

**Disability Services Leadership and Management Specialization
Master of Public Administration Program**

**School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy
University of Delaware**

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The program in public administration is jointly offered by the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and the Department of Political Science and International Relations. The mission of the University of Delaware's Master of Public Administration program is to provide, diverse, talented graduate students with specific competencies for leadership and management, including the knowledge, skills and values essential to accountable and effective practice. The MPA program contributes directly to solutions to public challenges of our times through research and public service projects that involve students in experiential learning. The program also seeks to develop relationships with practitioners, fostering a professional focus and approaching public administration and nonprofit management and furthering the values of the field. The Disability Services Leadership and Management Specialization adds to the management focus of the MPA program coursework and fieldwork focusing on contemporary practice in the field of community-based services and supports for people with disabilities. The disabilities field in a combination of federal policy and funding, with state and local (depending on the state) governments and the private non-profit sector as the primary implementers of services and supports. Increasingly, services are implemented through contracts from government to the private non-profit sector. In some states, there is a robust for-profit sector as well.

MPA candidates are required to complete 42 credit hours to earn the degree. The curriculum consists of core requirements, specialization courses, an internship for those at entry level or changing their careers, a writing requirement, and an Information Technology requirement.

Students may choose from one of the following specialization areas or may design their own with the advice of an advisor and program director approval.

- Community Development and Nonprofit Leadership
- Financial Management
- Health Policy and Management
- Organizational Leadership
- State and Local Management
- Disability Services Leadership and Management Specialization (This proposal)

	Credits
Core requirements – For All MPA Students	21
Specialization courses	12-15
Internship (required for students at entry-level or changing careers)	3
Information Technology courses	3
Writing requirement consisting of a 3-credit analytical paper option OR a 6-credit thesis option.	3-6
<i>Total credits needed for MPA degree</i>	42

As part of their electives and to satisfy their Information Technology requirement, students are encouraged to take advantage of **mini-courses**, which are one-credit, skill-based courses designed to develop and enhance proficiencies necessary for effective public and nonprofit management.

Core curriculum

There are seven required core courses for all MPA students:

UAPP 803	Seminar in Public Administration
UAPP 834	Economics in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
UAPP 815	Public Management Statistics (may be waived through exam)
UAPP 819	Management Decision Making in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
UAPP 833	Financial Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
UAPP 837	Human Resources Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
UAPP 835	Organizations and Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors

Disability Services Leadership and Management Specialization

Description

Course work in the Disability Services Leadership and Management Specialization builds on the management focus of the MPA program and is designed to increase (1) leadership skills, (2) understanding of the relationship of service systems to individuals with disabilities and their families, (3) understanding of policy decision-making at the local, state, and federal levels,

and (4) understanding of program and evaluation research. Students pursuing this specialization focus on current critical issues in management, leadership, and disabilities studies from a variety of theoretical and applied perspectives. The program emphasizes a strong background in human development and the rights of people with disabilities, the study of individuals with disabilities and their families in a multicultural context, and the development, management, and evaluation of programs for individuals with disabilities in diverse and inclusive community settings.

Students are prepared for leadership positions in public and private human service organizations, community agencies and local, state, and federal government organizations where they will have the skills to work directly with programs supporting individuals with disabilities and their families; design and administer high quality programs; and/or evaluate disabilities-focused programs.

Services for people with disabilities are primarily funded by government and mostly delivered through the private sector. With the exception of some short-term rehabilitation programs and some short-term acute psychiatric inpatient programs, there is very limited private money in this field. Virtually all of the funding comes from government, at least the funds that are spent on formal services. Thus, there is a natural relationship between the MPA program and Disability Services Leadership and Management (DSLML) specialization.

Research Center Affiliation

The DSLML specialization is supported by the active research and public service programs of the **Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS)**. Most full-time students who choose DSLML as their specialization will work on CDS projects.

Courses

In addition to the MPA core requirements, students specializing in DSLML are required to complete at least 6 credit hours of general coursework within the area as well as Leadership for Vulnerable Populations (course description below). Several courses now under consideration/development and included on the elective lists below as “placeholders.”

General courses that support the DSLML area include:

IFST 670	Family Risk and Resiliency	3
IFST 880	Families, Disabilities and Institutions	3
IFST 6??/ 8??	Disabilities/Human Services (proposed)	3
IFST 6??/ 8??	Inclusive Services for Adults with Disabilities	3

In addition, students must choose at least 6 hours of coursework within one of the options listed below: (1) Program Planning/Evaluation, (2) Leadership, (3) Policy/Law, or (4) Management.

Option in Program Planning/Evaluation:

IFST 637	Program Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation	3
UAPP 642	Strategic Planning for Public and Nonprofit Organization (offered every other year)	3
UAPP 804	Program Evaluation for Health and Social Services	3
UAPP 684	Performance Management	3

Option in Leadership:

UAPP 404/ 604	Leadership in Organizations	3
UAPP 607	Seminar in Community Development and Nonprofit Leadership	
UAPP 650	Values and Ethics of Leadership	3
UAPP 641	Topics in Nonprofit Management and Leadership	3
IFST 642	Leadership in Human Services	3
IFST 642	Leadership in Human Services	3
LEAD 411/ UAPP 611	Topics in Leadership Dynamics (proposed)	3

Option in Policy/Law:

UAPP 618	Human Service Systems: Policy, Practices, Administration	3
UAPP 657	Health Policy	3
IFST600/ UAPP 600	Policy Development for Disabilities Leadership (proposed)	3

Option in Management*:

UAPP 841	Management and Governance of Nonprofit Orgs	3
IFST 600	Organizational Communication and Managing Relationships (proposed)	3

*A new course will be developed in systems change—helping public and private systems move to person centered and community approaches in the delivery of services and supports.

In addition, there are a variety of **one-credit mini-courses** that are relevant to the DSLM area. Highly recommended mini-courses will be: (1) Ethics in Disabilities Leadership, (2) Diversity and Disabilities Studies, and (3) Quality Assurance.

UAPP 602	Introduction to Comprehensive Planning	1
UAPP 607	Sem: Community Dev/Nonprofit leadership	1
UAPP 621	Conflict Resolution	1
UAPP 658	Contemporary Issues in Public Administration	1
ZZZZ 000	Diversity and Disabilities Studies (proposed)	1
ZZZZ 000	Regulatory Organizations (proposed)	1
ZZZZ 000	Contracting (proposed)	1
ZZZZ 000	Ethics in Disabilities Leadership (proposed)	1
ZZZZ 000	Fundraising/Social Marketing (proposed)	1
ZZZZ 000	Quality Assurance (proposed)	1

Typical plan of study for full-time students in the Disability Services Leadership and Management Specialization

Fall Semester		Credits
UAPP 803	Seminar in Public Administration	3
UAPP 815	Public Management Statistics	3
IFST/UAPP 667	Leadership for Vulnerable Populations – note: One-credit pilot Winter 2007, Scheduled for Fall 2007	3
UAPP 860	Internship Seminar	1
UAPP 677	Planning IT-Enhanced Projects	1

Winter Session	Credits
Optional study abroad tour, e.g., to the Netherlands, or practicum, special projects, or selected coursework. We are also working on a disability-specific program in Croatia for winter, 2008.	

Spring Semester		Credits
UAPP 819	Management Decision Making in the Public & Nonprofit Sectors	3
	Courses in area of specialization	6
UAPP 837	Human Resources Management in Public & Nonprofit Sectors	3

Summer	Credits
UAPP 864 Internship Fieldwork (2)	2

Second Year

Fall Semester	Credits
UAPP 835 Organizations and Management in Public & Nonprofit Sectors	3
UAPP 834 Public Economics in Public & Nonprofit Sectors	3
Course in area of specialization	3
IT Mini-course	1

Credits

Spring Semester	Credits
Course in area of specialization**	3
Analytical Paper	3
UAPP 872 Public Financial Management in Public & Nonprofit Sectors	3
UAPP 833 IT Mini-course	1

** Three area one-credit mini-courses may substitute for one area three-credit course.

Note: The program as specified above includes 45 credits, the average number of credits completed by MPA graduates. Many DSLM students may waive the internship requirement.

Course Description

UAPP 667 – Leadership for Vulnerable Populations

This course will focus on the programmatic, ethical and leadership issues when leading and managing both public and not-for-profit organizations supporting vulnerable populations, particularly adults with developmental disabilities and the elderly. Cross listed with IFST 667-012.

