

School of Public Affairs & Administration (SPAA)

Rutgers University-Newark

DataBook



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School of Public Affairs
and Administration

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Overview

School of Public Affairs and Administration Founded: 2006

Following decades of accomplishments via the Graduate Department of Public Administration at Rutgers University–Newark (RU-N), the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) was established in 2006. SPAA is organized as a discrete School, with administrative and policy control over all undergraduate and Master’s Program activities. The PhD program is organizationally part of the RU-N Graduate School.

Degree Programs: 8

- Bachelor of Arts in Public and Nonprofit Administration (BA)
- Master of Public Administration (MPA) *[42 credit hours]*
- 100% Online MPA *[42 credit hours]*
- Executive MPA (EMPA) *[30 credit hours]*
- 5-Year Dual Bachelor’s Degree / Master of Public Administration Degree (BA/MPA or BS/MPA)
- Juris Doctor / Master of Public Administration (JD/MPA)
- Master of Public Administration/Master of Accountancy (MACCY)
- PhD in Public Administration

Certificate Programs: 7

- Appreciative Inquiry for Strengths-Based Leadership and Innovation in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
- Budgeting and Financial Management *[graduate credit]*
- Certified Public Manager® Program (with the State of New Jersey) *[potential credit]*
- Healthcare Administration *[graduate credit]*
- Leadership of Public Organizations *[graduate credit]*
- Nonprofit Management *[graduate credit]*
- Public Performance Measurement *[graduate credit]*

Accreditation: Nationally

- NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration) *[accredited 1989]*

Rankings: Nationally

- *U.S News & World Report* *[Reported as 2021 rankings]*
- 13th in Public Management and Leadership
- 16th in Nonprofit Management
- 26th in Public Finance and Budgeting
- 34th in Best Public Affairs Programs

Admissions

Tables 1-3 show applications and admission figures for SPAA's MPA and PhD programs.

Table 1 – MPA Program: Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment			
Academic Year	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled
2019-2020	275	223	150

Table 2 – EMPA Program: Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment			
Academic Year	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled
Fall 2020	-	28	15

Table 3 – PhD Program: Applications, Admissions, and Enrollment			
Academic Year	Applied	Admitted	Enrolled
2007-08	53	13	7
2008-09	38	13	9
2009-10	45	10	7
2010-11	60	12	7
2011-12	59	14	6
2012-13	49	12	7
2013-14	59	10	6
2014-15	62	10	7
2015-16	45	10	6
2016-17	40	10	6
2017-18	58	10	6

Table 4 shows average GPAs for admitted graduate students in their most recent degree program. For master’s students, this is usually their undergraduate degree program. For PhD students, it is usually a prior master’s degree. Many of SPAA’s master’s students (especially EMPA students) are well into their careers, so their GPAs may be from a program many years earlier.

Table 4 – Prior GPAs of Admitted Students			
Academic Year	MPA	EMPA	PhD
2017-18	3.37	-	3.47
2016-17	3.28	-	3.33
2015-16	3.23	2.93	3.35
2014-15	3.22	3.07	3.30
2013-14	3.21	3.02	3.55
2012-13	3.18	3.00	3.31
2011-12	3.18	3.11	3.11
2010-11	3.16	2.49	3.48
2009-10	3.16	3.16	3.41
2008-09	3.14	3.19	2.88
2007-08	3.14	2.76	2.99

Enrollment & Demographics

Table 5 shows enrollment by degree program per fall semester.

Table 5 – Enrollment: by Degree Program and Fall Semester				
Fall Semester	BA	MPA	PhD	Total
Fall 2019	213	380	30	623
Fall 2018	291	398	29	718

SPAA has an incredibly diverse student body. In fact, no single ethnic group constitutes a majority of students.

Table 6 shows the ethnic makeup of students based on Fall 2019 enrollment across all programs.

Table 6 – Enrollment: by Ethnicity	
African American	35%
White	20%
Asian	19%
Hispanic (non PR)	16%
Puerto Rican	6%
Biracial	2%
Unknown / No Response	1%

Table 7 shows enrollment by gender based on Fall 2019 enrollment across all programs.

Table 7 – Enrollment: by Gender	
Female	67%
Male	32%

Table 8 shows enrollment by state (in-state in New Jersey or out-of-state) based on Fall 2019 enrollment across all programs.

Table 8 – Enrollment: by State	
In-State	71%
Out-of-State	29%

Outcomes

Degrees Conferred (Graduates)

Table 9 shows the number of degrees conferred (graduates) by program and academic year.

Table 9 – Degrees Conferred: by Program and Year				
Academic Year	BA	MPA	PhD	Total
2019-2020	130	146	2	278
2018-2019	73	143	3	219
2017-2018	50	150	6	206

Completion Times, Persistence, and Withdrawal

MPA Program

Table 10 shows the number of MPA students entering for academic year 2014-2015, and then shows the number of students graduating within two, three, or four years. The numbers are cumulative so that the number of students graduating in three years includes those graduating in two years. SPAA's MPA program is designed to be completed in five semesters based on full-time attendance, carrying a course load of 9 credits per semester.

Table 10 – MPA Program: Completion Times and Persistence					
Academic Year of Entry	Students Entering	Graduated within 2 years	Graduated within 3 years	Graduated within 4 years	Total Students Graduated and Persisting to Graduation
2014-2015	161	76	110	127	161

PhD Program

There is no required completion time for the PhD program. However, it is generally expected that full-time students should be able to complete the program in about four years. *Table 11* shows the number of students completing their degree in four years or less, as well as those who have completed their degree or withdrawn. In some cases, the percent of student who have completed their degree and the percent who have withdrawn does not add up to 100%. The difference in these cases is the percentage of each entering class who are still working on their degree after more than 4 years. Many of these longer-term students attend only part-time. (For example, in the fall semester of 2017, 65% of all doctoral students attended part-time.)

Table 11 – PhD Program: Completion Times, Persistence, and Withdrawal				
Fall Semester Entered	Students Entering	Completion within 4 years	Completed Total	Withdrawn
2014	7	43%	43%	0%
2013	6	50%	83%	0%
2012	7	14%	43%	14%
2011	6	17%	33%	67%
2010	7	29%	71%	29%
2009	7	86%	86%	14%

Employment Statistics

MPA Program

Table 12 shows the number of MPA graduates employed in the profession within six months of graduation by employment sector.

Table 12 – MPA Program: Employment by Sector (AY 2018-2019 Graduates)	
Government Sector	
Federal/National	6
State/Provincial	17
Local	6
International	6
Nonprofit Sector	
Domestic	15
International	0
Private Sector	
Research/Consulting	5
Non-Research	22
Unemployed	
Not Seeking Employment	2
Seeking Employment	17
Status Unknown / Undefined	50
Total	146

Table 13 shows a list of representative employers of SPAA MPA graduates.

Table 13 – MPA Program: Representative List of Employers		
Government/Public Sector	Nonprofit Sector	Private For-Profit Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Dept. of Labor • U.S. House of Representatives • U.S. Dept. of Defense, Transportation command • State of NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Judiciary ○ Division of Child Protection and Permanency ○ Army National Guard ○ Senate Majority Office • Metropolitan Transit Authority • National Pension Service, South Korea • Halifax County Public Health Service • City of North Wildwood • Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council • Rutgers University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys & Girls Club of Newark • New Jersey Institute of Technology • Newark Trust for Education • Well of Hope • Success Academy Charter School • Newark Debate Academy • Newark Beth Israel Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hackensack University Medical Center • RPM Development • Atlantic System Healthcare • Youman, Madar, and Fasano, LLC • Navis Healthcare • ADP

Table 14 shows representative job titles of graduates.

Table 14 – MPA Program: Representative List of Job Titles		
Government/Public Sector	Nonprofit Sector	Private For-Profit Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director • Program Coordinator • State Coordinator • City Administrator • Senior Funds Manager • Human Resources Director • Senior Director for Annual Giving • Research Associate • Director of Faculty and Staff Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Manager • Community Health worker • Director of Cultural and Human Resources • Manager of Operations and Facilities • Financial Literacy Advocate • Assistant Dean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Content Developer • Medical Technologist • Immigration Paralegal • Social Services Coordinator • IT Program Manager

Table 15 shows a representative list of capstone projects for SPAA MPA students.

Table 15 – MPA Program: Representative List of Capstone Projects
State vs. Local Control of New Jersey School Districts
Are Giving Motivations of Generation X Alumni Unique?
Analyzing the Effectiveness of Essex County Municipal Alliance Programs Targeting Underage Drinking
Immigration Reform and the Characteristics of Sanctuary Cities
Programs and Services for Children of Incarcerated Parents: Potential Pilot Program Elements for Bergen County, NJ
Measuring Performance of Municipal Government Air Quality Improvement Programs in Beijing, China
Relationships Between Federal and State Infrastructure Funding
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Older Adult Participation Rates
Shortages of Primary Care Physicians in the U.S.
Measuring the Impact of Local Revenue on Educational Equity
Is there a Correlation between Healthcare Disparities and the Digital Divide in Rural and Urban Areas?
Perceptions of Political Corruption and Voter Turnout
What is the Relationship between Women Empowerment Organizations and the Rate of Female Elected Officials
Measuring the Performance of Education through Music (ETM)
Examining the Relationship between Community Violence Exposure and Educational Performance

Table 16 shows a representative list of internship sponsors for SPAA MPA students.

Table 16 – MPA Program: Representative List of Internship Sponsors
Office of the U.S. Attorney General Newark Debate Academy NJ Transit Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies New York City Council Integrity House Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark Somerset County, Department of Human Resources Franklin Township, Department of Recreation Zonergy Company City of North Wildwood, NJ

Faculty

Table 17 – Faculty: Fields and Research Areas

Faculty Member	Rank / Title	Degree	Field	Research Areas
Domonic Bearfield	Associate Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Local Government Management, Public Management and Leadership
Leonor Camarena	Assistant Professor	PhD	Public Administration and Policy	Local Government Management, Nonprofit Management, Public Management and Leadership
Cleopatra Charles	Associate Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Nonprofit Management, Public Finance and Budgeting
Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia	Professor	PhD	Political Science	Homeland/National Security and Emergency Management, International Global Policy and Administration, Public Management and Leadership, Urban Policy
James Davy	Distinguished Practitioner in Residence	PhD	Public Administration	Local Government Management, Nonprofit Management, Public Management and Leadership, Public Policy Analysis, Urban Policy
Michael Dillard	Assistant Teaching Professor	EdD	Higher Education Administration	Public Management and Leadership
Rachel Emas	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	Public Affairs	Environmental Policy and Management, Public Management and Leadership, Public Policy Analysis
Kyle Farmbry	Professor	PhD	Philosophy	Public Management and Leadership
Madinah Hamidullah	Associate Research Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Public Management and Leadership
Diane Hill	Assistant Professor of Professional Practice	PhD	Public Administration	Public Management and Leadership
Jihye Jung	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	Public Affairs	Nonprofit Management, Public Management and Leadership
Weiwei Lin	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Nonprofit Management, Public Management and Leadership
Jiahuan Lu	Associate Professor	PhD	Policy Studies	Nonprofit Management, Public Management and Leadership
Lindsey McDougle	Associate Professor	PhD	Nonprofit Leadership and Management	Nonprofit Management, Public Management and Leadership
Charles Menifield	Dean	PhD	Political Science	Health Policy and Management, Public Finance and Budgeting, Public Management and Leadership, Public Policy Analysis

Stephanie Newbold	Associate Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Public Management and Leadership, Public Policy Analysis
Suzanne Piotrowski	Associate Professor	PhD	Political Science	Information and Technology Management, International Global Policy and Administration, Public Management and Leadership
Gregory Porumbescu	Assistant Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Information and Technology Management, Public Management and Leadership
Norma Riccucci	Board of Governors Distinguished Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Public Management and Leadership, Public Policy Analysis
Marilyn Rubin	Distinguished Research Fellow	PhD	Public Administration	Public Administration and Leadership
Alan Sadvnik	Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor	PhD	Sociology	Public Policy Analysis, Urban Policy
Basil Smikle Jr.	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	Education and Politics	Public Management and Leadership, Public Policy Analysis / Public Policy, Urban Policy
Frank Thompson	Board of Governors Distinguished Professor	PhD	Political Science	Health Policy and Management, Public Management and Leadership, Public Policy Analysis
Gregg Van Ryzin	Professor	PhD	Psychology	Nonprofit Management, Public Management and Leadership, Urban Policy
Lois Warner	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Nonprofit Management, Public Management and Leadership
Pengju Zhang	Assistant Professor	PhD	Public Administration and International Affairs	Public Finance and Budgeting, Public Policy Analysis
Yahong Zhang	Associate Professor	PhD	Public Administration	Local Government Management, Public Management and Leadership, Public Policy Analysis, Urban Policy

Teaching Inputs

Table 18 – Courses Taught by Full-Time Faculty (AY 2019-2020)

	On-Campus	On-Line	Total
	% Taught by Full Time Faculty	% Taught by Full Time Faculty	% Taught by Full Time Faculty
All Courses	43%	53%	48%
Core Courses	43%	53%	48%