



UMBC

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY



THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AT UMBC

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) has been in the vanguard of public policy education and research since establishing the public policy graduate program in 1974. We offer a Master's and a Ph.D. degree in an intellectually challenging academic environment. Our mission is to provide superior education to a diverse range of high quality students with career goals related to public policy.

Wherever you have come from and wherever you are going, UMBC's public policy community can provide you with the right environment to further your personal and professional development.

For more information, visit our website at publicpolicy.umbc.edu or contact the Graduate Program Coordinator (gradpubpol@umbc.edu).





WHY STUDY PUBLIC POLICY

A graduate degree from UMBC in public policy is an investment in the future. Policymakers tackle the essential issues of our society such as education, poverty, health care, and housing. Our graduate program provides you with the tools necessary to develop and evaluate public policies, and influence the public policy process.

- Apply learning to your job
- Develop leadership skills
- Advance your career
- Engage in high level research

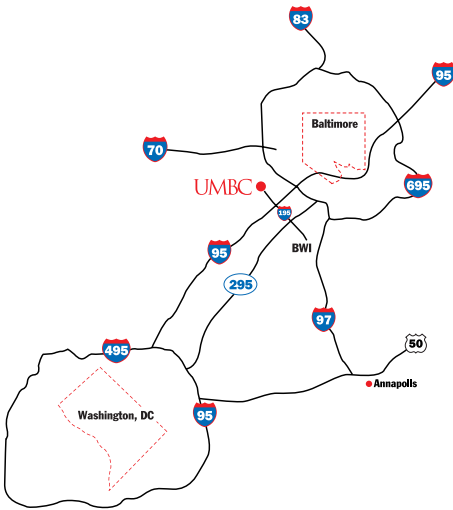
Our M.P.P. and Ph.D. graduates use their skills and knowledge to resolve the challenges faced by the public, nonprofit and private sectors. The federal government is the largest employer of the school's graduates. Alumni also influence government policies at the state and local level, conduct research in prestigious consulting firms and think tanks, play key roles in foundations and other nonprofit organizations, and teach in secondary and higher education institutions.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE		
DEGREES OFFERED Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's M.P.P. Ph.D. Combined programs: J.D./M.P.P., J.D./Ph.D. M.D./Ph.D.	COURSE REQUIREMENTS Master's degree 37 credits Ph.D. degree 48 credits	ACADEMIC CALENDAR Fall and spring semesters; two summer sessions

ABOUT UMBC

UMBC is a mid-sized public university with 14,000 students, including 3,366 graduate students. The University has over 500 full-time faculty, and more than \$80 million in sponsored contracts and grants. UMBC is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a Doctoral University with Very High Research Activity – also known as Carnegie R1.

UMBC's proximity to federal and state government offices provides an ideal setting for training in a public policy program, internships, research, and employment opportunities. A 500-acre suburban campus in Catonsville, Maryland, UMBC is 10 minutes from downtown Baltimore and 45 minutes from Washington, D.C. and Annapolis, Maryland. Our campus is just off Interstate 95, close to BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and the Amtrak train station. The School of Public Policy is located in UMBC's Public Policy Building.



OUR FACULTY – INNOVATIVE RESEARCH, TEACHING EXCELLENCE

At the heart of our program is a nationally recognized full-time core faculty in public policy, distinguished by their excellence in teaching as well as their research, publications and public service. The interdisciplinary public policy program includes faculty from other related social science departments on the UMBC campus. Our professors are expert sources for public issues, presenting their research at conferences worldwide, and acting as advisors to federal, state, and local governments. Faculty members often have work experience in public policy positions they have held during their careers.

Students have the opportunity, and are in fact encouraged, to work with faculty on research projects. Faculty research complements our educational mission in the classroom, providing funded research opportunities for our graduate students and support for dissertations.



OUR STUDENTS – ACCOMPLISHED AND COMMITTED

Our students have an impressive track record of professional and academic achievements. We welcome students coming directly from undergraduate and master’s programs, as well as working professionals seeking the next step in their educational development. The program includes full and part-time students.

Mid-career students are an important component of our program. Public policy students are often employed, balancing their personal lives and careers with a desire to expand their skills and knowledge at an affordable cost. Most of our courses meet once a week in the evenings, beginning either at 4:30 or 7:10 p.m.

STUDENT LIFE

There is a thriving graduate community at UMBC. Students network during events such as the new student orientation, annual picnic, brown bag seminars, workshops, and forums. The Graduate Student Association supports the academic, professional, social, and personal needs of all of UMBC’s graduate student community. Graduate students participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, from cheering on UMBC’s NCAA Division I sports teams to attending lectures, concerts, and exhibits.

ALUMNI

Our network of alumni is our greatest asset. Public Policy graduates stay connected to campus as they pursue careers in senior administration, policy analysis, research, consulting, and academia. Our alumni return to campus to share insights about career choices, jobs and internships, and to collaborate with faculty on research.

OUR CURRICULUM – CHALLENGING

The emphasis on training in evaluation and analytical methods, and a focus on public policy analysis, distinguishes our program from others in the nation. The program is interdisciplinary, allowing students to examine public policy using theories and concepts drawn from economics, education, sociology, political science, and policy analysis.



M.P.P.

The Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) degree requires 37 credit hours of coursework and the writing of a policy analysis paper. M.P.P. students without relevant work experience must also complete an internship. While time to degree completion depends on each student’s situation, a full-time student can expect to complete the M.P.P. in two to three years.

PH.D.

The distinguishing characteristic of the Ph.D. curriculum is dissertation research. The Ph.D. degree requires 48 credits, including a 3-credit doctoral seminar that will culminate in a comprehensive examination paper. While time to degree completion depends on each student’s situation, a full-time student can expect to complete the required coursework and dissertation for a Ph.D. in four to five years.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The curriculum is divided into three categories: core courses; disciplinary foundation courses; and courses in a particular policy area or discipline.

The program’s core curriculum provides students with an understanding of the policymaking process, the forces affecting it, and the basic tools and concepts for analyzing public policy.

Public policy students choose a specific policy area or discipline where they are expected to gain extensive knowledge. For information on course requirements and faculty advisors, please visit our website: publicpolicy.umbc.edu.



STUDY SPECIALIZATIONS	DISCIPLINARY SPECIALIZATIONS
Education Policy Environmental Policy (M.P.P. only) Evaluation and Analytical Methods Health Policy Public Management Urban Policy	Economics (Ph.D. only)* Emergency Services (Ph.D. only) Policy History (Ph.D. only)*
	* UMBC offers an M.A. in Economic Policy Analysis and an M.A. in Historical Studies, with a specialization in Policy History.

COMBINED BACHELOR’S/MASTER’S IN PUBLIC POLICY (ACCELERATED PATHWAYS PROGRAM)

The Accelerated Pathways Program allows UMBC undergraduates with strong academic records to begin taking graduate level courses for the M.P.P. degree in their junior year. UMBC undergraduates interested in enrolling in the combined program should apply for admission by the end of the second semester of their sophomore year.

M.A. IN ECONOMIC POLICY ANALYSIS/PH.D. IN PUBLIC POLICY

This joint program between the School of Public Policy and the Department of Economics provides students with a broad perspective on policy formulation, implementation, and impacts, along with focused training in analytic techniques commonly used by economists.

- COMBINED PROGRAMS**
- Our combined programs allow students to obtain a degree that meets their professional goals:
- Dual degree programs with University of Maryland School of Law, and University of Baltimore School of Law;
 - Dual degree program with the University of Maryland School of Medicine (M.D./M.P.P.)



RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

UMBC is part of the greatest concentration of commercial, cultural, and scientific activity in the nation. Nearby federal and state governmental agencies, national research centers, libraries, and museums are resources for scholarly activity. As part of the University System of Maryland, UMBC students have easy access to courses, practical experience, and research opportunities at other System campuses in Maryland, including the University of Maryland, College Park and the law, medical, pharmacy, dental, nursing, and social work schools at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Public Policy External Advisory Board includes leaders in business, government, and nonprofit organizations who are committed to building bridges between the public policy activities at UMBC and policymakers in the state and region. Through the board, UMBC faculty and students interact with professionals in fields related to their research interests.

CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP – socialscience.umbc.edu

The Center for Social Science Scholarship supports and strengthens social science research, teaching, and community and professional engagement and enhances the future of innovative, collaborative, cross- and interdisciplinary, and cutting edge social science scholarship at UMBC. The Research Administration unit (formerly MIPAR) assists faculty and departments in obtaining funding for research, providing pre- and post-award administration, and linking the analytical resources of the university with policymakers in the state and region.

CENTER FOR URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION – cuere.umbc.edu

The mission of the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education (CUERE) is to advance understanding of the environmental, social, and economic consequences of transformation of the urban landscape. CUERE fosters interdisciplinary approaches to environmental science, engineering, and public policy through cooperative research projects, conferences and symposia, and support of University teaching programs.

THE HILLTOP INSTITUTE – hilltopinstitute.org

The Hilltop Institute is a non-partisan health research organization dedicated to improving the health and social outcomes of vulnerable populations. Hilltop has expertise in Medicaid and in improving publicly financed health care systems. Hilltop researchers conduct analyses and evaluations on behalf of governmental agencies, foundations, and nonprofit organizations at the national, state, and local level.

ICARE NRT INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM – icare.umbc.edu

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. That research team will be embedded in a larger stakeholder team, meaning that each student and their mentors will identify one or more community members (non-scientists) with a stake in the research to be engaged in the research from development to completion. Students will also be taking skills courses (community leadership, DEIJ, oral and written communication) and disciplinary courses appropriate to their research project. Public Policy is one of five Masters programs participating.

STUDENT FUNDING AND FINANCIAL AID

All full time M.P.P. and Ph.D, students have the opportunity to apply for funding as a graduate assistant for up to 4 years. Graduate assistants work 20 hours per week with a faculty member on campus conducting research or providing teaching assistance. Full-time Graduate assistantships typically include a stipend, 10 hours of tuition remission and University health benefits. Students wishing to receive an assistantship via the School Public Policy will be considered for placement at the time of application. School of Public Policy assistantship placement is highly competitive, we encourage all applicants to explore funding options both internal and external to UMBC. Graduate assistantships are also available externally through UMBC Residential Life, and the Office of Graduate Student Life. Other funding sources can be reviewed on the Graduate School website: umbc.edu/admissions/graduate/funding.

In addition, UMBC offers graduate students support through co-op programs, internships, work study, and other arrangements. U.S. applicants seeking federal loan assistance or need-based aid should complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) when they apply to graduate school.

Students seeking to study full time should also consult the UMBC Office of Financial Aid for details about the variety of other scholarships, grants, and loans available – financialaid.umbc.edu. Employees should also check with their human resources department to determine if their employer provides support for graduate education.

A limited number of internal fellowships are available to current Public Policy students once enrolled. View current funding opportunities from Public Policy and UMBC here: publicpolicy.umbc.edu/financial-aid.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants for admission to the public policy program at UMBC should apply online through the UMBC Graduate School at gradschool.umbc.edu. Prospective students should also contact the School of Public Policy directly before applying.

Admission to the M.P.P. and Ph.D. programs is competitive. Applicants should have a superior academic record. Decisions on admissions are based on the student’s test scores, undergraduate and graduate academic record, recommendations from professors (preferred) or others who can speak to the student’s academic performance, and the match between the program and the student’s interests. Applicants to the M.P.P. should hold, or be nearing completion of a bachelor’s degree. Applicants to the Ph.D. program may have a master’s degree or the equivalent, but academically strong students are welcome to apply to the Ph.D. program without a master’s degree.

DOMESTIC APPLICATION DEADLINES

M.P.P. – rolling deadline;
for Spring 2023, complete application by November 1;
for Fall 2023, complete application by April 1

Ph.D. – January 15 (Fall admission only)

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Same as above

Non-Degree Seeking: July 15 (Fall), December 15 (Spring)
View our website publicpolicy.umbc.edu for current admissions deadlines.



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UMBC GRADUATE SCHOOL
gradschool.umbc.edu

A photograph showing the interior of a modern building. There is a wide staircase with a glass railing. Several people are walking on the stairs and on the ground floor. The walls are a warm, orange-brown color. There are large windows and a mural on the wall.



GRADUATE SCHOOL

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