

Dual Degree: Washington College of Law and School of Public Affairs LLM/MPA and LLM/MPP

In conjunction with the American University School of Public Affairs, a nationally top-ranked school of public affairs and administration, (US News & World Report), the Program on Law and Government offers two dual degree programs to deepen our students' scholarship in law, political affairs, and public policy, and further prepare our students for leadership in the public arena.

Students may apply for a dual degree with the Master of Laws (LLM) program in Law and Government from the American University Washington College of Law (WCL) and the Master in Public Policy Program (MPP) or the Master in Public Administration Program (MPA) at the School of Public Affairs (SPA).

The LLM/MPA is designed for students interested in examining the integral relationship of law to public administration and management, or of law to public policy. The LLM/MPA provides a broad theoretical grounding in public administration and management as well as a practical education in the analysis and implementation of policy and laws at all levels of government.

The LLM/MPP offers a broad theoretical grounding in policy analysis, program evaluations and successful policy implementation and provides students with the necessary skills to creatively address the political, financial, organizational, legal, ethical and constitutional challenges inherent in developing and delivering sound public policies.

Both programs are especially attractive to students who may seek to use their law degrees in the political, governmental and not-for-profit realms as leaders, advocates, and policymakers.

Admissions Requirements:

Applicants must satisfy the admission requirements of both SPA and WCL to be admitted into this dual degree program. Students already admitted to WCL will not be required to take the GRE and can substitute their LSAT scores in place of the GRE. Students will first apply to the LLM in Law and Government and once accepted, their complete file will be transferred to the SPA for review and an admissions decision. Admission to either WCL or SPA does not guarantee admission to the other.

Priority Application Deadlines

Fall: June 1

Spring: November 1

We encourage applicants to submit their applications as early as possible because applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

- Admission to the LLM Program

- Applicants must have completed a law degree at a U.S. law school accredited by the American Bar Association, or at a foreign law school with equivalent standards.
- Submit online application before deadline
- Application Fee
- Official copies of Academic Records

- Two Letters of Recommendation
 - Non-native English Speakers: Official Proof of Competency in English (scores sent from testing agency)
 - Visa Related Documentation (for students requesting an F-1 student Visa)
- **Admission to the MPA/MPP Program**
 - Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for graduate study.
 - Admission decisions are based on each applicant's academic record, two letters of recommendation, test scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or LSAT, and an essay written by the applicant on his or her background and career interests.
 - Applicants may substitute test scores from similar tests, such as the GMAT or LSAT, for the GRE where appropriate.
 - Applicants who received their undergraduate degree more than eight years prior to their date of application may waive the requirement for test scores by submitting a statement describing their professional experience. The department values applicants who have acquired practical experience before beginning their professional degree program.
 - Admission decisions are based on each applicant's total record and not on any single strength or deficiency.
 - **Students can apply:**
 - Initially to the dual LLM/MPP or LLM/MPA program, or
 - LLM students can apply to the MPP or MPA dual degree program after commencing their studies at WCL.
 - MPP or MPA students can apply to the LLM program after commencing their studies at SPA.

Fees & Financial Information:

- Students may apply for scholarships and tuition remission through WCL when enrolled at WCL.
- Students may apply for scholarships and tuition remission through SPA when enrolled at SPA.
- Tuition
 - While completing the LLM degree, students will pay WCL tuition as stated on the [WCL website](#).
 - WCL tuition will be paid for both WCL and SPA courses taken while completing the LLM requirements.
 - Once the LLM requirements are met, students will be switched to SPA student status and will pay the SPA graduate tuition rate as stated on the [SPA website](#).

Masters of Law and Public Administration: LLM/MPA

The program is designed such that both degrees can be completed in as few as four semesters, assuming attendance during summer terms, for a total of 42 credit hours.

Degree Requirements

- **For the MPA**

- Students must successfully complete 18 semester hours of law courses and 24 credit hours of coursework approved by SPA (if earned as separate degrees, students must complete 42 credit hours for the MPA degree and 24 credit hours to earn the LLM degree)
 - The law school's *The Washington Lawyer*, LAW-892, or *Introduction to American Legal Institutions*, LAW-580-005, may fulfill one of the research course requirements for the MPA. In addition, Administrative Law LAW-601 or one of the law school's administrative law courses approved by the LLM Program must be completed satisfactorily to fulfill the MPA's core requirements.
 - Students may begin their studies in SPA during the first semester in the LLM Program.
 - Students may not count an SPA internship towards the LLM degree
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- Successful completion of a Comprehensive written examination - Comprehensive examination including an exercise in management analysis and a reflective essay
- The research requirement is satisfied by completing two of the following courses with grades of B or better:
 - PUAD-605 Problem Solving for Managers *or* PUAD-601 Methods of Problem Solving
 - PUAD-610 Management Analysis
 - PUAD-630 Public Managerial Economics
 - LAW-892 The Washington Lawyer
 - LAW-580 Introduction to American Legal Institutions

- For the LLM

- The LLM degree requires the completion of 18 credit hours with a grade point average of 3.0 (C) or better and recommendation for the degree by the faculty.
- LLM students may choose from the Approved Course listing provided by the Program on Law and Government during the pre-registration period each semester.

Neither degree will be awarded until both have been completed.

Course Requirements for the MPA

- For the MPA (courses to be taken in SPA)

- PUAD-605 Problem Solving for Managers (3) or PUAD-601 Methods of Problem Solving I (3)
- PUAD-610 Management Analysis (3)
- PUAD-612 Public Administration in the Policy Process (3)
- PUAD-630 Public Managerial Economics (3)
- PUAD-653 The Individual and the Organization (3)
- Two courses from the following, one of which may be replaced by a related 3- to 4-credit LAW course, pre-approved by the department:
 - PUAD-609 Topics in Public Management (3)
 - PUAD-611 Government and Non-Profit Institutions (3)
 - PUAD-615 Public-Private Partnerships (3)
 - PUAD-617 Project Management (3)
 - PUAD-650 Leadership in a Changing Workplace (3)

- PUAD-652 Facilitation and Team Development (3)
 - PUAD-665 Human Resource Management Strategies (3)
 - At least one course in public finance, budgeting or financial management from the following, with other options provided by the MPA advisor: PUAD-631 Financing Government Services (3); PUAD-632 Budget and Cost Analysis (3); PUAD-633 Financial Aspects of Public Management (3)
 - PUAD-691 Internship (3) Pre-service students about to begin their career participate in a supervised internship.
 - **Area of concentration (12 credit hours to be taken in WCL)**
 - May be completed through courses taken at the law school.
 - The only concentration in SPA available to dual degree students is in Law and Public Administration.
 - **Externships**
 - Students without significant professional work background generally participate in a not for credit internship or for credit externship through the LLM program. For students already employed, an internship/externship is optional.
- **For the LLM.**
 - LLM students may choose from the Approved Course listing provided by the Program on Law and Government during the pre-registration period each semester.
 - Complete course descriptions and accompanying syllabi for select courses are available on the [WCL Registrar's Webpage](#)
 - The only required course for the degree is *The Washington Lawyer* or *Introduction to American Legal Institutions* for foreign trained lawyers. This requirement cannot be waived.
 - Student may select from the concentrations and specializations as listed on the [Law and Government Website](#) and will be required to complete a specialization request form before graduation.

Masters of Laws and Public Administration: LLM/MPP

The program is designed such that both degrees can be completed in as few as four semesters, assuming attendance during summer terms, for a total of 45 credit hours.

Degree Requirements

- **For the MPP**
 - Students must successfully complete 18 semester hours of law courses and 24-27* credit hours of coursework approved by SPA (if earned as separate degrees, students must complete 39 credit hours for the MPP degree and 24 credit hours to earn the LLM degree)
 - *Students may test out of PUAD-601 Methods of Problem Solving I to reduce their SPA course requirement from 27 to 24 credits which would result in 42 credits total.
 - The law school's *The Washington Lawyer*, LAW-892, or *Introduction to American Legal Institutions*, LAW-580-005, may fulfill one of the research course requirements for the MPP. Students may begin their studies in SPA during the first semester in the LLM Program.

- Students may not count an SPA internship towards the LLM degree
- Comprehensive written examination
- The research requirement is satisfied by completing two of the following courses with grades of B or better:
 - PUAD-601 Methods of Problem Solving I (3)
 - PUAD-602 Methods of Problem Solving II (3)
 - PUAD-604 Public Program Evaluation (3)
 - PUAD-607 Economics and Politics of Public Policy (3)
 - PUAD-630 Public Managerial Economics (3)
 - LAW-892 The Washington Lawyer
 - LAW-580 Introduction to American Legal Institutions
- **For the LLM**
 - The LLM degree requires the completion of 18 credit hours with a grade point average of 3.0 (C) or better and recommendation for the degree by the faculty.
 - LLM students may choose from the Approved Course listing provided by the Program on Law and Government during the pre-registration period each semester.

Neither degree will be awarded until both have been completed.

Course Requirements

- **For the MPP (courses to be taken in SPA)**
 - PUAD-601 Methods of Problem Solving I (3)
 - (Students may test out of PUAD-601 without substitution of another approved course)
 - PUAD-602 Methods of Problem Solving II (3)
 - PUAD-603 Policy Process (3)
 - PUAD-606 Foundations of Policy Analysis (3)
 - PUAD-630 Public Managerial Economics (3)
 - PUAD-631 Financing Government Services (3)
 - PUAD-684 Organizational Analysis (3)
 - PUAD-688 Policy Practicum (3)
- One of the following courses:
 - PUAD-604 Public Program Evaluation (3)
 - PUAD-607 Economics and Politics of Public Policy (3)
 - PUAD-685 Topics in Policy Analysis and Management: Cost Benefit Analysis (3)
- **Area of concentration (12credit hours to be taken in WCL)**
 - May be completed through courses taken at the law school.
 - The only concentration in SPA available to dual degree students is in Law and Public Policy.
- **Externships**
 - Students without significant professional work background generally participate in a not for credit internship or for credit externship through the LLM program.. For students already employed, an internship/externship is optional.
- **For the LLM.**

- LL.M. students may choose from the Approved Course listing provided by the Program on Law and Government during the pre-registration period each semester.
- Complete course descriptions and accompanying syllabi for select courses are available on the [WCL Registrar's Webpage](#)
- The only required course for the degree is *The Washington Lawyer* or *Introduction to American Legal Institutions* for foreign trained lawyers. This requirement cannot be waived.
- Student may select from the concentrations and specializations as listed on the [Law and Government Website](#) and will be required to complete a specialization request form before graduation.