

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

Q.) *What are the admission requirements?*

A.) General requirements for admission are:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Undergraduate GPA 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Submission of a resume
- Submission of a career goal statement
- Three letters of recommendation

A.) Prospective applicants complete the same application for admission to Valdosta State University graduate school that all other students submit. The application process is completely online. The application may be downloaded directly from the graduate school website at www.valdosta.edu/gradschool . If you have questions or concerns you may contact the graduate school by e-mail at gradschool@valdosta.edu or by phoning toll-free at 1.800.618.1878, locally at 229.333.5694, or by writing to the Graduate School, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698.

Q.) *Once accepted, how will I register?*

A.) Students will be given further instructions once they have been admitted into the program. Course schedules and information about classes for the next semester may be obtained by going to www.valdosta.edu/pa and following the links.

Q.) *How Do I Obtain Texts and Other Materials?*

A.) Texts and other required materials may be ordered online with a credit card by accessing the Valdosta State University homepage, www.valdosta.edu Go to the A - Z index and click on "Bookstore" and follow the instructions. Text information for the upcoming semester is available at www.valdosta.edu/pa by clicking on the s

Q.) *Is financial aid available for this program?*

A.) Yes. You may obtain information on financial aid by going to the VSU homepage, www.valdosta.edu and following the links to the Financial Aid Office.

Q.) *What course load is considered full time in the MPA program?*

A.) 9 hours per semester.

Q.) *How many hours can be transferred in from another MPA program?*

A.) 6 hours.

Q.) *If transferring coursework into the program, how old can it be?*

A.) The coursework has to be within 7 years of the completion of our program (your graduation date).

Q.) *Can a military course count as transfer credit?*

A.) A military course can be substituted but it has to be ACE recommended for graduate credit and the student must have a grade from that course.

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 are the concentrations?*

A.) Our MPA program has three areas of concentration which are taught completely online: Public Policy, Public Sector Management, and Public Personnel Management (Human Resource Management). All courses of a conce

Public Sector Management concentration. Public Policy is sometimes considered more of a

Q.) How many weeks are in a full-term semester?

A.) 15 weeks of courses and 1 week of testing to total 16 weeks

Q.) What is the minimum GPA score accepted for admittance to the MPA program?

A.) 2.5 but meeting the minimum does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

Q.)

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A.) You must enroll in both courses. You must do all course work in PADM 7900 and in PADM 7210 with the exception of the need to perform your internship outside of your work place. You must still perform your 300-hour internship but you can combine it within your employment.

Q.) Are any MPA or DPA courses blocked for transient students?

A.) MPA no, DPA yes, all.

Q.) Can an undergraduate student take graduate courses in his last two semesters before he graduates? If so, how many?

A.) Yes, but the student must meet specific requirements as listed in the Graduate Catalog Page 16. Their GPA has to be high enough and they must meet with their advisor. As to how many up to 9 hours but no more than 6 per/semester.

Q.) Can I be accepted into the MPA program prior to graduation or pending transcripts.

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

Q.) What is the format for the online courses?

A.) The University System of Georgia (which VSU is a part) uses the Desire 2 Learn platform. Most courses will be