

MPA REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

Students who matriculated in Fall 2009

Minimum of 54 credits, 4 full-time residency units, 3.0 GPA and the four components below.

1. CORE REQUIREMENT

The core curriculum accounts for a minimum of 22.5 of the 54 credits required for completion of the MPA degree. The remaining credits are comprised of the policy concentration and specialization requirements.

- U4200/U4201 Economics *or* U6400/U6401 Economic Analysis (Fall & Spr: 6 credits)
- U6500 Quantitative Analysis (Fall or Spr: 3 credits)
- U6110 Politics of Policymaking (Spring: 4 credits)
- Management (Fall or Spr: 3 credits)
- Financial Management * (Fall or Spr: 3 credits)
- MPA Capstone Requirement (Fall or Spr: 3 credits)
- U4040 Professional Development (Fall: .5 credit)
- U9013 Internship (Fall or Spr: 1.5 or 3 credits)

Students are required to complete an internship as part of the core curriculum; however, they are not required to *register* for internship credit. Students may register for internship credits either *in* the semester they are completing the internship or anytime *after* the internship is completed. International students who intend to obtain paid internships must register in the Spring term during or before the internship. Maximum of 3 credits allowed. Professional Development and Internships are handled by the Office of Career Services (420 IAB).

*For the Financial Management requirement, students may choose from:

- SIPA U6200 Accounting for International and Public Affairs (3 credits)
- INAF U6022 Economics of Finance (3 credits)
- PUAU U6416 Budgeting for Non-Profits (3 credits)
- PUAU U8201 Budgeting for Government (3 credits)

2. POLICY CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENT

All students choose one concentration consisting of 5 or 6 courses: a policy field in which they wish to focus their studies at SIPA. Please note that the declared concentration *does not appear* on the diploma. The Policy Concentrations are as follows: Economic and Political Development, Energy and Environment, Human Rights, International Finance and Economic Policy, International Security Policy, and Urban and Social Policy.

3. SPECIALIZATION REQUIREMENT

All students also choose one specialization consisting of 3 courses: a skill or area of specialized knowledge to pair with their policy concentration. The Specializations are as follows: Advanced Policy and Economic Analysis, Applied Science, International Media Advocacy and Communication, International Organization, Management, and Regional Areas.

4. ELECTIVES

Beyond satisfying core, concentration, and specialization requirements, students may choose to take other *relevant* graduate-level courses to meet the SIPA degree requirements of 54 credits; these will be considered as elective credits. Courses that are not approved as electives will not count towards the 54 curriculum credits.

NOTE: Students who pursue an EPD concentration *must* satisfy a language proficiency requirement relevant to the concentration.

QUANTITATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Students who pursue concentrations in EE and IFEP, *must* take U6400 Economic Analysis.
- Students in all other concentrations can take either U4200 Economics *or* U6400 Economic Analysis.

ADVISEMENT AND CONCENTRATION/SPECIALIZATION AUDIT FORMS

- Students must register for at least **12** credits each semester. Students should monitor the fulfillment of the core requirements using the Degree Audit Report on Student Services On-Line (SSOL).¹
- Advising on core curriculum and on academic policies and procedures is provided by advisors in the Student Affairs Office.
- Advising on concentration and specialization requirements will be provided by concentration and specialization directors, assisted by program assistants. Students should meet with their Concentration and Specialization Directors periodically to confirm their plans to complete those requirements.²
- Approved Concentration and Specialization Audit Forms must be submitted in the final semester in order to graduate. Students should:
 1. Complete the Concentration and Specialization Audit Form²: Audit forms are designed to assist students & Directors in determining if the concentration and specialization requirements have been fulfilled.
 2. Meet with the Concentration and Specialization Directors for final approval.
 3. Return the *signed* Audit form to the Student Affairs Office (610 IAB) by the appropriate deadline.

Deadlines for Concentration Audit Forms

- August 1 for October graduation
- November 1 for February graduation
- February 1 for May graduation

Student Services OnLine (SSOL) is available at <http://ssol.columbia.edu> ¹

Concentration Directors contacts & Audit Forms are available online at http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/graduation_requirements.html ²