

[This document is from the New Mexico State University's MPA program. It closely tracks the original NASPAA Alumni Survey Pilot prepared in October 1991 by the NASPAA Committee on Outcomes Assessment.]

The ----- MPA program is about to embark on an important project that requires your assistance. We are committed to offering a high quality educational program here while serving the needs of students and alumni. Your input is always valuable to us, and is being sought at this time.

Our MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). NASPAA is encouraging programs 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 aid in improvement of the MPA program curriculum;
- to identify strengths and weaknesses of the support services available to MPA students at NMSU;
- to improve the learning environment for all MPA students.

We 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;
- to establish an active and informed advisory board for the NMSU 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 cooperation and 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 business.*

Thank you for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, please contact:

-----, Director
Master of Public Administration Program
----- University

SECTION A: EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

We would like to begin by asking you, as a graduate of our MPA program, to reflect upon your career, both prior to and after receiving your MPA degree.

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 agency/Congress | <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) _____ | |

6. How many employees are in the organization for which you work? _____

7. What is your current annual salary?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$55,000 to \$65,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 to 35,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$65,000 to \$75,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000 to \$45,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$75,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45,000 to \$55,000 | |

8. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your current job:
1=Very dissatisfied; 2=Dissatisfied; 3=Neutral; 4=Satisfied; 5=Very Satisfied

- 1 2 3 4 5 Work environment
- 1 2 3 4 5 Promotional opportunities
- 1 2 3 4 5 Salary
- 1 2 3 4 5 Job challenge
- 1 2 3 4 5 Degree of autonomy
- 1 2 3 4 5 Meaningfulness of work
- 1 2 3 4 5 Variety of job tasks
- 1 2 3 4 5 Level of responsibility
- 1 2 3 4 5 Value to society

9. Are you willing to send us information about MPA-related job openings in your organization?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Not Applicable

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

_____ 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 PROGRAM

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

- Employed full-time
- Employed full-time, but seeking new position
- Employed part-time by choice
- Attending school
- Other (please specify): _____
- Unemployed, but not seeking employment
- Employed part-time, but seeking full-time employment
- Unemployed, but seeking employment

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

QUESTIONS 14-17 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
- A natural progression from your previous work or other position
- A temporary detour from an otherwise smooth career path
- A move made to accommodate family demands
- A step backwards from your previous job
- Enrolled in an additional degree program
- Other _____

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

16. If you have left this job, which of the following best describe your reason .

- Have not left this job/Not applicable
- Promotion to more responsibility
- Received job offer in preferred agency, department or location
- Received job offer more in line with professional interests
- To start a family, or spend more time at home with family
- Position had a specified term/assignment was completed
- Unsatisfactory management practices or environment
- Dissatisfied with field
- Was fired or asked to resign
- Incumbent left office
- Spouse/significant other relocates
- Burned out
- Want to experiment with different career path
- Other

QUESTIONS 17-18 PERTAIN TO YOUR OVERALL CAREER

17. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your current career:

1=Very dissatisfied; 2=Dissatisfied; 3=Neutral; 4=Satisfied; 5=Very Satisfied

- 1 2 3 4 5 Overall direction of your career
- 1 2 3 4 5 Level of responsibility you have attained
- 1 2 3 4 5 Your earnings level
- 1 2 3 4 5 The substantive content of your work
- 1 2 3 4 5 The impact of your work in your field
- 1 2 3 4 5 Prestige associated with your profession
- 1 2 3 4 5 Other aspect (please specify):

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

EVALUATION OF MPA PROGRAM SUPPORT FACILITIES

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

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.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The fairness of grading systems used.

EVALUATION OF MPA INTERNSHIP

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

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

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

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_____
- 5. What was your undergraduate major? _____
- 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