What is Public Administration?

Serving the Public Good
Public administration is a field of study and a profession for individuals who wish to engage in meaningful public service, which, broadly defined, includes employees of government and not-for-profit organizations, elected officials, members of boards, community activists, volunteers, and philanthropists, among others.

Career Paths

What Can You Do with a Degree in Public Administration?
Public administrators and managers work in public sector departments and agencies at all levels of government (local, state, and federal) and nonprofit organizations in a wide range of service and interest areas. Knowledge and skills from the public administration field are easily transferrable to the private sector as well.

Careers in government or nonprofit organizations can be in or be related to the following service or interest areas and more:

- Administration / Management / Leadership of Public Organizations
- Arts and Culture
- Budgeting and Financial Management
- Community and Economic Development
- Education
- Emergency Management / Disaster Response / National Security
- Environmental Policy and Management
- Government Administration / Management / Leadership
- Healthcare Administration / Health Policy and Management
- Human Resources
- Information and Technology Management
- International Global Policy and Administration
- Law Enforcement / Public Safety
- Nonprofit Management
- Philanthropy
- Public Policy Analysis / Public Policy
- Public Works
- Social and Community Services
- Urban Policy

CAREER SUCCESS

Earning a degree in public administration from Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) prepares you for public management and leadership roles across a wide range of public service careers in the government and nonprofit sectors, which generally consist of government and publicly controlled and funded entities that deliver public programs, goods, or services. Learn more: spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/careers

As a highly ranked school dedicated to public service, Rutgers SPAA provides our diverse student body with a high-quality education, produces high-level scholarship, and serves our community in a thoughtful and fulfilling manner, fostering public understanding of societal issues and stimulating action for positive and ethical change.

Our graduates work in all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, academia, and the private sector. Read about what some of our alumni have done with their degrees from SPAA: spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/alumni-stories
Public Sector Positions
The government sector consists of nearly 90,000 federal, state, and local governments in the U.S. that provide basic services directly to the public. The nonprofit sector is made up of over 1.5 million not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations in the U.S. that focus mainly on social services. Positions of administrators in the public sector – in government or nonprofit organizations – can include:

- Budget Analyst
- Business Administrator
- Chief Executive / Operating Officer
- City / Town Manager
- Compliance Officer
- Community Engagement Director
- County Executive
- Government Relations Specialist
- Grant Writer
- Managing Director
- Policy Analyst
- Public Affairs Director
- Strategic Planning Director

Compensation
According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/ooh), individuals with these job titles can expect the following in compensation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compliance Officer</td>
<td>$38,320</td>
<td>$68,860</td>
<td>$109,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Administrator – Postsecondary</td>
<td>$54,680</td>
<td>$94,340</td>
<td>$190,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Management Director</td>
<td>$40,460</td>
<td>$74,420</td>
<td>$141,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director – Nonprofit</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$67,000</td>
<td>$127,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Manager</td>
<td>$66,870</td>
<td>$113,300</td>
<td>$201,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Relations Specialist</td>
<td>$19,270</td>
<td>$67,790</td>
<td>$123,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Aide</td>
<td>$17,510</td>
<td>$24,670</td>
<td>$98,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Services Manager</td>
<td>$58,680</td>
<td>$99,730</td>
<td>$182,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Community Services Manager</td>
<td>$40,720</td>
<td>$65,320</td>
<td>$111,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Regional Planner</td>
<td>$45,180</td>
<td>$73,050</td>
<td>$114,170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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.

Learn more about how SPAA motivates students to choose careers in public service and administration through our innovative and comprehensive degree programs:
spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/academics