

MPA NONPROFIT CONCENTRATION AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Four course sequence (12 credits) within the Master of Public Administration Program (MPA) as a Concentration, or as administered by the MPA program as a Certificate.

Graduate **Certificate** Eligibility Factors

Baccalaureate Degree from an accredited university (required)

2.5 GPA (required)

Relevant professional experience

The normal graduate application form required-No standardize test requirement, no letters of recommendation

Statement of career goals and objectives (required)

Allows for fall and spring admission

Core Courses

Essentials of Nonprofit Organizations and Leadership

Nonprofit Management, Planning and Governance

Electives

Marketing and Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations

Human Resources and Volunteer Management for Nonprofit Organizations

Financial Management in Nonprofit Organizations

Writing and Grants: Foundations, NPOs, Government Contracts

One elective may be satisfied by the Internship course, provided the placement is at a nonprofit corporation.

Other considerations

All courses are hybrid/partial online (half the sessions are classroom format)

Courses must offer evening alternatives with reasonable frequency

Background and Intent

The Ad Hoc Nonprofit Concentration Committee is an interdisciplinary group meeting since early September, 2012. Our desire is to move forward with due dispatch to have both courses and a designed concentration available for the students. In addition, it is expressly the desire of the Committee to offer a Graduate Certificate, a component developed specifically from the interdisciplinary Committee.

Our specific, explicit intent is to provide a Master of Public Administration (MPA) concentration including two core courses. Although we do not want to get lost on semantics, the specific agreements of the Committee are important for stakeholders to understand. In the Committee's meeting October 22, 2012 and every meeting subsequent it was agreed without dissent that students be required to take certain core courses. After considerable discussion and reflective critical evaluation it was decided these courses should be: 1) the course approved by the department chair and curriculum committee last year (30-10-2012), Introduction to Nonprofit Organization and Management; and 2) Strategic Management and Governance.

The NASPAA Guidelines for Graduate Professional Education in Nonprofit Organizations, Management, and Leadership was provided early on in the committee's deliberations. In brief, these guidelines clearly suggest "core masters courses," distinguished from other courses, such as "internship" and courses by whatever name that cover a variety of "topics or elements" (Section 3: Program Elements). In addition, the Committee's environmental scan connected very early on, found that Georgia system schools offering a nonprofit concentration or certificate often provide a "core" requirement (e.g. Kennesaw State). Both the Concentration and the Certificate were designed to include a two course (6 credits) core and two electives from approved courses. One of the electives may be satisfied by the MPA Internship required course, provided the placement is at a nonprofit corporation.

The Certificate mechanism is intended to serve a variety of learner needs. For example, some possess a baccalaureate degree and are desirous of rigorous courses focusing on the nonprofit sector that provides recognition of accomplishment upon completion; however, they are not ready to commit to a master degree program. For others the Certificate represents an opportunity to explore committing to a master program. As such, the Certificate does not require everything necessary to enrollment in a master degree program. After starting the Certificate program, if the student decides to enter a master degree program, all the application requirements apply for enrollment and the courses taken shall count toward that degree (maximum 12 credits that earned a B grade or better).