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THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

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General website: <https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/>

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The **GRE has been waived for those seeking to apply to either Spring or Fall 2021 terms.** We have noted this waiver for the 2021 year on both our website and on the Graduate School website. For those who are interested in submitting applications for the **Spring or Fall 2022** terms, please continue to check the Graduate School website for updates regarding testing requirements.

Guidance on the **on-line application:** If you are having issues with the online application platform, please contact the Graduate School directly. The contact information for the Graduate School can be accessed here: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/>

**Details about the joint JD/PhD programs:** For those who are interested in our partnership with UB School of Law, UMB Law, or any of the joint degree programs, please take a look at details regarding that partnership on the School of Public Policy website here:

<https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/programs-of-study/> You will apply to each program separately.

Once admitted, the joint degree student will work with program advisors to determine credit exchange for degree completion.

Interested students can apply to programs in any order (JD or PhD first). If interested in course exchange credit, students should be sure to apply to the second program of interest at least one academic year from program completion.

Joint programs aside, there opportunities to **take courses at area institutions** through perhaps an inter-university consortium. This is something that would need to be **approved by both your faculty advisor and our Graduate Program Director**

**How many students** are admitted into the MPP or PhD program annually? There are no quotas and caps, so we are fortunate to be able to admit all applicants deemed admissible by the School of Public Policy admissions committee.

We have a **network of alumni** who are very active and send us internships, etc. There is also an organized alumni office that tracks alumni data, so we can help students connect with alumni in their fields of interest or at specific organizations. Visit our alumni page:

<https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/alumni/> And our **select alumni profiles:**  
<https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/files/2018/11/Combined-Alumni-Profiles.pdf>

Can I **defer Admissions**? As you hear of your admission to the program, you may choose to defer enrollment for up to 1 calendar year. Please follow the deferral instructions on the Graduate School website here: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/students/forms/>

Am I able to **focus mostly on health policy (or other policy area)**? Yes, Health Policy is a designated area of specialization. To access the list of **specializations**, please visit our website here: <https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/study-specializations/>

Regarding concentrations within the degrees for Public Policy, can **students change their focus within the first year**? Yes, absolutely. The online application will ask you for your primary area of interest. We use this information to get you connected with a faculty advisor in that area. You will work with your faculty advisor to tailor your courses (beyond the core) to your interests. To review the listing of available specializations, please visit our website here: <https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/study-specializations/>

What is the **timeframe for consideration**? The School of Public Policy will evaluate fully completed applications and return a decision within 6-8 weeks of the published application submission deadline. There are two admissions application deadlines. To view the Graduate School's application deadlines, please visit their website here: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/admissions/programs/publ/>

### **Deadlines for Formal Admission**

M.P.P. – January 15 for the fall semester, and November 1 for the spring semester.

\*\*International students must apply by January 1 for fall semester, and October 1 for spring semester.

Ph.D. – January 15 for the fall semester

I\*\*nternational students must apply by January 1.

**Applicants for Spring 2021 will be notified by mid-December at the latest.**

Any student can take up to **9cr as a Non-Degree seeking student**. You will submit a separate non-degree seeking application. To review the application process for ND status, please visit the Graduate School website here: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/admissions/requirements/certs-nd/>

**Full Time v. Part Time Program:** Full Time rate of pursuit at the graduate level is 7cr-9cr per semester. Part Time status at the graduate level is 1cr-6cr per semester.

If you are an **international student** interested in applying to our program, please note that admissions deadlines are slightly altered. Again, this information can be viewed on our Graduate School landing page. The Graduate School has a great landing page found here: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/admissions/international/> The best resource and advocacy for **international students**: <https://ies.umbc.edu/>

**Funding opportunities:** All full time graduate applicants are also considered for a Graduate Assistantship with SPP faculty when they apply. The GA-ship positions are highly competitive, and dependent on faculty grants and other funding. To view alternate **UMBC graduate funding opportunities**, please visit the UMBC FA and Scholarships page here: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/funding/aid/>

Public Policy also has a list of funding opportunities specific to our programs:

<https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/financial-aid/>

**Are graduate level classes being offered remotely?** During this unprecedented time, for the health and safety of faculty, staff and students, **most courses are offered in the online only format** as well as a select number of courses with in-person component options. Most courses will follow suit in **Spring 2021** as well. For those classes with an in-person component, an online option will be offered. For **updates on University operations during COVID-19** please visit the University COVID 19 website here: <https://covid19.umbc.edu/>

### **Internship opportunities? Study Abroad Opportunities?**

We **circulate internships** to our students, and we are informed of opportunities frequently from alumni, board members, faculty, and other community members. Some internships may be in DC, some are remote, many are Baltimore-based or at the state level, where our network is strongest. We have a **Career Center at UMBC that can assist with your internship search**. Their webpage can be found here: <https://careers.umbc.edu/employers/internships/> At this time, **we do not offer study abroad** as part of our curriculum.

For those students who are **current UMBC undergraduate students**, you may want to consider applying to our **Accelerated Program**. For more information on the Accelerated Program and the process for applying, please visit the Graduate School website here:

<https://gradschool.umbc.edu/admissions/nontraditional/accelerated/> . First step is to **make an appt with undergrad advisor** to make sure you have time in your schedule to take UP TO 4 grad classes. THEN contact Shelley Morris in Public Policy.

**Timing of degrees** – Part time depends on how many courses you take at once. **Many of our students work full time and take classes part time**. FT PhD – most finish in 4 or 5 years. MPP – usually completed in 2 years. Many PT MPP students take 3- 3.5 years. Working FT and taking courses FT is not advised.

Is it typical for PhD students to go into **academic, tenure-track careers** as well? Our alumni tend to go into practice as opposed to Higher Ed, but we do have alums that pursue instruction. Some alumni go into academics, and we have alumni who are deans, professors, etc. Many other alumni work for non-profits, think tanks doing policy research, or at the local, state, or federal levels of government.

If someone is applying to the PhD program and is **not accepted, are they considered for the master's program, or would this be a separate application?** Yes, if a student is evaluated by the admissions committee to be a better fit for the MPP, an admissions offer will be generated at that level.

**Graduate Housing** options are visible here: <https://gsa.umbc.edu/graduate-housing-options/>

Explore profiles and reach out to any **faculty member** via email to learn more about their courses and advising methods. <https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/ourfaculty/> . You can also learn more about faculty (and student) activities in our quarterly newsletters:

<https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/newsletters/> . You can also follow us on twitter

@UMBCPubPolicy for program news and relevant events.

Is the writing sample required for the Application? The **writing sample is NOT a requirement**. If you have a sample of your academic writing it can be submitted as supplementary on the online application platform. If you choose to submit a writing sample, please keep your submission to **10pg or less**.

**ICARE NRT Interdisciplinary Program** - The ICARE NRT master's degree is a 2-year interdisciplinary degree program with a **dual mission of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice combined with research focused on improving the health of Baltimore Harbor**. Students will be mentored by a UMBC faculty member and a non-academic scientist from a government agency, non-profit, or industry. Prospective students apply to both the MPP program and the ICARE program. Now accepting applications for Fall 2021 funded masters programs (Application deadline is Jan 1 for ICARE). Apply to both programs - ICARE AND MPP. using this page as guidance: <https://icare.umbc.edu/application/> If you plan to apply to the ICARE program, contact Public Policy faculty **Dr. Jane Lincove** or Dr. **Yusuke Kuwayama**, who are both involved with the program. They can be reached through their faculty pages: <https://publicpolicy.umbc.edu/ourfaculty/> ICARE is sort of a concentration. The degree you receive is the MPP, but you take skills-specific classes, and get field-work experience.

If you want to talk to ICARE program staff to learn more about the details of the program, contact them here: <https://icare.umbc.edu/contact/>

Are there any resources for **Military Veterans** within the application/admission process? Yes, you can find support on the Veterans website here: <https://veterans.umbc.edu/>

**Shriver Peaceworkers** - Each year the Shriver Peaceworker Program invites a group of **returning Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs)** to participate in a two-year service-learning program integrating graduate study, community service, and ethical reflection. Participation in the program is limited to Peace Corps volunteers who have successfully completed their service overseas. RPCVs who are interested in applying to the Public Policy program to receive funding through Shriver Peaceworker Program should contact Joby Taylor ([joby.taylor@umbc.edu](mailto:joby.taylor@umbc.edu)) or visit their website. The application fee is waived for current PCVs. <https://peaceworker.umbc.edu/>