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URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING

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PLANNING, GOVERNANCE & GLOBALIZATION

UNDERGRADUATE
SMART AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING

Center for Public Policy & Administration (CPAP)

Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Affairs (PAPA) FAQs

APPLICATION MATTERS

What are the program application deadlines?
The application deadline for Fall admission is May 1. However, if you are seeking financial assistance, the deadline is February 1st. There are no Spring admissions.

International students have different deadlines. For Fall admissions, the deadline is April 1st. However, if you are seeking financial assistance, the deadline is February 1st.

What does the application timeline look like?
All applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Review of Fall admission applications begins on February 1. All supporting documents, including all three letters of recommendation, must be submitted for the application to be reviewed.

What is the minimum GPA for admission?
For admission to the Ph.D. program, applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Students that do not have a 3.0GPA in previous studies should enroll in the Virginia Commonwealth Campus program in order to boost their GPA and demonstrate graduate study potential. International students, in F-1 or J-1 visa status, are not allowed to enroll in the Commonwealth Campus.

What are the applicant testing requirements?
The submission of scores from a commonly accepted graduate-level standardized aptitude test, such as the GRE, GMA, MAT, etc., is optional, and not required for admission.

What additional tests do international students need to take?
All non-U.S. citizens or non-U.S. permanent residents demonstrate English proficiency to ensure they enter the university with sufficient English skills necessary to function in a graduate program. A TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test score is the most common way international applicants demonstrate English proficiency. English proficiency can also be demonstrated through a conferred bachelor's degree from an accredited university where English is the medium of instruction. If this applies to you, The Virginia Tech Graduate School will code a waiver of the English proficiency requirement into your application once they receive and review your transcript showing degree conferral and medium of instruction as English.

For information regarding TOEFL and IELTS score minimums, as well as the score submission procedure, please visit the Graduate School's website.

What are the program prerequisites?
There are no prerequisites for the program.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

What types of financial assistance does CPAP offer?
CPAP offers a limited number of graduate assistantships on a competitive basis. Applicants should indicate their interest in financial assistance via the online application. In addition, applicants and students may also apply for assistantships outside of CPAP. A list of available assistantships across the University can be found on the VT Graduate School website. The Graduate School also has additional information about other types of assistance available to graduate students.

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Where are your programs located?
The Ph.D. program is located in Blacksburg, VA and Arlington, VA.

PROGRAM FORMAT

What are the attendance requirements?
The Ph.D. program requires in-person participation for core coursework. Electives taken outside of the program may be offered virtually depending on the course. Some courses are available via Zoom or other tele-conference methods.

Can I participate part-time?
Yes, you can participate in the PhD program as a part-time student.

Can I transfer courses from another institution/degree?
A maximum of 18 credit hours of elective coursework required for the CPAP Ph.D., may be transferred from an accredited university other than Virginia Tech upon approval by two core faculty evaluating the student's plan of study.

For graduate courses taken at Virginia Tech, students can appeal to the CPAP Chair to have additional coursework transferred.

MORE INFORMATION

Who should I contact for more information?
For more information about CPAP programs in Blacksburg, please contact Tyler Wiltshire at wilt15@vt.edu. For more information about CPAP programs in Arlington, VA please contact Elia Amegashie at elia@vt.edu.