

THE MPA EXPERIENCE: AN ALUMNI ASSESSMENT

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This survey was developed as an outgrowth of NASPAA Outcomes Assessment Committee deliberations. The instrument is designed to assist member schools to survey their alumni for the purpose of obtaining program and career information. The enclosed documents serve as a core of questions that cover employment history, career assessment, some program assessment and demographic information.

Individual responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your participation.

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 1-7 PERTAIN TO YOUR CURRENT JOB SITUATION

- 1a. How would you describe your current job situation?
- Employed full-time
 - Employed full-time, but seeking a new position
 - Employed part-time by choice
 - Employed part-time, but seeking full-time employment
 - Unemployed, but not seeking employment
 - Unemployed, but seeking employment
 - Other (please specify): _____
- 1b. What is your current job title? _____
2. Which of the following characteristics describes your current job responsibilities?

Check all that apply.

- I have supervisory responsibility
 - I develop programs
 - I implement programs
 - I evaluate programs
 - I prepare or administer a budget
 - I do research
 - I teach
 - I manage programs
 - I manage an agency or work unit
 - I am a policy specialist/advocate
 - I do contract management
 - I am a budget | policy | program | management analyst (circle)
 - I do direct service provision
 - I engage in personnel/human resources management
 - I do lobbying or legislative work
 - I do this other thing (please specify): _____
3. How long have you occupied your current position?
years/months _____

4. Which one of the following best describes the type of organization by which you are currently employed?

- U.S. federal government agency/Congress
- State government agency/State legislature
- County government
- City government
- Other local jurisdiction
- Regional government
- International organization
- Judiciary
- Military Service
- College or university
- Non-profit agency | "Third Sector" organization
- Public interest group
- Legal firm
- Foundation
- Private industry non- consulting
- Consulting primarily government/non- profit
- Consulting private sector clients
- Other (please specify): _____

5. Approximately how many people are employed by the agency for which you work? _____

6. What is your current annual salary?

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$35,000
- \$35,000 to \$45,000
- \$45,000 to \$55,000
- \$55,000 to \$65,000
- \$65,000 to \$75,000
- More than \$75,000

7. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your current position?

5=Extremely satisfied: 4=Satisfied: 3=Neutral: 2=Dissatisfied: 1=Very dissatisfied

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Work environment |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Promotional opportunities |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Salary |

5	4	3	2	1	Job challenge
5	4	3	2	1	Degree of autonomy
5	4	3	2	1	Meaningfulness of work
5	4	3	2	1	Variety of job tasks
5	4	3	2	1	Level of responsibility
5	4	3	2	1	Value to society

QUESTIONS 8-10 PERTAIN TO THE JOB YOU HELD THE YEAR PRIOR TO YOUR ENTRY INTO THE MPA PROGRAM

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

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

9. How many years of professional work experience did you bring to the MPA program? (years/months) _____

10. What was your annual salary at the time of your entry into the MPA program?

- Less than \$5,000
- \$5,000 to \$15,000
- \$15,000 to \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$35,000
- \$35,000 to \$50,000
- \$50,000 or more
- Not working

QUESTIONS 11-14 PERTAIN TO THE FIRST JOB AFTER COMPLETING YOUR MPA DEGREE.

11. Please check the item that best represents your first job following receipt of your MPA education.

- I did not change jobs

My new job was...

- my first professional-level job
- a 'big break' or a large step in my career
- a major shift to a new type of organization
- a major shift to a new policy area
- a natural progression from my 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 my previous job
- Other (Please specify): _____

12. Please specify how important your MPA degree was in obtaining this position?

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

13. What was your annual salary in this position?

- Less than \$15,000
- \$15,000 to \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$35,000
- \$35,000 to \$45,000
- \$45,000 to \$55,000
- \$55,000 to \$65,000
- \$65,000 or more

14. If you have left this position, 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 my professional interests
- To start a family, or spend more time at home with my family
- Position had a specified term/assignment and was completed
- Unsatisfactory management practices or environment
- Dissatisfied with the field
- Was fired or asked to resign
- Incumbent left office
- Spouse/ significant other relocated
- Burned Out

- Want to experiment with different career path
- Other (Please specify): _____

QUESTIONS 15 and 16 PERTAIN TO YOUR OVERALL CAREER

15. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your career?

5=Very satisfied: 4=Satisfied: 3=Neutral: 2=Dissatisfied: 1=Very dissatisfied

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

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

5=Extremely important: 4=Very important: 3=Somewhat important: 2=Not too important: 1=Not at all important

- 5 4 3 2 1 MPA education
- 5 4 3 2 1 Other advanced degrees
- 5 4 3 2 1 Undergraduate education
- 5 4 3 2 1 Network and personal contacts
- 5 4 3 2 1 Hard work
- 5 4 3 2 1 Personal competence
- 5 4 3 2 1 Opportunity / luck
- 5 4 3 2 1 Some other process (please specify): _____

6. Since completing your MPA degree, have you felt the need for further training or education in connection with your career development? yes no

If yes, in what areas?

7. What curricular or non-curricular revisions of the program might have made your experience more important for your later career?

SECTION C: A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOU

Now, please tell us 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
 - AFRICAN-AMERICAN
 - HISPANIC
 - WHITE/CAUCASIAN
 - OTHER (please specify):
4. What year did you graduate from you MPA program? _____
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. Which one of the following best describes your employment status while you were in the MPA program?
 - 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
7. What other graduate degrees, if any, do you hold?
Degree / year _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT

Included in the material sent to you is a series of questions which, at your option, may be included in your survey instrument. The questions deal with evaluations of various additional elements of programs in public administration and are generally keyed to NASPAA standards. The questions are divided into sections as follows:

1. Support facilities
2. Faculty
3. Internships
4. Program administration
5. Women in public administration programs
6. Minorities in public administration programs
7. Overall impression of the public administration program.
8. Knowledge and skills useful to public administrators.

These questions are designed to allow a closer examination of particular elements of your program and their relationship to overall levels of satisfaction with the program. They may be used in connection with a general survey of your graduates. Alternatively, you may wish to administer these sections to recent graduates since they deal with program specifics which may change over time or be but faded memories in the minds of your less recent graduates.

NOTE: SECTIONS D . K BELOW ARE OPTIONAL BANKS OF QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO BE USED WITH VERY RECENT ALUMNI, AS AN EXIT SURVEY OF RECENT GRADUATES, OR AS A KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ASSESSMENT DEVICE.

WANT TO REVISE?

If this instrument does not say exactly what you want, and/or if you want a ready-made dBASE file for data entry, you may obtain this instrument and the dBASE file in IBM compatible format by sending a formatted, blank diskette (any size or capacity) to

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