

Lead. Solve. Change.



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
University of Colorado Denver

MPA Core Descriptions

P AD 5001/7001-3. Introduction to Public Administration and Public Service. Examines the fundamental theories, structures, and processes of governance in the United States. Explores the constitutional foundations and functions of legislative, administrative, and legal institutions. Covers topics such as federalism, public-private relations, and comparative public administration.

P AD 5002/7002-3. Organizational Management and Change. Examines contemporary theory and practice of managing organizations and the processes of organizational change and development. Considers issues of effective leadership, human resource management, organizational theory and behavior, and personal and interpersonal skills.

P AD 5003/7003-3. Research and Analytic Methods. Examines research methods used to answer questions and test hypotheses in public and non-profit settings. Methods covered include identifying and reviewing scholarly literature; formulating research questions; selecting appropriate design, data collection and sampling strategies; and analyzing data. Topics include causal and descriptive designs, interview and surveys and statistics such as t-test, chi square, regression and the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS).

P AD 5004/7004-3. Economics and Public Finance. Uses economics to explore public and private sector roles, and the allocation of resources in the public sector. Introduces the concepts of public goods, market failure and externalities. The effects of taxation and subsidies on consumer and firm behavior are analyzed. Also covers cost benefit analysis and national, state, and local budgeting methods.

P AD 5005/7005-3. The Policy Process and Democracy. Offers a theoretical approach to understanding the public policy process in the context of a democratic system. The course presents a model of the policy process for understanding contemporary theory and issues in public affairs.

P AD 5006/7006-3. Leadership and Professional Ethics. Examines theories and skills of effective public leadership. Emphasizes critical thinking, normative decision making, the role of values in public policy and management. Ethical theories and principles commonly used in public administration and policy are to be emphasized.