MPA or MBA

The intelligence and skills necessary to earn an MPA or an MBA are very similar, which results in both programs attracting students that are alike in many ways. If you’re considering an MPA or an MBA, take the time to select a program that fits with your goals and passions.

**MPA**
- Programs build leaders who excel in management, policy development, and public service innovation. Students with an MPA go on to work at all levels of government and throughout the nonprofit sector.
- Students with an MPA are professionals equipped to succeed in public and nonprofit sector organizations, where the foremost goal is to improve the world.

**MBA**
- Business schools develop leaders who excel in economics, finance, and management. Students with an MBA go on to work in all types of industries, and serve an important role in economic growth.
- MBA graduates are professionals who are prepared to succeed in private sector organizations where profit generation is the primary goal.

**Typical Courses**
- **MPA**
  - Public Administration & Democracy
  - Public Sector Economics
  - Research Methods
  - Public Policy Design
  - Organizational Management

- **MBA**
  - Private Sector Economics
  - Business Ethics
  - Accounting
  - Marketing
  - Business Analytics

**Professional Training**
- **MPA**
  - MPA graduates are professionals equipped to succeed in public and nonprofit sector organizations, where the foremost goal is to improve the world.
- **MBA**
  - MBA graduates are professionals who are prepared to succeed in private sector organizations where profit generation is the primary goal.

**Typical Student**
- **MPA**
  - Students who come from, or want to work in, the public or nonprofit sector.
  - Students looking to change the world through partnerships between governments, citizens, and non-profit organizations.

- **MBA**
  - Students who come from, or want to work in, the business world.
  - Students looking for credentials and training that are valued by employers in the private sector.

**Capstone**
- The Capstone Project is the culminating experience in the MPA program, and requires students to apply the knowledge and skills they’ve developed during the program. These projects are developed by students to address significant real world problems in the public and nonprofit sectors.
- Students develop a report, presentation, and executive summary that can be used to open doors with potential collaborators and employers. The Capstone is the applied, real world experience that allows students to showcase their professionalism and expertise.