More about our program

The PPE Certificate is part of the Public Policy Administration (PPA) at UMSL. The PPA program includes a Master’s Degree in Public Policy Administration as well as Graduate Certificates in Nonprofit Management & Leadership and Local Government Management.

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 evenings (5:30 p.m. and after) to accommodate working students.

Our students and alumni include many current local government professionals and nonprofit executives.

About our faculty

Instructors in the PPE 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, nonprofit management, and policy analysis.

Adjunct faculty bring considerable professional, educational, and teaching experience and play an important role in connecting our students with the professional community.

Mark Tranel, PhD, serves as program advisor for the PPE Certificate Program. He is the Director of the Public Policy Research Center at UMSL and Research Associate Professor of Public Policy Administration.

Since 1990 he has served as principal investigator or project manager on over 60 applied research projects, including evaluations of early childhood education programs, public housing redevelopment projects, collaboration among educational institutions, impediments to fair housing, health promotion among noncustodial fathers, and state funding of transportation, among others.

Tranel’s background, which includes a 17-year career in local government administration and project management, provides students with a unique perspective and many opportunities to see the practical applications of the evaluation program. In addition to teaching public policy analysis and evaluation research, he serves on the Board of Directors of several St. Louis nonprofits.

“Both program and policy evaluation are vital tools in the work that I do on a daily basis at the Missouri Foundation for Health. Whether it involves examining the impact of a specific program or analyzing legislation, evaluation is a key component. UMSL’s Public Policy Administration program helped equip me with the skills to succeed in my position.”

- M. Ryan Barker, Vice President of Health Policy, Missouri Foundation for Health, UMSL MPPA, ‘06
Administrators and managers in both the public and nonprofit sectors need to have the tools to respond to the increasing demand for accountability and documenting outcomes.

In governmental organizations, taxpayers want to know that programs are both efficient and effective. In the nonprofit sector, funders want to see proposed programs that are evidence-based and that, once implemented, achieve the promised outcomes.

The UMSL Certificate in Policy & Program Evaluation (PPE) provides students the opportunity to gain expertise in policy and program evaluation methods, including completion of an applied evaluation project.

In addition to the public and nonprofit sectors, the certificate is appropriate for individuals in disciplines such as education, economics, gerontology, social work, and sociology who need to conduct assessments of the programs for which they are responsible.

**About the Policy & Program Evaluation Certificate**

The curriculum includes a social science base along with practical experience to assure certificate holders have both theoretical knowledge and implementation skills.

**Core Courses (12 Hours)**
- P P ADM 6000 Introduction To Policy Analysis
- One of the following:
  - P P ADM 6010 Introduction To Policy Research
  - SOC WK 5450 Social Work Research Methods And Analysis II
  - ECON 4100 Introduction To Econometrics
  - ECON 5100 Econometric Theory And Methods
- One of the following:
  - P P ADM 6750 Introduction To Evaluation Research Methods
  - SOC WK 6400 Practice and Program Evaluation
- One of the following:
  - P P ADM 6751 Applied Evaluation Project
  - P P ADM 6950 Internship*
  - SOC WK 6800 Graduate Field Practicum II*
  - SOC WK 6850 Graduate Field Practicum III*
- Must include an evaluation project.

**Electives (6 hours)**
- Required elective is Intermediate Techniques in Policy Research or Introduction to Econometrics
- Students choose a 3-hour course from the following: Advanced Techniques in Policy Research; Multi-Method Research Design; Geospatial Analysis; Applied Econometrics; Fundamentals of Cost-Benefit Analysis

**Curriculum Highlights**

**Master’s Degree**

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

**Admissions**

Requirements for admission to the PPE certificate program include:

- Undergraduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better
- Two letters of recommendation are required, preferably with at least one from a current or former college-level instructor
- Two-page personal statement explaining the applicant’s personal and professional goals

For more information see our website at umsl.edu/ppa or contact us at 314-516-5145.