

Combined BA in Human Services & Social Justice / Masters of Public Administration (MPA)

Interested students may apply for a combined dual degree program to earn a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Human Services & Social Justice (HSSJ) and a Master of Public Administration (MPA).

Students must apply during their 3rd (junior) year and begin taking graduate classes in their 4th (senior) year. A total of 12 credits can be applied to both degrees allowing students to complete both degrees in about 5.5 years of study. Successful applicants typically have GPAs of 3.5 or higher.

For BA in Human Services & Social Justice (HSSJ)

Prerequisites (3 credits)

HSSJ 1100 Introduction to Human Services (3)

SOC 1001 Introduction to Sociology (3)
or SOC 1002 The Sociological Imagination (3)

Requirements (24 credits)

HSSJ 1177 Organizing for Social Justice in Human Services (3)

HSSJ 2170 Interpersonal Relationships in Human Services (3)

HSSJ 2171 Human Interactions: Child and Adolescent Development (3)

HSSJ 2172 Human Interactions: Adult Development (3)

HSSJ 2200 Principles of Ethical Leadership (3)

HSSJ 3100W Program Planning and Evaluation (3)

HSSJ 3110W Non-Profit and Organizational Management (3)

HSSJ 3152 Fact, Field, Fiction: Intersections in Human Services and Social Justice (6)

HSSJ 4195 Capstone Seminar in Human Services and Social Justice (3)

Other Requirements (12 credits)

SOC 2101 Research Methods (3)

SOC 2 courses from: At least one from Category A; the second course can be from Category A or B

- A. SOC 2170 Class and Inequality (3)
SOC 2179 Race and Minority Relations (3)
- B. SOC 2104 Contemporary Sociology Theory (3)
SOC 2175 Sociology of Sex and Gender (3)

Additionally

- Complete the general requirements for the Columbian College of Arts and Science.
 - Complete 12 credit hours of approved MPA courses taken in the last year of the BA. These can be counted toward both the BA and the MA (see below).
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The MPA Program

The Master of Public Administration degree is the recognized professional degree in public administration, public management, and public service. It is designed principally, but not exclusively, for those who are pursuing careers in public service. Graduates are employed in government agencies at all levels, national associations, public interest groups, research and consulting firms, and in the private sector. The program focuses on developing strong management and leadership skills, along with critical intellectual capacities, sound analytical skills, and sensitivity to the ethical and value concerns that are central to the traditions of the field of public administration. We invite you to learn more about the Trachtenberg School MPA program on our website: <https://tspppa.gwu.edu/master-public-administration-mpa>.

For the MPA

Complete the established 40 credit-hour curriculum for the MPA degree as described on the Trachtenberg School website and handbook (<https://tspppa.gwu.edu/master-public-administration-mpa>). To do this, students in the combined BA-MPA program must:

- Complete 12 credit-hours of approved MPA coursework taken during the last year (i.e., 4th or senior year) of the BA in Human Services and Social Justice that will be counted toward both degrees. These typically include:
 - PPPA 6001 Introduction to Public Administration (fall only)
 - PPPA 6003 Economics for Public Decision-Making (fall only)
 - PPPA 6002 Research Methods and Applied Statistics*And one of the following:*
 - PPPA 6005 Public Budgeting, Revenue, and Expenditures

- PPPA 6006 Policy Analysis
- Complete a 1-credit hour course typically taken the summer before or after the 4th year, or fall of the 5th year:
 - PPPA 6000 Collaboration and Governance in the U.S. Federal System
- Complete the remaining requirements for the MPA degree during the 5th year and (typically) the following summer and/or fall. These include:

Whichever not previously taken of:

- PPPA 6005 Public Budgeting, Revenue, and Expenditures
- PPPA 6006 Policy Analysis

And:

- PPPA 6004 Managing Public Organizations (final fall semester)
- PPPA 6009 Capstone (final spring semester)
- 3 courses (9 credits) in an approved MPA field of study (see website)
- 3 electives (9 credits)

Financial Implications

In the 4th year of the combined degree program, in order to maintain undergraduate financial aid, 51% of total credit hours must be in undergraduate courses. Options include adding a 1-credit course to your 4th year or taking one 4-credit rather than a 3-credit course in the 4th year.

Note that although combined degree students are not eligible for graduate student financial aid awards during their 4th year, the 12 credits applied to both degrees offers significant time and tuition savings overall. In their 5th year, students may be eligible for GW's "Grad-2-Grad" discount (<https://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/grad2grad-program>) as well as Trachtenberg School aid and other fellowships in their 5th year and subsequent semester(s) on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the MPA Program Director.

Application Process

We suggest you begin your application in the fall of your 3rd (junior) year, with all materials turned in to the MPA Program Director by **February 1** of your 3rd year. Your complete application consists of the following:

- 1) Unofficial transcript

Please submit a copy of your unofficial transcript at GW, as well as transcripts from any other institutions you have attended while pursuing your BA. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required for consideration and successful applicants typically have a 3.5 or higher.

2) Resume

Please provide a 1-page standard resume describing relevant work experience and skills.

3) Statement of purpose (500 words)

In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking the MPA degree. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application, or resume.

4) Two letters of recommendation

Academic recommendations are preferred, but professional recommendations are also acceptable. In all cases, recommenders should be individuals who have evaluated your work. Letters should be emailed directly to Assistant Director of Graduate Studies, Denee Bottoms (dbottoms@gwu.edu) or submitted in hard copy in signed, sealed envelopes to the address below.

5) Approval form

The following form is the approval for application from HSSJ to the MPA program and requires the signature of the HSSJ program director, Prof. Emily Morrison, before submitting with your application (emily_m@gwu.edu). Download the form, complete all sections through student signature, then e-mail it to Prof. Morrison. Upon acceptance into the program, the MPA Program Director, Prof. Stephanie Cellini, will sign and submit the form to the CCAS Dean's office on your behalf.

<http://columbian.gwu.edu/files/downloads/dgs/Combinedapplicationfinal%202013.pdf>

6) Optional: GRE scores

The GRE is not required for admission. However, if you feel that your GRE score will strengthen your application, you may send your scores directly from ETS (code 5246).

Please combine all documents, except letters (which may be emailed or mailed separately by your recommenders), into one pdf document and label the file with your last name. Email your application to the Assistant Director of Graduate Studies, Denee Bottoms (dbottoms@gwu.edu). Alternatively, packets (and/or letters) may be turned in in hard copy to:

Ms. Denee Bottoms
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration
805 21st Street, NW, Suite 601
Washington, DC 20052