



# DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) degree at West Chester University is designed to meet employer and student needs by preparing individuals to advance the practice of public affairs and administration at the highest levels.

The DPA at WCU focuses on the development of core skills in strategic management, public sector economic and financial decision-making, and policy advocacy and leadership, preparing students to engage in the highest levels of program and policy evaluation. Interdisciplinary at its core, the DPA program allows students to select electives from different departments such as Public Policy & Administration, Criminal Justice, Geography and Planning, and Graduate Social Work.

In their dissertation, students demonstrate a high level of competence in applying the D.P.A. student learning outcomes through applied research. Recent dissertation research conducted by our students has examined motivation and public service values in law enforcement professionals, University-community partnerships, collaborative governance, affordable housing, and long term health care issues.

Many of our DPA students present their resulting work at regional and national conferences. Students are also able to work alongside faculty members on research projects. Recent topics include social equity issues in research administration, caregiving during COVID, teleworking and managerial styles, and program evaluations related to nonprofit organizations.

Ultimately, our graduates can:

- Advance public service values and demonstrate the ability to be advocates and leaders
- Evaluate and design public policy and administration research
- Develop skills in critical thinking, analysis, and decision making
- Communicate a public service perspective effectively and productively with diverse constituencies
- Exemplify diversity, equity, and inclusion values
- Recognize and uphold ethical principles

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 100% online (synchronous)
- Ranked Best Online DPA by Best Value Schools
- Graduate assistantships available
- Faculty are expert practitioners
- Interdisciplinary concentrations
- Personalized dissertation process
- Offered through our AACSB-accredited College of Business and Public Management
- Offered through our NASPAA-accredited Department of Public Policy and Administration

## OUTCOMES

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment within the industry is projected to grow by 18% through 2026. Our DPA graduates are employed in local, state and federal government; nonprofits (including founding their own organizations), law enforcement, and education administration. Our graduates hold a variety of positions and work for organizations including but not limited to:

- Pennsylvania State Legislature
- Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health
- United States Department of Defense
- United States Secret Service
- Metropolitan Police Departments
- Higher Education Administration
- Non-profit organizations

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed application
- Current Resume or Vita
- Personal statement and application prompts
- Official transcripts for undergraduate and graduate study
  - Students whose master's degrees are not in public administration, public affairs, policy analysis, political science, public health or nonprofit management or a related field, and/or do not have relevant work experience, may be required to complete additional coursework in public administration.
- Three letters of recommendation required (two letters are required from an academic source and one from a professional reference).
- Professional writing sample

Apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/applynow](http://www.wcupa.edu/applynow).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Public Policy and Administration  
West Chester University

email: [dpa@wcupa.edu](mailto:dpa@wcupa.edu)  
web: [wcupa.edu/dpa](http://wcupa.edu/dpa)

Lillian Miller  
Associate Director of Graduate Enrollment  
Department of Public Policy and Administration  
phone: 610-436-2018  
email: [lmiller@wcupa.edu](mailto:lmiller@wcupa.edu)

The Graduate School  
102 W. Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester, PA 19383  
email: [GradAdmissions@wcupa.edu](mailto:GradAdmissions@wcupa.edu)  
web: [wcupa.edu/grad](http://wcupa.edu/grad)

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