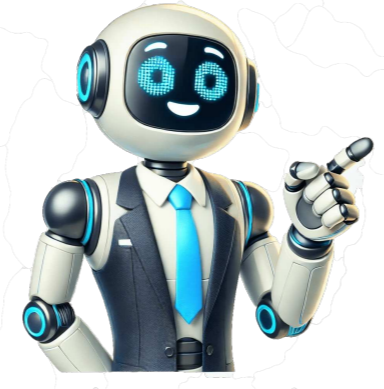


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Public administration masters programs

By the GradReports team | Updated 4/1/2020 We ranked the top 25 schools by median salary one year after graduation for Master's in Public Administration (MPA) graduates. The school with the highest median starting salary for MPAs is Harvard University, at \$98,300 per year. The lowest median debt for the top 25 MPA programs is \$20,525, for graduates of Anna Maria College. The range of median salaries for the top 25 schools is \$60,700-\$98,300. Tuition, median salaries, and median debt were reported by the U.S. Department of Education in November 2019. View our methodology for more details about these rankings or read more about the top-ranked schools. Location Annual Tuition Median Debt Median Salary #1 #1 Harvard University Cambridge (MA) Cambridge (MA) \$53,760 \$35,839 \$98,300 #2 #2 Anna Maria College Paxton (MA) Paxton (MA) \$10,530 \$20,525 \$93,000 #3 #3 University of San Francisco San Francisco (CA) San Francisco (CA) \$28,060 \$49,417 \$79,900 #4 #4 The George Washington University Washington D.C. Washington D.C. \$33,984 \$49,847 \$76,900 #5 #5 San Francisco State University San Francisco (CA) San Francisco (CA) \$18,462 \$33,787 \$73,700 #6 #6 Marist College Poughkeepsie (NY) Poughkeepsie (NY) \$16,120 \$37,485 \$71,700 #7 #7 National University La Jolla (CA) La Jolla (CA) \$15,912 \$32,587 \$71,000 #8 #8 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Blacksburg (VA) Blacksburg (VA) \$32,433 \$35,034 \$70,100 #9 #9 American University Washington D.C. Washington D.C. \$39,126 \$55,500 \$69,600 #10 #10 California Baptist University Riverside (CA) Riverside (CA) \$14,410 \$27,625 \$68,000 #11 #11 New York University New York (NY) New York (NY) \$39,592 \$69,633 \$67,100 #12 #12 University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia (PA) Philadelphia (PA) \$44,162 \$63,453 \$67,000 #14 #14 California State University - East Bay Hayward (CA) Hayward (CA) \$17,933 \$36,281 \$66,400 #15 #15 Columbia University in the City of New York New York (NY) New York (NY) \$54,627 \$71,273 \$66,000 #16 #16 California State University - Northridge Northridge (CA) Northridge (CA) \$18,007 \$34,000 \$64,200 #17 #17 CUNY Bernard M Baruch College New York (NY) New York (NY) \$20,882 \$25,114 \$63,500 #18 #18 Northwestern University Evanston (IL) Evanston (IL) \$53,024 \$40,605 \$63,200 #19 #19 University of South Dakota Vermillion (SD) Vermillion (SD) \$12,768 Not Reported \$63,100 #20 #20 Hamline University Saint Paul (MN) Saint Paul (MN) \$10,579 \$42,200 \$62,400 #21 #21 George Mason University Fairfax (VA) Fairfax (VA) \$38,986 \$41,000 \$62,100 #22 #22 Villanova University Villanova (PA) Villanova (PA) \$21,307 \$37,290 \$62,000 #23 #23 Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh (PA) Pittsburgh (PA) \$48,557 \$31,392 \$61,400 #24 #24 Texas State University San Marcos (TX) San Marcos (TX) \$17,220 \$21,680 \$61,100 #25 #25 Columbia Southern University Orange Beach (AL) Orange Beach (AL) \$4,155 \$24,353 \$60,700 Harvard University has a rigorous Master's in Public Administration (MPA) program that involves four semesters of full-time coursework, requiring students to complete at least 64 credits before graduating. This MPA is completed while in residence at the Harvard Kennedy School. Students are able to personalize their degree by choosing some electives and their preferred configuration of courses from a given set. For example, students will take four courses from each of these three areas: economics and quantitative analysis, management and leadership, and public ethics and political institutions. Within each of these sections, however, a student gets to choose which four classes to take. For students who wish to accomplish two master's degrees, Harvard University has an option for taking a second degree concurrently with an MPA. The second degree can be in law, business, medicine, or in another professional field offered by Harvard or a partnering institution. The total course load is lessened per degree when a student opts to complete two degrees. Visit Harvard University's website. Anna Maria College's online Master's in Public Administration (MPA) is a 36-credit-hour program designed to prepare students to apply business and strategic thinking to the public and nonprofit sectors. The general track has various options for specialization, such as conflict management, labor-management relations, and professional government management. There are also four other track options in addition to the general track: criminal justice, emergency management, fire and emergency services, and homeland security. Each of these tracks has modified courses to channel students' interests toward the information they want to gain, providing a practical way to enter a more specified field. The curriculum used for the MPA covers different aspects of public administration, going into the theoretical and the practical. Students will have courses like Strategic Management of Human Capital, Ethical Theory, and Strategic Planning for Public Managers. The faculty is dedicated to providing relevant and up-to-date information aimed to help students find their desired public administration jobs. Visit Anna Maria College's website. The University of San Francisco has a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) program as well as an MPA program with an emphasis in health services administration. Both of these programs are completed through the School of Management and are designed to formulate students' ability to think, research, motivate, and lead in the public, nonprofit, and health care sectors. The MPA program requires 38 units to be completed, and students are given a flexible class schedule, enabling them to work and attend university at the same time. Example courses include Navigating and Negotiating the Field of Practice of Public Administration, Core Value Driven Leadership and Ethics, Information Technology and E-Trends, and Quantitative Methods and Big Data. The University of San Francisco's MPA program started in 1978 and is committed to teaching a broad perspective on public administration, aiming to prepare graduates for ethical, humane, creative, and effective service. Visit University of San Francisco's website. The Master's in Public Administration (MPA) program at The George Washington University is offered through the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and the degree comes through the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. This program has a 40-unit requirement. The MPA program at The George Washington University began in 1963 and continued to build and grow, eventually leading to the establishment of the School of Public Policy and Public Administration in 2003. The goal of the MPA is to prepare students in research, analysis, leadership, and public service. To complete this degree, students choose an area of focus from different fields, including budget and public finance; federal policy, politics, and management; public-private policy and management; policy analysis and evaluation; politics and management; international development management; managing state and local governments; and nonprofit management. The program was designed to accommodate students who are working full time in addition to studying, and so students can choose to take classes full-time or part-time, with many classes available in the evening. There is also an option, for students interested, to combine the MPA with a JD from the GW Law School, making an MPA-JD dual degree. Visit The George Washington University's website. San Francisco State University offers a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) at their College of Health and Social Sciences. The MPA program works through the School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) and has earned national accreditation from the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. This program focuses on finding and teaching innovative ways to serve the public and nonprofit sectors. The program requires students to complete 42 units. Usually, this course load is spread over seven semesters, which allows professionals time to work and complete their degrees. A student enrolled in the MPA program can choose a focus for their degree from seven options: nonprofit administration, public management, public policy, urban administration, criminal justice administration, gerontology, and environmental administration and policy. The program also makes room for students who have other ideas for areas of focus - there is an option that allows students to design a new elective emphasis. There is an internship requirement to complete the MPA program; however, this requirement can be waived for many students, if they submit the formal paperwork. Finally, San Francisco State University's MPA program will have you complete a Culminating Experience Requirement. For this, students will choose either a capstone course and a comprehensive written examination or a Master's Thesis option. This program's learning outcomes include preparing to engage in an ever-changing work environment, confidence to think critically and share new ideas, and the ability to manage and lead in public administrative roles. Visit San Francisco State University's website. Flexibility is important for success in the public service sector, reveals Public Service Careers, an online resource for public service professionals. Public administrators should be ready to shift jobs when opportunities arise. As a public administrator, you can work as a government policy analyst, public relations manager or regional planner. You could also work in nonprofit organizations. Public administrators perform various roles depending on the organization. Public administrators often need at least a bachelor's degree, but many also earn master's degrees in public administration. Administrative RolesPublic administrators often fulfill administrative roles providing information to clients, and overseeing and implementing various programs for organizations. They are often responsible for directing and advising organization employees like researchers, program officers and consultants. They might also evaluate programs and services within an organization, as well as implement changes to public policy initiatives. Fiscal AdministrationMonitoring and approving budgets may also be a public administrator's role. They might be in charge of revenue and expenditure planning in their organizations. They may also design and evaluate accounting systems. Public administrators must comply with legal provisions while managing accounting information. Public administrators often need a balance of skills such as interpreting and reporting financial information in a way that people can easily understand it. Public GuardianSome public administrators take on a public guardian role, managing affairs for people who are unable to make their own health or financial decisions. People who may be in a coma, with a mental illness or Alzheimer's disease rely on public administrators to act as guardians or conservators of their estates. Some states require public guardians to seek the permission of a court before making decisions such as selling the property of an incapacitated adult. Public administrators might also become guardians to minors under judicial direction. FundraisingA career in public administration may involve fundraising activities for a nonprofit organization. Public administrators use effective techniques while maintaining ethical standards of honesty, integrity, empathy, respect and transparency in executing the fundraising role for their organizations. They must answer to the public through their organization leaders and donors. They must also comply with fundraising laws and regulations. Study a Master's in Public Administration and become an expert in implementing public and political policies, opening the door to an interesting career. Find your ideal Master's in Public Administration program below. Page 2Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Page 3Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Page 4Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Page 5Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Page 6Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Page 7Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Page 8Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Page 9Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Page 10Where will your studies take you?At educations.com, we believe that students who study abroad become the next generation of globally-minded adventurers and leaders - and we want more of you to do it! Every year, our search engine helps over 40 million students connect with some of the best universities and schools around the world. Please note! We currently have no admission to the programme! The programme is directed at students coming from a social science background (minimum requirement of a bachelor degree of 180 ECTS) aiming at preparing for professional work in academia as well as within public sector organizations. The programme will provide students with valuable insights into theory and practice, focusing on public administration, public finance and budgeting, and governance. The Nordic welfare models is highly integrated throughout the programme, together with a distinct perspective on how public sector organizations are affected by and adjust to processes of digitalization. Click here to apply This trailer shares a glimpse of a Nordic Master student's life in Oslo, Norway. Electable courses at Abo Academy University EN313E (7.5 ECTS) International Governance and Business in the High North OFLEDOBLL (5 ECTS) Public Sector Management and Leadership LE05011 (7.5 ECTS) Responsible leadership and global citizenship OFFLEDOBLL4 (5 ECTS) Public Sector Reform LE05010 (7.5 ECTS) Smart specialization and leadership OF1 (5 ECTS) Applied Organization Theory ENT50008 (7.5 ECTS) Sustainable and social entrepreneurship OF2 (5 ECTS) Management of Public Resources EN312E (7.5 ECTS) Energy Business and management STATSVEOBLL1 (5 ECTS) Democratic Innovations EN304E (7.5 ECTS) Geopolitics and energy 370186.0 (5 ECTS) Multi-Level Governance EN313E (7.5 ECTS) International governance and business in the High North 370177.1 (5 ECTS) Policy Processes in the EU EC05017 (7.5 ECTS) Circular economy 370161.0 (5 ECTS) Political Institutions in the European Union OF00BP15 (5 ECTS) Environmental Governance at the Local Level 361225.0 (5 ECTS) Information Retrieval 361125.0-3005 (5 ECTS) Information Architecture and Strategies 375113.0-3005 (5 ECTS) Corruption and Development (ÖPU) 361218.2 (5 ECTS) Information Behavior II DZ00CC63 (5 ECTS) Managing Information Services Students furthermore have an opportunity to integrate one semester worth (30 ECTS) of internship with one of our many collaborating organizations. The possibility of an internship is given during the third semester at University of Gothenburg and NORD University. For more information about the courses, please contact the Director of Studies. Practicalities The Nordic countries is located in the northern part of Europe. It is generally understood to include Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. In the collaboration of the Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization, candidates are offered a unique opportunity to gain insights and personal experience with three of these countries (Finland, Norway, and Sweden). To know more about our countries, please visit the below websites. 20 things to know before moving to Sweden Visit Norway Living in Finland To know more about the Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization collaborating universities, please visit the below websites: University of Gothenburg NORD University Åbo Akademi University Programme Description About the programme The Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization is a two-year master programme (120 ECTS), given in collaboration between University of Gothenburg, NORD University in Boda, and Åbo Akademi University. The Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization is a research-based master programme in which focus rests on an interdisciplinary Nordic approach to governing and managing the digitalized public sector. The programme aims to educate and train the next generation of professionals, within academia as PhD students or as civil servants in public sector organizations, with specific focus on efficient and effective use of public resources. Candidates will, specifically, be trained, prepared, and encouraged to apply for a PhD-programme at any of the three collaborating universities. The Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization programme entails a truly interdisciplinary curriculum wherein focus is directed towards the fields of public administration, business administration, and public policy through a distinct Nordic perspective. Mobility period (and academic focuses) The Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization is given in collaboration between three different universities; University of Gothenburg, NORD University, and Åbo Akademi University. This means that mobility forms a focal part of the programme, demanding that students partake in at least 30 ECTS from one of the host universities in addition to the mandatory 30 ECTS at University of Gothenburg. The Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization programme is highly flexible, allowing for students to choose between a high variety of different courses. All admitted candidates are offered an exclusive one-to-one consultation with a study counsellor at University of Gothenburg during the first semester. This consultation aims at ironing out which thematic profile that is best suited for the individual candidate. The flexibility of the programme allows a high degree of individualization in terms of educational focus. This means that candidates will have a multitude of different courses to attend (see section on mandatory and electable courses), within the general scope of the programme. The Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization also offers packages of different courses. These packages or focuses are: The public administration and policy focus: focused on understanding the intersection of administrative and policy levels within the different Nordic welfare states. The focus engages candidates' analytical abilities in assessing and constructing viable administrative solutions that secure efficient use of public resources whilst also maintaining high levels of citizens involvement. The public management, smart and sustainable solutions focus: focused on understanding how public organizations can find smart and responsible management solutions to global challenges they face. The focus challenges candidates to critically assess and understand how public organizations can develop smart and vibrant cities, use socialand sustainable entrepreneurship, management of energy resources. The public digital organization focus: focused on the advent of digitalized tools and professional work structures, wherein candidates engage deeper knowledge concerning how governing and management models are fundamental for efficient and effective public sector organizations. During the third semester, candidates are offered the opportunity to include the optional course Internship in the curriculum. Internship courses are offered by both University of Gothenburg (home university) and NORD University (host university) for a maximum of 30 ECTS. For the course Internship at NORD University the course is offered to candidates that have performed their studies with high marks. During the fourth semester, all candidates are required to write a master thesis of 30 ECTS. All eligible candidates are given a main supervisor at the university of choosing. In order to validate the quality of the undertaken work, the master thesis must reach the requirements of each university where a diploma is to be issued. Scholarship, Tuition and Fees Candidates who participates in the Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization programme and are citizens of countries outside the European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland are required to pay application and tuition fees to the university at which they study. For exemptions and other questions, please visit Click here to apply Apply today and build your tomorrow. If you're looking for an undergraduate program you can do from home with no dorms or meal plans, welcome to Norwich Online. Explore Bachelor's Programs A graduate degree is calling your name! Log in to a distinguished tradition at Norwich for professionals like you, with a strong desire to advance their careers, serve their communities, and enrich their lives. Explore Master's Programs You're ready to make a real difference in your organization, your life, and your perspective. Our graduate certificates are your next step. Let's do this! "The program was very understanding and flexible with our ever-changing environment overseas. I knew Norwich was the right fit for me. One of the best things I've noticed about Norwich is their amazing staff. Everyone I have communicated with has my best interests in mind and has made my experience great!" Ashley Blevins, MBA '22 Choose from over 50 online graduate and undergraduate degree programs and certificates. Find your program Since 1819, Norwich University has been developing leaders across many industries around the globe. Our history sets us apart Can I be an online student with other full-time responsibilities? Norwich provides 24/7 access to an online learning platform, enabling our students to engage with program content and contribute to class discussions at any time from any location, every week. We work with your schedule. Online Student Experience Do I need to be in the military to attend Norwich Online? The simple answer is no. While we are the nation's oldest private military college and the birthplace of ROTC, Norwich Online serves a diverse student body that reflects the world today. Learn More Norwich University is proud to support those who serve and is committed to helping service members, veterans and first responders achieve their education goals. Learn about special military assistance and savings on tuition for veterans, active-duty service members and military spouses. Military and Veterans Benefits With our accomplished faculty, and small, supportive learning communities, our master's degree programs offer working adults the opportunity to pursue their goals while fulfilling work and family obligations. Norwich offers online professional development courses and graduate-level certificates that are convenient and affordable to meet your educational needs. Perfect for working professionals, current and former military personnel, or anyone looking for a career change. Search Certificate Programs The time requirements of an active-duty couple with family life are not easy, but the reputation of Norwich to both demand rigorous academic effort while also accommodating the demanding schedule of an active-duty professional was tough to ignore. Andy Blanco '24 Master of Arts in Strategic Studies Read Story With a little time management and commitment to the degree, the online program is amazing and is well worth it. Maki Farquharson '24 Master of Science in Leadership Read Story I expected to be pushed to become a better student and researcher. It worked; Norwich made me into a historian. Albert Russell Thompson Jr. '12 Master of Arts in Military History Read Story I was delighted to have great professors who had incredible public history backgrounds and were so invested in helping the students grow as aspiring museum professionals. Rachel Lane '21 Master of Arts in History Read Story Norwich's program stands out because of its flexibility, highly knowledgeable faculty, and willingness to accommodate working professionals' schedules and family commitments while pursuing their educational goals. James T. Ryan '24 Master of Business Administration Read Story Andy Blanco Maki Farquharson Albert Russell Thompson Jr. Rachel Lane James T. Ryan Norwich University Online will be in Florida for the 2025 Hurlburt Field Education Fair. We invite all attendees to stop by our table at the event to learn more about Norwich's online programs. What: 2025... Jun 11, 2025 10:00am - 2:00pm EDT Norwich University Online will be in Florida for the 2025 Eglin AFB Education Fair. We invite all attendees to stop by our table at the event to learn more about Norwich's online programs. What: 2025... Jun 12, 2025 10:00am - 2:00pm EDT Class of 1983 graduate LiGen John J. Broadmeadow, who has held the role for the past year, is officially inaugurated as University president. Norwich University is proud to announce the upcoming annual Master's Hooding, Commencement, and Commissioning Ceremonies on Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3. This year's graduation ceremony will welcome more than 1,000 new alumni into the next stage of their professional journeys. Aaron Cayer, NU '11 and M'12, has been awarded a 2025 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship — one of just 26 recipients nationwide and the only Fellow selected from the field of architecture. Online Programs & Certificates