

Progressive Degree –Master of Public Policy (MPP)

Application Package and Instructions

Progressive Degree Eligibility Criteria

- MPP progressive degree applicants must have completed 64 units since high school graduation and must submit their completed, progressive degree application prior to the completion of 96 units of course work. (AP units, IB units, and course work taken prior to high school graduation are excluded).
- Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores, but are expected to have at least a 3.0 GPA at the time of application. Due to program rigor, applicant GPAs of 3.5 or higher are preferred.
- Applicants must provide two letters of recommendation from USC faculty supporting their admission to the MPP progressive degree; at least one from a faculty member in the student's major. If you have taken Price School courses, one letter of recommendation should be from a Price School faculty member.

Application Package Requirements and Selection Process

- Students must complete all necessary sections of the *Application for Admission to a Progressive Master's Program* form. Admission must be approved by both the dean of the student's undergraduate major, as well as the department chair and dean of the master's degree program. Approved undergraduate department signatures are required on the submitted application. Price students do not need to obtain departmental signatures until they have been admitted.
- Students must complete a *Progressive Degree Program – Proposed Course Plan* form as part of the application package. This is necessary to determine how future terms of registration will apply to progressive degree requirements. Future course work is listed by term, indicating whether each course will satisfy an undergraduate or graduate requirement. **In the application packet, please list only the remaining undergraduate course work requirements.** MPP coursework will be discussed and outlined in the course plan *after* being admitted into the MPP Progressive program.
- Current STARS report
- Current resume
- One (1) page essay addressing the following:
 - Why are you interested in pursuing the MPP progressive degree?
 - What is the area of policy that interests you most and why?
 - What are your short and long-term career objectives?
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from USC faculty supporting your admission to the MPP progressive degree. Letters of recommendation can be mailed directly to Suzanne Alexander, MPP program administrator, USC Price School of Public Policy, 650 Childs Way, RGL 238, Los Angeles, CA 90089, or provided with the application materials.
- Any additional supporting documents (which may include additional letters of recommendation)
- Submit your completed application in person to Suzanne Alexander, MPP program administrator in Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall (RGL) 238. Emailed applications will not be accepted. Please submit all documents at the same time. Incomplete applications will be disqualified from admission review.

- Applicants will receive a notification e-mail stating that your completed application package has been received.
- The highest ranking applicants will be invited to interview with the MPP department chair, field coordinator and program administrator.
- Admission decisions will be provided via letter, emailed to the applicant's USC email address.

Deadlines

- **Spring:** No Admittance
- **Fall:** February 1 (if this date falls on a weekend, the deadline is the next business day)
- **Summer:** No Admittance

Additional Information

- Once a student has completed 8 semesters (including transfers from another university), he/she will be considered a graduate student. This status change will affect your financial aid package. Please visit the Office of Financial Services (JHH Lobby) for more information. If you are a scholarship student, please contact your scholarship coordinator to discuss the impact the progressive program may have on your scholarship.
- Submission of an application to the MPP progressive degree does not constitute automatic admission. Students must be accepted in order to pursue the progressive degree objective.
- Progressive students are not eligible for Price School merit based scholarships.

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQ

Can I apply if I have earned more than 96 units?

An applicant must have at least 64 units, but no more than 96 units in order to apply for the progressive degree. The 96 units does not include AP, IB, any coursework completed prior to high school graduation, and in progress coursework. *If a student has earned 97-99 units, an exception to this policy may be possible, and is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

How many annual applicants are expected and what is the acceptance rate?

The total number of applicants and the acceptance rate varies from year to year. The MPP program is looking to admit high-performing undergraduate students.

Why am I considered a graduate student once I have completed 8 semesters?

Eight semesters is the maximum number of undergraduate financial aid. You may contact Financial Aid for detailed information regarding this policy. The Office of Financial Aid is located in JHH (Lobby); (213) 740-1111.

How many semesters do I have to complete my bachelor's and master's degree?

USC policy states that the time limit for completing the undergraduate and graduate degree is 12 semesters. This time limit starts with the student's first semester as a college student (including transferred community college course work completed prior to USC). Any time limit extension would need to be supported by the MPP program and petitioned through the Associate Vice Provost.

When will I be notified if I have been accepted?

All applicants are notified of their admissions status 3-4 weeks after the application deadline, via email.

When can I register for graduate courses?

To develop an official course plan, all *admitted* MPP progressive degree students will meet with the MPP program administrator upon program acceptance. Once this course plan has been created, all required signatures have been obtained, is approved by the University and loaded onto the Student Information System, the student will be eligible for fall graduate course registration.

What is the maximum MPP Progressive student course load each semester?

Due to program rigor and student expectations, the MPP imposes a 15-unit maximum for students taking *any* graduate courses. Note: eight units is considered full-time for graduate students. Any exceptions may be requested by petition.

Can my units from another school be used to waive graduate coursework?

Graduate course waivers are based only on undergraduate courses completed at USC.

Sample, Progressive Requirements by Major

*All transcripts will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may vary from the samples below.

Master of Public Policy (MPP)	PPD Undergraduate Major	Economics Undergraduate Major	Political Science Undergraduate Major
Prerequisites			
<p>Statistics – a basic competence in descriptive and inferential statistics is required. This prerequisite may be met in one of two ways: (1) passing an undergraduate inferential statistics class with a grade of B or better within 3 years or (2) completing PPD 502x with a grade of B or better. This is in addition to the 36 required units. PPD 502x is a subject requirement, not available for major credit.</p> <p>*Statistics prerequisite requirement must be completed before enrolling in multiple core and elective courses.</p>	Met with a grade of B or better in PPD 303	PPD 502x(2) (or major equivalent)	PPD 502x(2) (or major equivalent)
Core Courses			
PPD 503 - Economics for Public Policy (4)	Waive with a grade of B or better in an intermediate microeconomics course (<i>ECON 203 is introductory and will not suffice</i>)	Waive with a grade of B or better in an intermediate microeconomics course (<i>ECON 203 is introductory and will not suffice</i>)	Required
PPD 554 – Foundations of Public Policy Analysis (4)	Required (<i>PPD students must take PPD 315 first</i>)	Required	Required
PPD 555 – Public Policy Formulation and Implementation (4)	Required (<i>PPD students must take PPD 315 first. PPD 554 prerequisite</i>)	Required	Required
PPD 558 – Multivariate Statistical Analysis (4)	Required (<i>statistics prerequisite required</i>)	Required	Required
PPD 560 – Methods for Policy Analysis (4)	Required (<i>PPD students must take PPD 373 and PPD 503 or equivalent first</i>)	Required	Required
PPD 561a-Policy Analysis Practicum (2)	Required (<i>prerequisites- all MPP core courses</i>)	Required	Required
PPD 561b- Policy Analysis Practicum (2)	Required (<i>PPD 561a prerequisite</i>)	Required	Required

Electives			
<i>Analytic Elective options (8):</i> PPD 542, PPD 587, PPD 647, PPDE 660 (+2 units of additional electives), PPDE 668, COMM 650, SSCI 581	Required	Required	Required
<i>Management Elective options (4):</i> PPD 541, PPD 545, PPD 654, PPD 656, PPD 662, PPD 673, PPD 675, PPD 690, PPDE 645	Waived	Waived	Waived
Specialization electives (12)	4 units required (If PPD 503 waived, 8 units required)	4 units required (If PPD 503 waived, 8 units required)	4 units required
Total Units Required	36 units	36 units	36 units
Master of Public Policy (MPP)	History Major	Engineering Major	Sociology Major
Prerequisites			
Statistics – a basic competence in descriptive and inferential statistics is required. This prerequisite may be met in one of two ways: (1) passing an undergraduate inferential statistics class with a grade of B or better within 3 years or (2) completing PPD 502x with a grade of B or better. This is in addition to the 48 required units. PPD 502x is a subject requirement, not available for major credit. *Statistics prerequisite requirement must be completed before enrolling in multiple core and elective courses.	PPD 502x(2) (or major equivalent)	PPD 502x(2) (or major equivalent)	PPD 502x(2) (or major equivalent)
Core Courses			
PPD 503- Economics for Public Policy (4)	Required	Required	Required
PPD 554 – Foundations of Public Policy Analysis (4)	Required	Required	Required
PPD 555 – Public Policy Formulation and Implementation (4)	Required	Required	Required
PPD 558 – Multivariate Statistical Analysis (4)	Required	Required	Required
PPD 560 – Methods for Policy Analysis (4)	Required	Required	Required
PPD 561a-Policy Analysis Practicum (2)	Required	Required	Required
PPD 561b- Policy Analysis Practicum (2)	Required	Required	Required
Electives			
<i>Analytic Elective options (8):</i> PPD 542, PPD 587, PPD 647, PPDE 660 (+2 units of additional electives), PPDE 668, COMM 650, SSCI 581	Required	Required	Required
<i>Management Elective options (4):</i> PPD 541, PPD 545, PPD 654, PPD 656, PPD 662, PPD 673, PPD 675, PPD 690, PPDE 645	Waived	Waived	Waived
Specialization electives (12)	4 units required	4 units required	4 units required
Total Units Required	36 units	36 units	36 units