public Administration students have the option to declare a concentration in Nonprofit Management.

Year Three	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS
	PUAD 1001	3	PUAD 2002	3
	PUAD 3002	3	PUAD 3001	3
	PUAD Elective	3	PUAD 3600	3
	CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity ^C	3	PUAD Elective	3
	General Elective/Core Requirement (if necessary)	3	PUAD Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	15	Total Credit Hours	15
Year Four	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS
	PUAD 4002	3	PUAD 4220	3
	PUAD 4003	3	PUAD 4941	3
	PUAD 4011	3	PUAD Elective	3
	PUAD 4939 Internship ^{PE}	3	PUAD Elective	3
	Upper-division General Elective	3	General Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	15	Total Credit Hours	15

^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced

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GENERAL PROGRAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

The following program requirements are based on degree requirements for the current Catalog year at CU Denver and are subject to change. Students are responsible for completing degree requirements based on the Catalog year for which they are admitted.

All CU Denver Public Administration students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours.
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA).
3. Complete all college and major requirements.
4. Residency: Complete a minimum of 30 hours in residence at CU Denver.
5. Terminal Residency: 21 out of the last 30 hours in residence at CU Denver.

Students are responsible for meeting with the academic advisor in their department to confirm major requirements. Students completing the Public Administration degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Complete 34-38 credit hours of CU Denver Core Curriculum coursework.
2. Complete 35-48 credit hours in general electives, which may include minor coursework (the number of general electives may vary).
3. Complete all PUAD major requirements, including PUAD 4939 Internship.
 - a. A letter grade of C- or better is required for all courses counted towards the PUAD major.
4. Complete a minimum 45 credit hours of upper-division (3000-level or above) coursework.

Courses	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information.		
Required CU Denver Core Curriculum Coursework	34-38	CU Denver Core Curriculum
School of Public Affairs Graduation Requirements	6-16	
Additional Social Sciences	3	SPA students must complete a total of 3 Social Science courses from the Core
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Foreign Language	0-10	Through second semester proficiency. May be fulfilled via high school coursework, college coursework, or foreign language proficiency.
Required PUAD Coursework	48	
PUAD 1001: Why We Care About Government, Nonprofits, and the Public Good	3	This course also fulfills a SPA Social Science Core course
PUAD 2002: Policy and Advocacy	3	
PUAD 3001: Project Management and Program Evaluation	3	
PUAD 3002: Organizational and Strategic Management	3	
PUAD 4002: Leading and Engaging for the Public Good	3	
PUAD 4220: Human Resources and Talent Management	3	
PUAD 4003: Strategic Communications for Public Engagement	3	
PUAD 3600: International and Global Organizations	3	
PUAD 4011: Community Resilience, Climate, and Emergency Response		
PUAD 4939: Internship (required for all Public Administration majors)	3	All Public Administration Majors must work with the Experiential Learning Center to enroll in an internship for credit. The internship requirement may be waived, depending on prior public administration experience. If the internship is waived, students take an additional Public Administration elective in place of the internship.
PUAD 4941: Integrating Professional Public Administration	3	This project-based course is to be completed in the student's final semester of their bachelor's degree.

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Public Administration Electives: students must complete five of the following electives. Up to three of the five electives may come from other departments with approval from your academic advisor. Elective course availability will change from semester to semester. More electives may be available that are not listed here.	15	
PUAD 3005: Collaboration Across Sectors	3	
PUAD 3110: Seminar in Nonprofit Management	3	
PUAD 3400: What Communities Tell Us: Stake Holders, Public Opinion, and Community Feedback	3	
PUAD 3500: Managing and Leading in Environmental Organizations	3	
PUAD 4005: Human Rights and Social Equity	3	
PUAD 4006: Organizational Development	3	
PUAD 4008: Current Issues in Public Sector Organizations	3	
PUAD 4009: Human Services Organizations	3	
PUAD 4020: Social Entrepreneurship	3	
PUAD 4140: Nonprofit Financial Management	3	
PUAD 4160: Nonprofit Boards and Executive Leadership	3	
PUAD 4220: Human Resource and Talent Management	3	
PUAD 4260: Managing for Social Equity	3	
PUAD 4325: Public Private Partnerships	3	
PUAD 4440: Negotiation and Conflict Resolution	3	
PUAD 4600: Special Topics in Public Administration	3	
PUAD 4628: Social Problems and Policies in Urban Environments	3	
PUAD 4630: Economic Development	3	
PUAD 4638: Colorado Politics, Policy, and Administration	3	
PUAD 4995: Global Study Topics	3	
General electives	35-50	The actual number of general elective credits will vary greatly between students, depending on transfer credit, minors, foreign language proficiency, and course choice.