

*Frequently Asked Questions about Valdosta State University's
DPA Online Degree Programs*

Q.) How much weight is given to the dissertation?

A.) You cannot graduate from this program without it. It is your exit requirement for this program.

Q.) How long does it take to come off of a probationary period?

A.) 9 graded hours with no grade below a B.

Q.) What test is required for the DPA program?

A.) None. The GRE is an **optional** test. You must have a GRE within the last 5 years, if over 5 years, you must provide a copy of your test scores for consideration. It would be best to refer to the Graduate School for clarification on this matter. If you can find your official GRE test scores (check your transcripts) you can use them providing the score is high enough.

Q.) To be considered for regular admission what is the minimum?

A.) Graduate GPA must be 3.5 or higher

Q.) Can I be admitted as an irregular student?

A.) No. Irregular students are not accepted in the DPA program.

Q.) I attended multiple schools while working on my undergrad. Do I need to send all transcripts or will the transcripts from the degree granting institution suffice?

A.) All official transcripts must be sent.

Q.) I'm in the Military and deployed. If I'm unable to attend the initial residency what are the ramifications?

A.) We will work with you on your initial residency should you run into a situation due to your military obligations but you will have to attend a minimum of 5 residency requirements.

Q.) I am finishing my masters and I anticipate successful completion before the start of Fall classes. Can I be accepted conditionally upon award of the masters prior to the fall start date?

A.) Yes, you can be accepted pending your final transcripts.

Q.) How do I gather information on due dates for final projects.

A.) Go to the VSU website under Grad School to find for deadline for dissertations. The due dates _____ Check with your committee to see if they have set any deadlines for you to follow.

Q.) If I'm scheduled to take the GRE in mid-March and the application deadline is April 15th will the scores make it to the Graduate School before the review committee meets?

A.) The Graduate School should have the results by the deadline and Graduate School will not send any information to the review committee until after the deadline of April 15th. The student needs to make sure they have all required items to the Graduate School in time.

Q.) Who is the review committee and when do they meet?

A.) The committee consists of Public Administration faculty. They meet once they receive the

Q.) How many applicants apply each year and how many applicants are accepted each year?

A.) Our DPA program is highly competitive and many students apply each year. We received 113 applications for Fall 2021 and admitted 38.

Q.) As a new incoming class begins each fall semester does it function as a cohort.

A.) No. Our classes do not function as cohorts.

Q.) The DPA handbook, pg. 7, states that each student must identify an area of concentration by the end of 18 hrs. of coursework. Once an area of concentration is identified the student will work with his advisor to develop a Program of Study which the advisor must approve. This Program of Study will govern the remainder of the student's coursework. What is the name of this process or form and where do I obtain it?

A.) The form is our DPA Program of Study which is processed when the student is advised. The Advisor uses this form to guide the student through to graduation.

Q.) How comprehensive does the resume need to be? Overall summary or detailed descriptions of course work, training, and programs involved in.

A.) An overall summary will be fine

Q.) For the concentration area, if the student is interested in both policy analysis as well as program evaluation, can these two interests be bridged into a coherent concentration?

A.) Yes, this can be done.

Q.) Is there a master list of concentrations that we are to follow?

A.) There is not a list. Our DPA students come from all walks of life, from education to law enforcement, just to name a few. If you are in the educational field, then you might want your concentration to be in that area. Same applies to other fields.

informative about the
kinds of doctoral students recruited and the scale of faculties
tend to be aimed at training practitioners than Ph.D. programs are, but this
difference does not translate into substantially greater levels of scholarly