New Student Orientation 2021
Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) Program

Dr. Lori Taylor, Department Head
Ms. Kimberly Reeves, Senior Administrative Coordinator
Ms. Stephanie Bustos, Administrative Coordinator II
Bush School Mission Statement:

- Educate
- Explore
- Engage

To support this vision and these missions, we reaffirm our belief in the following core values of this great university:

**Excellence ★ Respect ★ Leadership**

**Loyalty ★ Integrity ★ Selfless Service**

We also recommit to the principles of *public service* and *democracy* and the value of *diversity of thought and expression* that have helped define The Bush School since its inception.
The mission of the Department of Public Service and Administration is to inspire excellence in public service by:

- preparing individuals for impactful careers as thoughtful, objective, effective, and ethical public servants;
- producing theoretical and applied research that addresses the critical issues of the day and advances the understanding of public service;
- engaging with the community to serve the changing needs of society locally, regionally, nationally, and globally; and
- fostering an interdisciplinary environment that stresses the development of critical thinking skills and an appreciation for the benefits of diversity and inclusion.
To help protect Aggieland and stop the spread of COVID-19, Texas A&M University urges students to be vaccinated and to wear masks in classrooms and all other academic facilities on campus, including labs. Doing so exemplifies the Aggie Core Values of respect, leadership, integrity, and selfless service by putting community concerns above individual preferences. COVID-19 vaccines and masking — regardless of vaccination status — have been shown to be safe and effective at reducing spread to others, infection, hospitalization, and death.
OVERVIEW OF THE MPSA CURRICULUM
Curriculum for AY 2021-2022
Fall Semester - First Year

All Tracks
PSAA 601: Foundations of Public Service
PSAA 621: Economic Analysis
BUSH 631: Quantitative Methods in Public Management I
PSAA 643: Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector
Spring Semester – First Year

All Tracks

PSAA 611: *Public Policy Formation*

One elective course selected in consultation with faculty advisor.
Spring Semester – First Year (cont’d)

**PPA Track**
Quantitative Methods II Course (choose one):
- **BUSH 632**: Quantitative Methods II
- **OR BUSH 635**: Quantitative Methods II: Policy Emphasis

**PSAA 622**: Public Finance

**PM Track**
Quantitative Methods II Course (choose one):
- **BUSH 632**: Quantitative Methods II
- **OR PSAA 630**: Program Evaluation

**PSAA 634**: Public Management

**NPM Track**
Quantitative Methods II Course - **PSAA 630**: Program Evaluation
or **BUSH 632**: Quantitative Methods II
**PSAA 632**: Fiscal Management of Nonprofits
Summer

Professional Internship

(Required for students without two years of professional public service experience related to their degree and career goals.)
Fall Semester - Second Year

All Tracks
PSAA 675: *PSAA Capstone Seminar I*
Two elective courses selected in consultation with faculty advisor.

PPA Track
PSAA 615: *Policy Analysis*

PM Track
PSAA 623: *Budgeting in Public Service*

NPM Track
PSAA 644: *Management of Nonprofits*
Spring Semester - Second Year

All Tracks
PSAA 676: PSAA Capstone Seminar II
Three elective courses selected in consultation with faculty advisor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Public Policy Analysis (PPA) Track</th>
<th>Public Management (PM) Track</th>
<th>Nonprofit Mgmt (NPM) Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PSAA 601: Foundations of Public Service</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSAA 621: Economic Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSAA 643: Foundations of Nonprofits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BUSH 631: Quantitative Methods I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>PSAA 611: Public Policy Formation</td>
<td>PSAA 622: Public Finance</td>
<td>PSAA 634: Public Mgmt.</td>
<td>PSAA 632: Fiscal Mgmt. of Nonprofits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Elective</td>
<td>1 Elective</td>
<td>1 Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schematic Overview of Curriculum

Texas A&M University
The Bush School of Government & Public Service
### Schematic Overview of Curriculum (cont’d)

#### Summer Internship - Between First and Second Years of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Core Course</th>
<th>Public Policy Analysis (PPA) Track</th>
<th>Public Management (PM) Track</th>
<th>Nonprofit Management (NPM) Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 Fall</td>
<td>PSAA 675: Capstone I</td>
<td>PSAA 615: Policy Analysis</td>
<td>PSAA 623: Public Budgeting</td>
<td>PSAA 644: Management of Nonprofits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Electives</td>
<td>2 Electives</td>
<td>2 Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 Spring</td>
<td>PSAA 676: Capstone II</td>
<td>3 Electives</td>
<td>3 Electives</td>
<td>3 Electives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tracks

• Public Policy Analysis
• Public Management
• Nonprofit Management
Public Policy Analysis (PPA)
Associated faculty: Lahey (coordinator), Cortes, Dague, Han, Lewis, L. Taylor, Vedlitz

The Public Policy Analysis track offers students an in-depth understanding of how decision makers can assess policy choices. It includes a consideration of why government should or should not take action in response to particular problems. It also familiarizes students with specific evaluative techniques such as cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and risk assessment. Students have numerous opportunities to apply what they learn to current policy issues.

PPA Track Core Courses (Both required)
PSAA 615: Public Policy Analysis
PSAA 622: Public Finance
PPA Track Electives (Choose two):

PSAA 605: Homeland Security Policies and Strategies
PSAA 606: Environmental Policy and Management
PSAA 613: Immigration and Education Policy
PSAA 614: Governance and Institutional Reform
PSAA 616: Diversity in Public & Nonprofit Organizations
PSAA 617: U.S. State and Local Govt: Institutions and Policy
PSAA 618: Education Policy
PSAA 619: U.S. Urban Policy and Management
PSAA 625: Urban Sustainability and Management
PSAA 635: Social Welfare and Health Policy
PSAA 637: Decision Making in Govt and Administration
PSAA 638: Health Economics and Public Policy
PSAA 640: Energy and Security Policy
PSAA 671: Science and Technology Policy
INTA 625: International Trade Policy
INTA 651: National Security Policy
PLAN 616: Analyzing Risk in Public Policy
Public Management (PM)
Associated faculty: Greer (coordinator), Bowman, Bright, Casellas Connors, Compton, Graham, Hilderbrand, Kerr, Nakamura, K. Taylor, West

The Public Management track focuses on the capabilities required for effective and ethical leadership in the public and nonprofit sectors. These include knowledge and skills pertaining to the internal operation of public-service organizations and to the relationship between those organizations and their operating environments.

PM Track Core Courses (Both required):
PSAA 623: Budgeting in Public Service
PSAA 634: Public Management
PM Track Electives (Choose two):

PSAA 602: Tools for Advancement and Leadership
PSAA 604: Emergency Management and Homeland Security
PSAA 606: Environmental Policy and Management
PSAA 610: Comparative Public Administration & Mgmt
PSAA 614: Governance and Institutional Reform
PSAA 616: Diversity in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
PSAA 619: U. S. Urban Policy and Management
PSAA 625: Urban Sustainability and Management
PSAA 626: Contract Management
PSAA 630: Program Evaluation (if not used as Quant. Methods II requirement)
PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management
PSAA 637: Decision Making in Government and Public Service
PM Track Electives (cont’d):

PSAA 641: Organizational Theory for the Public Sector
PSAA 642: Ethics and Public Policy
PSAA 644: Management and Leadership of Nonprofits
PSAA 646: Accountability in Public Service
PSAA 648: Performance Management in Public and Nonprofits
PSAA 661: Human Resource Mgmt. in Govt and Public Service
PSAA 670: Public Information Management Systems
PSAA 673: Conflict Resolution in Public Management
Nonprofit Management (NPM)
Associated faculty: Brown (coordinator), Kerr, Nakamura, Robichau, Qu, K. Taylor

The Nonprofit Management Track provides students with an understanding of the role of the nonprofit sector as it has evolved and the distinctive character of nonprofit management and the challenges it must address. Discussions include the variation of structures and activities of assorted nonprofit organizations. It also examines development, political activities, and other dimensions of the relationship between nonprofit organizations and their environments.

NPM Track Core Courses (Both required):
PSAA 632: Fiscal Management of Nonprofits
PSAA 644: Management and Leadership of Nonprofits
NPM Track Electives: (Choose two):

PSAA 603: Nongovernmental Mgmt. in International Settings
PSAA 626: Contract Management
PSAA 631: Marketing for Nonprofits
PSAA 633: Philanthropy and Fundraising in Nonprofits
PSAA 635: Social Welfare and Health Policy
PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management
PSAA 645: Networks and Inter-organizational Collaborations
PSAA 648: Performance Management in Public and Nonprofits
PSAA 649: Volunteer and Human Resource Management
PSAA 650: Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
PSAA 669: Legal Environment of Nonprofit Organizations
PSAA 689: Nonprofit Governance
Concentrations

- Analytical Methods
- Cybersecurity Policy and Management
- Education Policy and Management
- Energy, Environment and Technology Policy and Management
- Health Policy and Administration
- Homeland Security and National Defense
- International Nongovernmental Organizations
- State and Local Government Policy and Management
- Individually designed concentrations
Analytical Methods (AM)
Associated faculty: Lahey (coordinator), Bright, Casellas Connors, Cortes, L. Taylor

This concentration provides an analytic toolbox for effective program and policy analysis. It uses quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis and implementation of such analysis in both policy and administrative settings. Students must take two core Methods courses (including the core Quant. Methods II requirement) and at least two Methods electives. If the four core courses are not chosen to satisfy the requirement, then one of the electives may be technical and at least one of the electives must be practical.

**Methods Core Course** (Choose at least two.):

- **BUSH 632**: Quantitative Methods II
- **BUSH 635**: Quantitative Methods II: Policy Analysis Emphasis
- **PSAA 630**: Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
- **INTA 637**: Field Research Methods

**Technical Methods Elective** (Choose no more than one.):

- **ECON 459**: Games and Economic Behavior
- **ECON 440**: Experimental Economics
- **MATH 411**: Mathematical Probability
Practical Methods Electives (Choose at least one unless AM core courses are used to meet all concentration requirements.):

- **PSAA 689**: Qualitative Methods
- **INTA 616**: Economic Development in China (must choose empirical option)
- **INTA 625**: International Trade Policy
- **INTA 632**: Advanced Economic Development
- **GEOG 660**: Applications in GIS
- **ECMT 475**: Economic Forecasting
- **EPSY 640**: Experimental Design in Education I
- **HLTH 632**: Health Program Evaluation
- **EPSY 637 or SOCI 624**: Qualitative Methods
- **PHEB 603**: Biostatistics II
- **PHPM 655**: Survey Design for Public Health Research and Practice (credit cannot be given for both PHPM 655 and BUSH 632)
- **PHPM 689**: Spatial Economics in Health Services (GIS)

More advanced methods theory courses from Economics, Political Science, or Statistics (or selected other programs) can be included as technical electives with permission from your academic adviser. Practical methods courses not on this list can be used with adviser permission provided that the course has a significant empirical component.
Cybersecurity Concentration (CS)

Associated Faculty: Davis (coordinator), McLaughlin, Sowell

This concentration is designed to allow Bush School students to conduct focused study on a topic that has application across both public and private enterprises. This combination of three courses is designed to help students develop both theoretical and practical cybersecurity knowledge, skills, and abilities.

**CS Core Courses** (required):
PSAA 608: Cybersecurity Policy, Issues and Operations - A Manager’s Guide

**CS Electives** (choose two):
INTA 689: Cyberspace Implications for National Security
INTA 689: Introduction to Cyber for the Non-Technical
INTA 689: Internet Infrastructure: Platforms and Politics
INTA 690: Cybersecurity Literacy for the Global Arena
CSCE 676: Law & Policy in Cybersecurity
CSCE 677: Cybersecurity Risk
ISTM 635: Business Information Security
ISTM 645: IT Security Controls
ISTM 655: Security Management and Compliance
MATH 673: Information, Secrecy and Authentication I
Education Policy & Management (EDPM)

Associated faculty: Cortes (coordinator), Casellas Connors, Han, L. Taylor

This concentration examines the key institutions that make and administer education policy, the political and economic forces that shape policy at all levels, and the implications of policy for educational equity, adequacy, accountability and administration.

**EDPM Core Course** (Choose one):
PSAA 613: Immigration and Education Policy
PSAA 618: Education Policy

**EDPM Electives** (choose two):
PSAA 613 or 618 (if not used as EDPM core course)
PSAA 616: Diversity in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management
PSAA 642: Ethics and Public Policy
EDAD 609: Public School Law
EDAD 610: Higher Education Law
EDAD 611: Higher Education Business and Finance
EDAD 612: Policy Issues in Administration of Higher Education
EDAD 639: Foundations of Educational Administration
EDAD 652: Politics of Education
EDAD 653: Organizational Theory & Leadership in Education
EDAD 655: Administration of Higher Education
EDAD 687: Principles of Professional Practice in Education
EHRD 633: Adult Literacy Education
**Energy, Environment, & Technology Policy & Mgmt (EETPM)**

Associated faculty: Vedlitz (coordinator), Bowman, Lewis

This concentration studies the key institutions for making and administering policy, as well as the political, economic, and technological forces that shape agenda setting and policy formation. Also discussed are obstacles to effective policy implementation and management, analytical tools used to evaluate policy, and critical issues and how they are interrelated.

**EETPM Core Courses** (Two required):
- PSAA 606: Environmental Policy and Management
- PSAA 640: Energy and Security Policy
- PSAA 671: Science and Technology Policy

**EETPM Electives** (Choose one):
- PSAA 606, 640, or 671 (If not used as an EETPM core course)
- PSAA 624: Water Policy and Management
- PSAA 625: Urban Sustainability and Management
- PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management
- PSAA 663: Natural Resource Economics (cross-listed w/ AGEC 604)
- ESSM 689: Changing Natural Resources Policy
- LDEV 661: Development and the Environment
- LDEV 671: Sustainable Development
- MGMT 632: Technology Commercialization
- OCNG 676: Marine Environmental Policy
- PLAN 616: Analyzing Risk/Hazard and Public Policy
- PLAN 641: Problems of Environmental Planning Administration
- PLAN 651: Planning for Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
- WFSC 604: Ecology and National Resources
Health Policy and Management (HPM)

Associated faculty: Dague (coordinator), Lahey

This concentration covers the key institutions for administering health policy and the political/economic forces that shape agenda setting and policy formation. Also studied are obstacles to effective policy implementation and analytical tools that can be used to evaluate policy, as well to provide an understanding of critical issues and how they are interrelated.

**HPM Core Course** (Choose one):
- PSAA 635: Social Welfare and Health Policy
- PSAA 638: Health Economics and Public Policy

**HPM Electives** (Choose two):
- BUSH 635: Quantitative Methods II: Policy Emphasis (if not used as PPA track Quant. Methods II requirement)
- OR PSAA 630: Program Evaluation (if not used as PM or NPM track Quant. Methods II requirement)
- PSAA 635 or 638 (If not taken as an HPM core course)
- PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management
- HLTH 611: Organization and Administration of Health
- HLTH 630: Health Program Planning
- PHEB 600: Fundamentals of Epidemiology
- PHPM 601: Rural Public Health Systems
- PHPM 605: Introduction to Health Policy and Management
- PHPM 633: Health, Law and Ethics
- PHPM 640: Health Policy and Politics
- PLAN 631: Health Systems Planning
- PLAN 634: Environmental Health Planning and Policy
Homeland Security & National Defense (HSND)

Associated faculty: Davis (coordinator)

This concentration examines security policy and management concepts and principles, governance structures, strategies, policies, and contemporary events and their implications. Homeland security, national defense, and emergency management areas are emphasized.

**SPM Core Course** (Required):
PSAA 656: Fundamentals of Homeland Security

**SPM Electives** (Choose two):
PSAA 604: Emergency Management and Homeland Security
PSAA 608: Cybersecurity Policy, Issues and Operations - A Manager’s Guide
PSAA 620: Safeguarding the Nation’s Maritime Gateways
PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management
PSAA 640: Energy and Security Policy
PSAA 651: Homeland Security and Homeland Defense
PSAA 652: Protection of the Nation’s Critical Infrastructure
PSAA 653: Weapons of Mass Destruction
PSAA 655: Domestic Intelligence Operations
PSAA 657/INTA 657: Terrorism in Today’s World
PSAA 658: Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity
PSAA 660: Domestic Terrorism: The Internal Threat to America
PSAA 668/INTA 612: U.S. Law and Homeland Security
PLAN 616: Analyzing Risk and Public Policy
PLAN 649: Organizational Response to Crisis
PLAN 650: Disaster Response Planning
International Nongovernmental Organizations (INGO)

Associated faculty: Hilderbrand (coordinator), Brown, Hamie, Mu, Qu, Robertson, Robichau, K. Taylor

This concentration provides coursework and preparation for work in international nongovernmental organizations or non-profits working in non-US settings, or for work to improve the effectiveness of such organizations.

**INGO Core Course** (Required):
PSAA 603: Nongovernmental Management in Intl. Settings

**INGO Electives: (Choose 2. At least one must be an INTA course. Students in the NPM track should choose 2 INTA courses.)**
PSAA 614: Governance and Institutional Reform: A Comparative Perspective
PSAA 626: Contract Management
PSAA 630: Program Evaluation (if not used as PM or NPM track Quant. Methods II requirement)
PSAA 632: Fiscal Mgmt. of Nonprofits (if not used as NPM track core course)
PSAA 633: Philanthropy and Fundraising in Nonprofits
PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management
PSAA 644: Management of Nonprofits (if not used as NPM track core course)
PSAA 650: Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
PSAA 689: Nonprofit Governance
INTA 630: International Economic Development
INTA 632: Advanced Economic Development
INTA 634: Politics and Development Policies
INTA 636: International Development in Theory and Practice
INTA 643: International Organizations
INTA 644: Post-war Recovery and Development Interventions
ALEC 645: Managing Projects of Intl. Agricultural Development
RPTS 604: Principles of Community & Community Development
RPTS 605: Community Organization
State & Local Government Policy & Management (SLGPM)

Associated faculty: Bowman (coordinator), Bright, Casellas Connors, Cortes, Graham, Greer, Han, Kerr, Lahey, Nakamura, L. Taylor

This concentration explores the institutional structure of state and local government and how it varies among jurisdictions. Topics discussed include politics and management at the state and local level, the prerogatives and limitations of state and local governments in different policy areas, the role of state and local governments in implementing federal programs, and critical issues facing said governments.

SLGPM Core Course (Required):
PSAA 617: State and Local Government: Institutions and Policy

SLGPM Electives (Choose two):
PSAA 613: Immigration and Education Policy
PSAA 616: Managing Diversity in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
PSAA 618: Education Policy
PSAA 619: U.S. Urban Policy and Management
PSAA 625: Urban Sustainability and Management
PSAA 626: Contract Management
PSAA 630: Program Evaluation in Public & Nonprofit Organizations (if not used as PM or NPM track Quant. Methods II requirement)
PSAA 635: Social Welfare and Health Policy
PSAA 636: Grant and Project Mgmt. in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
PSAA 656: Fundamentals of Homeland Security
State & Local Government Policy & Management (SLGPM), cont’d

PSAA 641: Organization Theory for the Public Sector
PSAA 642: Ethics and Public Policy
PSAA 646: Accountability in Public Service
PSAA 648: Performance Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
PSAA 661: Human Resource Management
EDAD 620: Educational Program Evaluation
EDAD 652: Politics of Education
GEOG 660: Applications in Geographic Information Systems
LDEV 671: Sustainable Development
MGMT 658: Managing Projects
PLAN 610: Structure and Function of Urban Settlements
PLAN 612: Transportation in City Planning
PLAN 633: Planning for Healthy Communities
PLAN 656: Housing and Communities
RPTS 604: Principles of Community and Community Development
Individually Designed Concentration

In consultation with his/her advisor and the PSAA Department Head, a student may choose to create an individualized concentration consisting of three approved courses.
Goals of the Curriculum

• Generally applicable skills and knowledge

• Knowing how to think clearly and critically

• Knowing how to write

• Specializing in a particular area
Degree Plans and Advising

- Faculty Advisors
  You will be notified of your assigned advisor via email next week.

- Finding an internship

- Waiving program requirements
Choosing a Track and Concentration

You will officially declare your track and concentration by submitting your MPSA Degree Plan Worksheet to Kimberly Reeves by Friday, October 22.
Second-Year Funding

• Criteria for continued support of Bush School scholarships
  • Avoid probation
  • Avoid academic dishonesty
  • GPA of at least 3.25

• Assistantships
  • $1,500/month ($13,500 for 9 months)
  • 9-hour tuition only payment each semester
  • In-state tuition rates
  • Eligibility for health insurance
Where to Go for Assistance

**Advising (choosing courses, tracks, concentrations)**
- Faculty Advisor, Senior Administrative Coordinator, Administrative Coordinator II, Department Head

**Career or Internship Issues**
- Assistant Dean for Career Services or Assistant Director of Career Services

**Academic Problems**
- Faculty Advisor or Department Head

**Concerns about Professor and Courses (course content, grading, professionalism)**
- Department Head
- Senior Associate Dean
- Dean
Where to Go for Assistance (cont’d)

**Personal Issues**
- Advisor/other faculty
- Senior Admin Coordinator or Administrative Coordinator II
- Department head

**Student Behavior**
- Department Head
- Senior Associate Dean
- Dean
Where to Go for Assistance (cont’d)

Administrative Issues (registration, adds/drops, forms, degree plans, curriculum and program questions, appointments with Department Head)

↓

Senior Administrative Coordinator

Reserving classrooms/meeting rooms, student travel, student reimbursements, general advising questions

↓

Administrative Coordinator II
Academic Administrative Issues
Ms. Kimberly Reeves
reevesk@tamu.edu, Room 2100

- Appointments with the Department Head

- Advising and Registration Issues
  - General Advising Questions
  - Forces, Adds, Drops (Q-drops, withdrawals)

- Forms and Procedures
  - Individually Designed Concentration Request Form
  - Degree Plan Worksheet
  - Change of Advisor Form
  - 685 (Directed Studies) Form
  - Petition for Degree Requirement Waivers or Substitutions
  - Degree Plan and Petitions

- See PSAA student web page for resources such as forms and deadlines: http://bush.tamu.edu/psaa/resources/.
Classroom/conference room reservations

General advising questions

Student travel grant applications

Student travel arrangements and required forms

Student travel and expense reimbursements

Other Administrative Issues
Ms. Stephanie Bustos
sbustos@tamu.edu, Room 2104
Welcome to the Bush School!