



What Can You Do with a Public Administration Degree? Careers & Sample Salaries

The public administration curriculum at Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) prepares students for management and leadership roles across a wide range of careers spanning all levels of government, the nonprofit sector, international organizations, academia, and even the private sector.

Public administration is a critical component of careers in all levels of government (federal, state, and local), nonprofit organizations, and private companies. It focuses on effectively managing and supporting programs that serve the public, such as delivering services to citizens and working with the community, while upholding policy compliance and optimizing the allocation of resources. **Public administrators play a vital role in the daily lives of citizens and are an important part of the communities they serve.**

Public administration graduates are prepared to lead programs and organizations that deliver essential services and improve community life. They pursue careers across government, nonprofit, and private organizations in roles such as:

- **Senior Management**, such as executive director, chief executive officer, and operations manager
- **Program and Service Delivery**, such as program coordinator, project manager, and service manager
- **Finance and Budgeting**, such as budget analyst and financial manager
- **Human Resources and Organizational Development**, such as employment manager and HR specialist
- **Community Engagement and Public Impact**, such as community relations, outreach, and social responsibility roles

GOVERNMENT SECTOR

The government sector consists of nearly 90,000 federal, state, and local governments in the U.S. and provides basic government services in areas such as:

- City/Town Management
- Financial Management & Budgeting
- Human Resource Management
- Urban Planning
- Public Safety & Criminal Justice
- Emergency Services Management
- Education
- Public Transit & Transportation
- Environmental Management
- Parks & Recreation
- Health & Human Services

NONPROFIT SECTOR

The nonprofit sector is made up of organizations that are not-for-profit and non-governmental that focus mainly on social services and service areas such as:

- Administration & Management
- Fundraising / Development
- Community Outreach
- Social Action / Advocacy
- Grant Writing & Management
- Arts & Culture / Museums
- Animal Welfare
- Youth & Family Services

PRIVATE SECTOR

Private companies work with government, nonprofit, and community organizations in service areas such as:

- Philanthropy
- Policy Analysis
- Government Relations / Contracts
- Community Engagement
- Research
- Consulting



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
**School of Public Affairs
and Administration**

Typical Public Administration Positions & Sample Salaries

A public administration degree will prepare graduates for the following roles and salaries:

Position	Average Salary	What They Do
City / Town Manager	\$116,506	Responsible for the day-to-day activities of the municipality
County Commissioner	\$105,350	Act as the primary legislative and executive manager for a county
Administrative Service Manager	\$106,880	Plan, direct, and coordinate an organization's supportive services
Community / Social Services Manager	\$78,240	Plan, direct, and coordinate community outreach and services
Health Services Administrator	\$117,960	Manage the business side of healthcare facilities
Urban and Regional Planner	\$83,720	Optimize infrastructure in cities and counties
Budget Analyst	\$87,930	Organize finances by preparing, monitoring, and reviewing budgets
Grant Administrator	\$69,535	Manage the lifecycle of grant funding, from proposal to implementation
Human Resources Manager	\$102,569	Oversee an organization's workforce managing the employee lifecycle
Human Resource Specialist	\$72,910	Manage daily operations, including recruitment, onboarding, and records
Community Relations Director	\$81,351	Manage an organization's reputation and relationships with local entities
Policy Analyst	\$83,206	Research, evaluate, and develop policies that address societal issues
Emergency Management Director	\$86,130	Plan and direct crisis response, to prepare and recover from disasters
Labor Relations Specialist	\$93,500	Act as a mediator to negotiate contracts and settle disputes
Volunteer Director	\$76,855	Design and implement programs to recruit, train, and manage volunteers
Case Manager	\$96,169	Assess and facilitate services to meet an individual's health or social needs
Social Responsibility Manager	\$117,500	Develop strategies to ensure a company positively impacts society

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/>); Salary.com (<https://www.salary.com/>); Indeed (<https://www.indeed.com/>)

Rutgers SPAA: Where Service Meets Leadership

The School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) at Rutgers University–Newark offers a full complement of degrees from undergraduate to PhD as well as graduate and non-credit certificates focused on particular issues of public and nonprofit sector management and policy implementation. Learn more about how SPAA motivates students to choose careers in public service and administration through our innovative and comprehensive degree programs at <http://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/academics>.

Rutgers SPAA is consistently ranked as a top school for public management and leadership by *U.S. News & World Report* and accredited by NASPAA – the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration.



<http://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu>

MORE INFO ON
RUTGERS SPAA:

