More about our program...

About our students

Our student body includes:

- Full- and part-time students
- International students
- Recent undergraduates and non-traditional students

Most of our courses are offered in the evening (5:30 p.m. and after) to accommodate working students.

Our students and alumni include many current local government professionals.

About our faculty

Instructors for the LGM program include core faculty who hold joint appointments in Public Policy Administration and related fields including economics, political science, and business administration, as well as adjunct faculty who work in local government. Adjunct faculty bring considerable professional, educational, and teaching experience and play an important role in connecting our students with the professional community.

Don’t take our word for it, here’s what our alumni say...

“The degree, the skills, the knowledge that I got from UMSL’s MPPA program was foundational for me.”

Cordaryl Patrick, MPPA, 2011
Economic Recovery Coordinator for the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

“The MPPA program has provided me with the tools to critically analyze policy and articulate my positions.”

Frank Johnson, MPPA, LGM, 2016
Community Engagement Coordinator,
East-West Gateway Council of Governments

“There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t recall or rely on the information I learned in at least one of the courses I took as part of the MPPA program.”

- Nathan Schauf, MPPA, LGM, 2013
City Administrator, City of Pevely, Mo.

Susan Spiegel, MPPA, LGM, 2013
Director of Public Works, City of Wentzville, Mo.
About the UMSL LGM Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management (LGM) is part of Public Policy Administration at UMSL.

The LGM certificate is designed for those who are looking for a graduate-level credential that is specifically focused on the topics and skills necessary to succeed in the local government arena. Certificate students include elected and non-elected local government officials or those looking to move into local government careers who may already hold a graduate degree but need this more specialized knowledge.

The 18-credit hour graduate certificate includes 12 credit hours of required core courses, a 3-credit elective and a local government internship. If an internship waiver is granted, students take an additional 3-credit elective.

Core Courses (12 credit hours)
- Seminar in City Administration (PPA 6340) or Issues in Urban Management (PPA 6350)
- Proseminar in Urban Politics (POL SCI 6470) or Seminar in Urban Politics (POL SCI 6471)
- Human Resources in the Public Sector (PPA 6490)
- Governmental Budgeting & Financial Control (PPA 6180)

Elective (3 credit hours)
Students select a 3-credit-hour elective from an array of pre-approved courses in criminology, economics, political science, and public policy administration according to their personal interests and career goals.

Internship (3 credit hours)
LGM certificate students are required to complete a 3-credit-hour local government internship. LGM students work with our internship coordinator to identify a placement in a local government setting that provides an individualized practical experience. In certain circumstances the internship may be waived. Students pursuing both a certificate and a master’s degree may work with our internship coordinator to design an internship that meets the requirements for both credentials.

Curriculum Highlights

Master’s Degree
The LGM certificate can be taken as a stand-alone credential or in conjunction with a master’s degree in Public Policy Administration. With advance planning, all 18 credit hours from the certificate can be applied to the MPPA. However, completion of the LGM certificate does not guarantee acceptance into the MPPA program, which requires a separate application.

Admissions
Requirements for admission to the certificate program include an undergraduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better; two letters of recommendation are required, preferably with at least one letter from the applicant’s previous college-level instructor; and a two-page personal statement explaining the applicant’s personal and professional goals.

For more information regarding admissions policies, see our website at umsl.edu/ppa or contact us at 314-516-6388.

Leonard Johnson, MPPA, LGM, 2013 Director, Neighborhood Business Development—St. Louis Development Corporation

If you’re interested in learning more about costs and debts associated with our program, please view our gainful employment disclosure at: umsl.edu/go/BpC