



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**



spa.unomaha.edu



RIGOROUS, SUPPORTIVE, COLLABORATIVE

The PhD in Public Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) creates a supportive, collaborative, and rigorous environment for students who will develop their intellectual identities and a comprehensive understanding of the field with a range of research traditions.

Through the PhD program, students are empowered to establish a strong intellectual identity. They will be introduced to different knowledge traditions and become thoroughly immersed in the discourse of public administration and its integration of theory and practice. We foster a culture of openness where the process of knowledge creation among students is a common enterprise.

As our students move through the program, they have the opportunities to teach and to work one-on-one with faculty. When they graduate, they are prepared to understand and help solve public problems as an academic or as a practitioner.

CONTACT US

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NATIONAL RANKINGS

Our USNWR 2026 rankings (**#34 Overall**) underscore the strong academic reputation of our public affairs programs.

- #6** **Public Finance & Budgeting**
- #11** **Local Government Management**
- #12** **Nonprofit Management**
- #31** **Public Management & Leadership**

RECENT JOB PLACEMENTS

Our graduates make significant contributions to the fields of public administration and include faculty, practitioners, and leaders locally and abroad. Recent placements include:

- Bowling Green State University
- Florida International University
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice - CUNY
- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- University of Alabama
- University of Colorado Denver
- University of Montana
- Kean University
- University of La Verne

DOCTORAL PROGRAM OF STUDY

The doctoral program curriculum is comprised of academic work, field exams, a dissertation proposal and finally, the doctoral dissertation. By the numbers, there are seven core seminars, four advanced research seminars, two specialization courses, and two professional skills development workshops; one in teaching and one in research.

7 | CORE SEMINARS

- Management Theory
- Public Policy Seminar
- Foundations of Public Administration
- Knowledge Development & Use
- Environment of Public Administration
- Public Budgeting and Financial Theory
- Theories of Nonprofit Orgs and Civil Society

2 | WORKSHOPS

A team of faculty facilitates discussions on topics related to teaching, research, publishing and job search skills.

- Teaching and Professional Skills Workshop
- Research and Professional Skills Workshop

3 | CORE RESEARCH METHODS

Courses include quantitative methods, qualitative methods and advanced research design.

- Advanced Research Design
- Quantitative Methods in Public Admin
- Qualitative Research Methods

2 | SPECIALIZATION COURSES

The PhD in Public Administration offers specializations in five areas. Students choose two courses in

Public and Nonprofit:

- Policy
- Budgeting & Finance
- Technology & Data Analytics
- Management
- Theory

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

☐ APPLY ONLINE

Apply at apply.unomaha.edu

☐ SEND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

International applicants who have completed coursework at international higher education institutions are required to submit a transcript evaluation, following acceptance.

☐ INCLUDE A RESUME

☐ TAKE THE TOEFL/IELTS (INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)

TOEFL minimum score of 557 (or 233 on computer based test of 90 on internet test)
Or: minimum IELTS score of 6.5, a minimum Pearson score of 61, or Duolingo score of 110 or higher

☐ SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (ESSAY)

In a five-page statement of intent, describe the following:
The career you wish to pursue after completion of the PhD
Desired area of specialization
Faculty with whom you would like to work
Explanation of academic and professional backgrounds and interests

☐ SUBMIT WRITING SAMPLES

Academic or professional writing sample (such as a term paper, thesis, conference paper, evaluation report, or published work)
1-page abstract summarizing the contents of the writing sample

☐ SUBMIT THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Provide the names and email addresses of three individuals who can address your qualifications for graduate study.
The recommenders will be sent an online recommendation form to complete. At least two recommendations must be academics.

☐ PAY THE APPLICATION FEE

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its education programs or activities, including admissions and employment. The University prohibits any form of retaliation being taken against anyone for reporting discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for otherwise engaging in protected activity.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

FOR APPLICANTS SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: **JAN. 15**
ALL OTHER APPLICANTS: **MARCH 15**



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