



*Envision  
the future.*



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
VIRGINIA TECH.

# ACCELERATED BA-MPA

## PUBLIC AND URBAN AFFAIRS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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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](http://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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