



UNIVERSITY of
SAN FRANCISCO



graduate program in
public affairs and
practical politics

College of Arts and Sciences





The Graduate Program in Public Affairs and Practical Politics provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective political action by merging hands-on experiences with rigorous graduate seminars to bridge theory and praxis. It allows students to apply their skills outside of the traditional classroom setting to create positive change in their communities and in the political system.

The Master of Public Affairs program is ideal for people interested in translating an interest in public affairs and politics into a career in public service for the common good. Graduates are enabled to pursue careers that make a difference in nonprofits, governmental offices, political entities and the private sector. Career paths for the program's graduate students include grassroots and community organizing, campaign strategy and management, governmental relations and advocacy, strategic communications, journalism, and teaching.





Master of Pub

Program of Study

The 16-month, 33-credit Master's degree program operates on a fall, spring, summer, fall cohort schedule. During the first fall semester, students will complete three core courses. During the spring and summer semesters, students select courses from the elective offerings. Spring and summer course offerings are determined in the fall according to student interest as revealed in a survey of students. To conclude the program, students complete three different core requirements consisting of an intensive internship, public affairs colloquium, and capstone project during the second fall semester.

All courses are three credits. Students complete 5 core courses (15 credits total) and 6 elective courses (18 credits total).

Program Highlights

- The Master of Public Affairs is a comprehensive interdisciplinary degree.
- 16-month Master's cohort program
- Core courses taught by USF faculty. Electives taught by prominent practitioners in their fields.
- A rigorous internship requirement that gives students the ability to develop knowledge in action and opportunities to build networks which positions them well for obtaining permanent employment upon graduation.
- The University of San Francisco is committed to educating leaders who will fashion a more humane and just world and who adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards.
- The Graduate Program in Public Affairs and Practical Politics embraces the core values of the university: a commitment to advancing learning as a humanizing, social activity rather than a competitive exercise; the pursuit of a common good transcending particular interests; a commitment to inclusion; and a recognition of the responsibility to create, communicate, and apply knowledge to a world shared by all people and held in trust for future generations.



- Small cohort size and exceptionally low instructor to student ratio; Mentorship, leadership development, and career support.
- San Francisco offers a distinctive setting in which students learn from those at the pinnacle of their professions and apply coursework in a vibrant political community.

Sample Program Timelines

4-SEMESTER MASTER'S PROGRAM (16 MONTHS—COURSES ARE 3 CREDITS EACH)

YEAR 1

FALL 3 CORE COURSES (REQUIRED)

Public Affairs and Applied Democratic Theory
 Research Methods for Public Affairs and Applied Statistics
 Writing for Political Professionals

SPRING SELECT 3 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

American Urban Politics
 Campaign Strategy and Elections
 Citizen Participation and Community Power
 Politics and Political Advocacy
 Understanding Public Opinion and Political Persuasion

SUMMER SELECT 3 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

Urban Public Policy Issues
 Campaign Management and Organization
 Mobilizing for Political Action
 Governmental and Intergovernmental Relations
 Strategic Communications

YEAR 2

FALL 2 CORE COURSES AND INTERNSHIP

Public Affairs Colloquium
 Master's Capstone Project
 Public Affairs Fieldwork (0 credits)

Public Affairs



Graduate Courses

Public Affairs and Applied Democratic Theory

This foundational seminar examines and analyzes models of democratic accountability to identify viable techniques and strategies for encouraging effective public participation in governance. Provides a theoretical underpinning for discussions of public ethics.

Research Methods for Public Affairs and Applied Statistics

Use of quantitative information and research in politics and public policy. Topics include research design and methodology, statistical association, causal reasoning, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, and geographic information systems. Students will be exposed to appropriate statistical and database software.

Writing for Political Professionals

Essential writing skills required for political professionals including such writing styles as press releases, speeches, talking points, policy memos, policy briefs, position papers, opinion editorials, and grants.

American Urban Politics

Explores the political development and contemporary political dynamics of U.S. cities. Includes processes of political mobilization and governance, elections, public policy formation, role of nonprofits and community based organizations, and economic, ethnic, and cultural conflicts.

Urban Public Policy Issues

An introduction to policymaking in American cities, focusing on the central public policy challenges facing urban areas in the United States from a global perspective. Explores relationships between private economy and public policies in American cities; causes of urban decline and uneven development; and urban redevelopment and human capital policies. Includes development politics, land use, housing, transportation, and the political and institutional settings for policy making.

Campaign Strategy and Elections

Examines the legal framework within which campaigns operate in the United States and locally. Addresses campaign finance and other regulations and situates the strategic decisions made by campaigns within a legal and political context.

Campaign Management and Organization

Explores choices made by campaigns in staffing a campaign and devising and executing a campaign plan. Includes fundraising, field organizing, voter targeting, volunteer recruitment, and get-out-the-vote efforts.

Citizen Participation and Community Power

Addresses the relationship between civil society and the state in contemporary American politics. The course considers the role of civic engagement and participation in politics and government and the viability of community associations and other neighborhood organizations as sources of political power.

Mobilizing for Political Action

This course combines theories of political mobilizing with applications from labor and grassroots organizing. Examines mobilization in the context of electoral and extra-institutional campaigns, and combines strategic considerations for inspiring and organizing mobilization with practical skills in power mapping, organization-building, and leadership development.

Politics and Political Advocacy

Considers the role of organized advocacy and interest groups within American political processes. Explores the development of advocacy strategies including lobbying and issue advocacy.

Governmental and Intergovernmental Relations

Explores the principles of, and skills required in governmental relations. Particular focus on American federalism and the practice of intergovernmental governmental between branches and layers of governmental institutions.

Understanding Public Opinion and Political Persuasion

Considers the processes by which people make decisions and behave politically. Covers theories of public opinion, political socialization, and political behavior. Includes the essential skills required to design and interpret survey research.

Strategic Communications

This class addresses the formulation of communications strategies as a basis for advocacy and political persuasion. Examines messaging, policy framing, media relations, and processes of macro and micro targeting. Develops skills in various forms of communications including both written and oral.

Public Affairs Colloquium

This capstone seminar course provides grounding for the fieldwork internship experience and research project as well as a forum for the presentation of these projects. The colloquium will be open to the public.

Master's Capstone Project

Master's degree candidates will propose, design, and implement a substantial and original research project designed to integrate theory and knowledge with political action. Topics should be designed in conjunction with the fieldwork internship experience and be of interest to the host organization.

Public Affairs Fieldwork

This intensive fieldwork internship is required for completion of the degree. Students are expected to successfully complete 400 hours working with a public affairs organization including political campaign, advocacy agency, community organization, neighborhood association, public office, or other similar entity. This non-credit internship will be arranged, facilitated, and directed by faculty along with an on-site supervisor.

Faculty

Visit www.usfca.edu/mopa and click on "Faculty" for a list of faculty and specializations.



Harvey Milk, 1978 (photo by Daniel Nicoletta)

How to Apply

The application date is **April 1**. Fall admission only. Completed applications are reviewed on a rolling admission basis; therefore it is best to apply as early as possible for priority consideration for admission. Once the class for the fall program is filled, later qualified applicants may be placed on a waiting list. It is highly recommended that prospective students submit all application items well before April 1.

Applicants need to hold a Bachelor's Degree – at the time of enrollment in the graduate program – in any academic subject from a recognized university-level institution.

Financial Aid

Federal Stafford student loans up to \$20,500 are available each year to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, as well as Federal Grad PLUS loans for all additional expenses. The Public Affairs program also offers a limited number of partial scholarships.

Application Items

- Apply online at www.usfca.edu/grad/applyonline
- Official sealed transcript from each college/university attended
- Two letters of recommendation
- Current résumé
- Statement of Purpose, a 2- to 3-page statement (please see application for details)
- International Students: Two additional items are required: TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores and Certification of Finance (and bank statements) if F-1 visa is needed. Please visit www.usfca.edu/asinternational for test score policies and certification of finance details.

Contact Us

For program information contact the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at (415) 422-5662 or mopa@usfca.edu. Please visit www.usfca.edu/mopa for more program information.

Send all application items to:

University of San Francisco
Office of Graduate Programs, Arts and Sciences
2130 Fulton Street, HR 240
San Francisco, CA 94117

Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good

The Master of Public Affairs Program resides in the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good. The McCarthy Center at USF inspires and equips students to lead lives of ethical public service both in their careers and their communities. In addition to providing internship opportunities in the public-service sector in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C., the Center also offers an undergraduate Public Service Honors Minor and Certificate program – as well as the Master of Public Affairs.

Careers That Make a Difference

MOPA graduates are prepared to pursue careers in nonprofits, governmental offices, political entities, and the private sector including:

- Campaign management
- Field organizing
- Grant writing
- Political communications and journalism
- Speech writing
- Media strategist
- Legislative offices
- Government relations manager
- Nonprofit director
- Lobbying and advocacy

FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Professor Corey Cook
MOPA PROGRAM ADVISER

Angela Mucci
MOPA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

PROGRAM PHONE:
415/422-5662

PROGRAM EMAIL:
mopa@usfca.edu

Master of Public Affairs
University of San Francisco
University Center 300
San Francisco, CA 94117-1080

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM AT:
www.usfca.edu/mopa

FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION:

OFFICE OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:
415/422-5101

Mark Landerghini
DIRECTOR, GRADUATE PROGRAMS:
415/422-5135

TO APPLY ONLINE:
www.usfca.edu/grad/applyonline



Educating Minds and Hearts
to Change the World