

FAQs

General Questions

Who should attend?

The online Master of Public Policy and Management degree is open to mid-career professionals with a bachelor's degree and at least five years of full-time work experience in positions beyond entry-level. Candidates' resumes should show increasing levels of responsibility over time, particularly in areas such as budget and personnel management.

Who are the faculty members?

Faculty members in the online program are drawn from GSPIA's own, regular faculty. The same professors who teach classes on campus also teach online.

What material is covered in online MPPM?

The program focuses on skills necessary for a successful career in public service – including both the government and the non-profit sectors. You will study useful, highly applied topics like personnel management, strategic management, administration of public affairs, policy analysis, leadership, and economics with public affairs applications.

Does the online MPPM differ from the traditional MPPM on campus?

The core requirements and curriculum are the same, whether you pursue the degree online or on-campus. Although not all GSPIA courses are offered online, online students have a growing list of course options every semester.

Do I have to be online at specific times?

No, the program is asynchronous, which means that the students and professors are not required to be online at the same time.

Am I required to come to the University of Pittsburgh campus at any point?

No, online MPPM students are not required to visit campus in person.

How much does it cost to enroll?

Tuition for the online program is the same as tuition for on-campus programs. Online students do not have to pay the transportation fee required of on-campus students, but do pay a \$75

technology fee. You can find tuition figures at the [website for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer](#).

Are scholarships or financial aid available?

If you are taking at least 4.5 credits per term, you are eligible to apply for federal financial aid. Stafford Loans are available to those who qualify for federal aid. Your GSPIA enrollment counselor can help you to navigate the financial aid application process.

Are there any pre-requisites?

Students must have at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited US institution, or a comparable four-year degree from a foreign institution. No specific major or degree is required. There are no specific courses that students must take before applying.

How do I access the course?

The online MPPM program is available completely online, and available through the [My.Pitt.Edu](#) portal page.

How do I interact with my instructor and classmates in an online course?

Instructors interact with students via the University of Pittsburgh's online course software, Courseweb. Instructors are also accessible by phone or email if you have additional questions.

How will I be advised?

You will be assigned to both a faculty advisor and a graduate enrollment counselor who will be available to assist you with course selection, registration, and any questions that you have throughout the program. These advisors are available by phone and email during normal business hours.

I've never taken an online course before. Will I receive any training?

As an online student at the University of Pittsburgh, you will have access to our online Student Orientation course, tutorials and the student handbook. Additionally you'll have access to our 24/7 technical resources to support any questions about the online course system and materials.