VT undergraduates enrolled in Public and Urban Affairs majors are invited to fast-track their graduate education in Public Administration and Public Policy through the Accelerated BA-MPA program. This special program provides students the opportunity to study at a nationally ranked program, with the option to continue their study in Blacksburg, or in the Washington D.C. metro area or Richmond.

Apply Now!
www.spia.vt.edu/accmpa

**BENEFITS OF BA-MPA**

- Begin graduate coursework during your senior year
- B.A. classes count towards MPA degree requirements
- Expedited timeline to obtain your master’s degree
- Graduate course work in Blacksburg, Richmond or Arlington, VA
- No GRE or thesis requirement
- Nationally ranked and accredited MPA program
The Accelerated PUA BA-MPA is designed for highly motivated students with the desire to build career options into their undergraduate curriculum. Upon completing the program, students are strategically positioned to jumpstart a career in impacting change – on a local, national or global level – through thoughtful scholarship and public service.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Students in the second semester of their junior year interested in pursuing careers in public service through government, nonprofit and private research organizations or a doctoral degree in public administration or policy

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- Current enrollment as a Smart and Sustainable Cities (SSC) or Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP) major at VT
- Minimum 3.5 cumulative undergraduate GPA
- 90 Credit hours of the undergraduate degree completed at time of application to MPA program

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Graduate school application form
- CV or resume
- Personal statement of motivation for graduate studies & career objectives
- Official undergraduate transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation (at least two academic references)
- Writing sample of 5-10 pages, optimally an academic paper from an upper division course in public and urban affairs, but sophisticated analyses in political science, sociology, history and other fields may be submitted

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION OF YOUR UNDERGRAD & GRAD COURSEWORK

Your undergraduate core classes can be used towards meeting elective requirements for your graduate credits.*

**PUA Core**
- UAP 4754: Legal Foundations of Planning (3)
- UAP 4914: Seminar in Public and Urban Affairs (3)

**SSC Core**
- SPIA 4454: Future of Cities (3)
- SPIA 4464: Data and the Art of Policy-Making and Planning (3)

**EPP Core**
- UAP 4344: Law of Critical Environmental Areas (3)
- UAP 4374: Land Use and Environment: Policy and Planning (3)
- UAP 4354: Interdisciplinary Environmental Problem Solving Studio (4)

*Up to 12 credits may be double-counted, including 6 undergraduate and 6 graduate credits.

GRADUATE WITH A PORTFOLIO

Culminating the MPA program, students assemble, analyze and present a portfolio of work that demonstrates knowledge and skills acquired through the program. The portfolio replaces the thesis as the final graduate project.

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