
*The Department of Public Administration
And Urban Studies*

MPA ALUMNI SURVEY



ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY

Georgia State
University

Dear GSU MPA Graduate:

The MPA program at Georgia State University needs your help. Our MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). NASPAA is encouraging programs such as ours to conduct an outcome assessment to help evaluate, improve and assist in the accreditation and re-accreditation of programs in public administration. To this end, we are interested in your feedback on the quality of education and its contribution to your career. The information you provide us will be used to help us improve the program and will be used towards our re-accreditation effort. The programmatic information that is requested in the enclosed survey will be used for the following purposes:

- To evaluate and enhance the MPA program curriculum;
- To identify strengths and weaknesses of the support services available to MPA students; and,
- To improve the learning environment for all MPA students.

We are also in the process of developing specific databases for the program that contain information on alumni and current students. Completion of this project has exciting possibilities for us; some possible uses of the database(s) are:

- To provide more explicit sources for jobs and internships;
- To access specific areas of the work force for MPA student recruitment;
- To allow alumni to network among themselves;
- To start a mentoring program for MPA students and alumni; and,
- To establish an active and informed advisory board for the GSU MPA program.

The attached survey combines the requests for job information and an evaluation of our MPA program. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary; however, the success of this project is dependent upon your participation. This project is designed to help us enhance the quality of our MPA program. *All information collected as part of the database and program evaluation remains confidential and will only be used for department purposes.*

On behalf of the entire MPA program faculty, I thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Nigro, Chair
Department of Public Administration and
Urban Studies

SECTION A: EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

QUESTIONS 1-11 PERTAIN TO YOUR CURRENT JOB

1. How would you describe your current job situation?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed full-time | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, but not seeking employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed full-time, but seeking new position | <input type="checkbox"/> Employed part-time, but seeking full-time employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed part-time by choice | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, but seeking employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

2. What is your current job title and place of employment?

Job Title: _____

Employer: _____

3. Which of the following best describes the type of organization in which you are currently employed?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. federal government/Executive, Congressional, or Judicial Branch | <input type="checkbox"/> County government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State government agency/State legislature | <input type="checkbox"/> City government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional government | <input type="checkbox"/> Other local jurisdiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit agency/"Third Sector" organization | <input type="checkbox"/> International organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School District, College or University | <input type="checkbox"/> Judiciary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public interest group | <input type="checkbox"/> Military Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private industry - non-consulting | <input type="checkbox"/> Law firm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting - primarily government/non-profit | <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting - private sector clients | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

4. How long have you held your current position? _____ (years)

5. Which of the following characteristics describe your current job responsibilities? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> have supervisory responsibility | <input type="checkbox"/> develop programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prepare or administer a budget | <input type="checkbox"/> implement programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> manage an agency or work unit | <input type="checkbox"/> evaluate programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> policy specialist/advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> budget/policy/program analyst | <input type="checkbox"/> teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> direct service provision | <input type="checkbox"/> contract management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> personnel/human resources management | <input type="checkbox"/> lobbying or legislative work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify) _____ | |

10. Would you be willing to accept MPA interns at your agency?

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_____ Yes _____ No _____ Not Applicable

11. Would you be interested in serving as a mentor to help a current MPA student or recent graduate?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Not Applicable

QUESTIONS 12-13 PERTAIN TO THE JOB YOU HELD THE YEAR PRIOR TO YOUR ENTRY INTO THE MPA/MGA PROGRAM

12. During the year prior to your entry into the MPA Program, what was your employment status?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed full-time | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, but not seeking employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed full-time, but seeking new position | <input type="checkbox"/> Employed part-time, but seeking full-time employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed part-time by choice | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed, but seeking employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending school | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

13. How many years of MPA-related professional work experience did you bring as you entered the MPA program?
_____ (years)

QUESTIONS 14-16 PERTAIN TO THE FIRST JOB AFTER COMPLETING YOUR MPA DEGREE.

14. Please check the item that best represents your first job as a result of your MPA education.

- Did not change jobs
- A 'big break' or a large step in your career
- A major shift to a new type of organization
- A major shift to a new policy area

15. How important do you feel your MPA degree was in your obtaining this job?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not at all important

QUESTIONS 17-18 PERTAIN TO YOUR OVERALL CAREER

18. Considering your career since you received your MPA degree, how important do you consider each of the following to your success?

1=Unimportant; 2=Not very important; 3=Somewhat important; 4=Important; 5=Very Important

1	2	3	4	5	MPA education
1	2	3	4	5	Work experience
1	2	3	4	5	Other advanced degrees/education/training
1	2	3	4	5	Hard work
1	2	3	4	5	Undergraduate education
1	2	3	4	5	Personal competence
1	2	3	4	5	Network and personal contacts
1	2	3	4	5	Opportunity/luck

SECTION B: ASSESSMENT OF CURRICULAR AREAS

In this section we ask you about the content of your MPA program and the importance of each of these areas to your career.

19. How much did you gain in each of these areas from your MPA experience?

- 1=Nothing at all**
- 2=A little**
- 3=A moderate amount**
- 4=Quite a bit**
- 5=A great deal**

20. How important have you found each of these areas to be in your career?

- 1=Not important at all**
- 2=Not very important**
- 3=Somewhat important**
- 4=Very important**
- 5=Extremely important**

1	2	3	4	5	Decision making and problem-solving	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Budgeting and financial management	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Personnel/Human resources management	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Program planning and evaluation	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Organization design and management	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Information management	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Policy analysis and implementation	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Political institutions and processes	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Legal institutions and processes	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Economic institutions and processes	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Organization behavior and group processes	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Ethics and democratic values	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Leadership	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Oral communication	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Written communication	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Quantitative and statistical techniques	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Computer applications	1	2	3	4	5

21. Which parts of your studies in the program were most important to your career as a whole?

EVALUATION OF MPA PROGRAM SUPPORT FACILITIES

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25. Please rate the adequacy of support facilities for the MPA program using the following scale.
1=Very poor; 2=Poor; 3=Adequate; 4=Good; 5=Very good

Please circle one.

1	2	3	4	5	Library
1	2	3	4	5	Computer
1	2	3	4	5	Classrooms
1	2	3	4	5	Meeting Space

EVALUATION OF THE MPA FACULTY

26. We would also like to know something about your impressions of the MPA faculty as a group. Please rate the faculty as a whole on each of the following dimensions. **1=Inadequate; 2=Below average; Average; 4=Good; 5=Outstanding**

Please circle one.

1	2	3	4	5	Exposure to a variety of points of view.
1	2	3	4	5	Preparation of your professors for class.
1	2	3	4	5	The faculty's knowledge of their respective subjects.
1	2	3	4	5	Ability to communicate clearly in class.
1	2	3	4	5	Accessibility of the faculty outside the classroom.
1	2	3	4	5	Opportunity to interact socially with the faculty.
1	2	3	4	5	Assistance by the faculty in gaining employment.
1	2	3	4	5	Effective use of practitioners in the classroom.
1	2	3	4	5	The quality of academic advising.
1	2	3	4	5	The quality of career advising.

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EVALUATION OF MPA INTERNSHIP

27. Did you serve an internship in the MPA program?

- NO (IF "NO," PLEASE PROCEED TO SECTION "E")
- YES

28. If yes, please respond to the following questions about your internship experience.
1=Strongly disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neutral; 4=Agree; 5=Strongly agree

Please circle one.

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | My internship related classroom theory to real-world practice. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | My internship exposed me to real-world politics. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | My internship helped me decide upon a career. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | My internship aided me in getting a job. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I had an interesting variety of assignments during the internship. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I was given good direction and support by the agency. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I was given good direction and support by the MPA program. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I was left with a new awareness of the obligations of a professional in the field and to the public. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I received experience which I found valuable later in my career. |

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

29. Please respond to the following questions about program administration where appropriate using the following scale.
1=Strongly disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neutral; 4=Agree; 5=Strongly agree

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | MPA classes were scheduled at times convenient for me. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Courses were scheduled with adequate frequency while I was in the program. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | There was sufficient flexibility in scheduling to allow me to take courses suitable to my career interests. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I had adequate contact with women faculty and/or women in the public sector. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I had adequate contact with minority faculty and/or minority public sector practitioners. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The MPA program was responsive to the needs of women students. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The MPA program was responsive to the needs of minority students. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The MPA program was responsive to the needs of disabled students. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Sexual harassment is not tolerated in the MPA program. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Racial and ethnic discrimination is not tolerated in the MPA program |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | There was a proper balance of theory and practice in the MPA program. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Overall, the course content of the MPA program met my needs. |

SECTION C: A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOU

Finally, we need some information about you and your status while you were in the MPA Program.

1. In what year were you born? 19_____
2. What is your sex? MALE FEMALE
3. What is your race or ethnic background?
 ASIAN-AMERICAN BLACK
 HISPANIC WHITE/CAUCASIAN
 OTHER (please specify)_____
4. In what year did you graduate from the MPA program? 19_____
6. What was your student status while you were in the MPA program?
 Full-time Part-time A mixture of full- and part-time
7. What best describes your employment status while you were in the MPA program? (Circle only one!)
 Employed full-time (35-40 hours per week).
 Employed 20 TO 35 hours per week
 Employed fewer than 20 hours per week
 Employed only as a teaching or research assistant
 Not employed

OPTIONAL DATA BASE INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Home)_____ Phone (Work)_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT