The mission of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is to advance the knowledge and skills necessary to manage and lead organizations engaged in public service in democratic and diverse societies. As the MPA program intends to assist those interested in public service careers in public management, public policy, and nonprofit fields, the curriculum balances theoretical and applied concepts to build students' abilities to understand, analyze, and manage environments with real-world experiences. The MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

The mission of the Ph.D. program in Public Administration is to provide advanced graduate education in theory and research in the field to prepare students for academic, research, and advanced professional careers in public administration. Each student is expected to graduate with:

1. Research experience working with public administration faculty
2. Experience in presentation of scholarly papers and posters at national and regional conferences
3. Experience in developing, authoring, or co-authoring with a faculty member, and submitting at least one article for a refereed publication
4. Teaching experience at the college/university level