The opportunity to find solutions to public problems drives those who seek careers in public service.

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program prepares students to manage organizations where the bottom line is public service rather than profit-making and where leadership makes a direct impact on lives. Students are given the opportunity to study administration where it happen—the state capital. Online students are also given a unique setting to study public administration with a diverse group of students from a variety of locations, backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.

UIS graduates are working as police chiefs, city managers, state agency directors, middle managers in both nonprofit and governmental agencies as well as other areas of public service such as higher education, health management, social services and more.

Paid Internships
Outstanding internship opportunities are available through the Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) and Illinois Legislative Staff Internship Program (ILSIP). These programs include tuition waivers and monthly stipends with opportunities to earn credit and work in public organizations.

Points of Pride
• Accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) through 2023
• #82 of 285 MPA programs by U.S. New & World Report
• #14 Affordable Colleges and #19 Top Value Colleges
• Online Excellence: #12 Best Colleges, #12 Best College Reviews and #16 The Best Schools

Degrees
• Master in Public Administration
• Joint Master in Public Administration and Public Health
  Both available online and on-ground

Graduate Certificates
• Child Advocacy Studies (CAST)
• Community Planning
• Management in Public Procurement (MCPP)
• Management of Nonprofit Organizations
• Public Sector Labor Relations

Affiliated Certificates:
• Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security
• Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
• Human Resource Management

Program and Faculty Specialties
• Public Finance and Procurement
• Public Sector Human Resource Management and Labor Relations
• Social Equity and Impact
• Data Analytics
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Comprehensive. Students will learn: administrative, legal and political processes; organizational structures, the context of public sector and nonprofit organizations; development of leadership capabilities; and the nature of government and nonprofit management.

Online Option. The highly ranked online MPA degree follows the same curriculum as the on-ground option, with minor exceptions.

MPA-MPH Joint Degree. UIS offers a joint master’s degree between Public Administration and Public Health. The MPA-MPH is available both online and on-ground. Admission decisions are made by each department for their respective program.

Core Courses. The MPA provides flexibility with electives, but all students learn core competencies through the following courses:

- PAD 501 – Introduction to the Profession
- PAD 502 – Organization Dynamics
- PAD 503 – Analytical Tools
- PAD 504 – Budget and Finance
- PAD 505 – Human Resource Management
- PAD 506 – Public Policy for Managers
- PAD 507 – Information for Decision Making

MANAGEMENT IN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. This certificate is designed for professionals currently working closely with nonprofit organizations and for students beginning their careers. Students prepare for work in nonprofit organizations where they may grow in their careers and direct change in their communities.

AFFILIATED CERTIFICATES

Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security. Offered through the Department of Public Health, this certificate provides training on the administration of emergency response.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Offered through the Department of Environmental Studies, this certificate trains on the basic and advanced uses of GIS software.

Human Resource Management. Offered through the Department of Management, this certificate prepares individuals interested in pursuing skillsets suited for a career in human resources.