

School of Social Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - DALLAS
Richardson, Texas



MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

University Overview

The University of Texas at Dallas (located in Richardson, Texas, just north of the metropolitan area) has grown steadily since its founding in 1969. Initially established as a center for graduate study, the University today comprises approximately 8500 undergraduates and 5500 graduate students.

The University is home to the Cecil and Ida Green Center for the Study of Science and Society. In addition, the School of Social Sciences houses the Bruton Center for Development Studies and The Center for Education and Social Policy. The faculty includes members of the National Academy of Sciences, Fulbright Fellows and others who have distinguished themselves through scholarly work.

Graduate Program Overview

The University of Texas at Dallas offers the Master of Public Affairs (MPA), which is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. The MPA degree is a 42 hour program providing concentration on public management and policy analysis. A policy workshop, which provides an intensive focus on one particular policy area, or an internship, are required for completion of the degree. Students have been successful obtaining positions with a wide range of both public, for profit, and non-profit organizations.

The School of Social Sciences also offer Masters program in applied economics, applied sociology, and geographic information sciences. Certificate programs in geographic information systems and quantitative analysis are also available.

Beginning Fall 2004, the School offers a Ph.D. in Public Affairs. This applied Doctorate prepares students for positions of Executive level leadership in government, non-profit and business organizations and for university research and teaching positions. The program generally requires two years of coursework beyond the Masters degree and a dissertation.

The School also offers a Ph.D in Political Economy centered in critical thought and interdisciplinary research in the interaction of cultures, institutions, markets, and policies. The program prepares students for careers in academia, policy research, and leadership positions in public affairs. The successful candidate completes 90 semester hours of course work, and completes comprehensive examinations in Theories of Political Economy and Research Methods. The successful defense of the dissertation concludes the doctoral student's program of study.

Degrees Offered

Master of Public Affairs
Ph.D. in Public Affairs

Tracks or Specializations

Public Management
Policy Analysis
Applied Technology
Local Government Management
Non-profit Management

Admissions

Although admissions are made on a case-by-case basis, an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or better and a score of at least 1000 on the Graduate Records Examination (GRE) or an equivalent score on the GMAT is desirable. A familiarity with economic analysis and basic statistics is desirable, but not required, as the school provides introductory graduate courses for students with deficiencies in these areas.

Admission to the Ph.D program is also handled on a case-by-case basis, but an undergraduate GPA of 3.3 in an appropriate undergraduate major, or a combined score of 1200 on the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE, is highly desirable. In both the MPA and Ph.D programs, transcripts and letters of reference are also required. Prospective MPA or Ph.D students may opt to initially apply as a non-degree seeking student. Students may earn up to 15 hours of graduate credit before being required to enter a degree program. Non-degree status may be especially helpful for those who have yet to complete their GREs, or

whose file is otherwise not complete. An application and official transcript are all that is necessary for admission under this status.

Contact Information

Director, MPA Program
Director of Doctor of Executive Leadership Program
School of Social Sciences
The University of Texas at Dallas
P.O. Box 830688
Richardson, TX 75083-0688
Phone: 972-883-2019
Fax:972-883-2735
Email: Douglas.watson@utdallas.edu
http://www.utdallas.edu/dept/socsci/graduate_programs.html

Director of Ph.D. programs
School of Social Sciences
The University of Texas at Dallas
P.O. Box 830688
Richardson, TX 75083-0688
Phone: 972-883-2066
Fax:972-883-2735
Email:scotch@utdallas.edu
http://www.utdallas.edu/dept/socsci/graduate_programs.html