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BLACKSBURG



WASHINGTON, DC



RICHMOND

Center for Public Policy & Administration (CPAP)

Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Affairs (PAPA) Admissions Information

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

Application timeline

Review of applications for Fall admission begins on February 1. Review of applications for Spring admission begins September 1. Applications including requests for financial assistance should be submitted by or very close to the opening of the relevant review period for best consideration. Applications are only reviewed once all supporting materials are received.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. The application deadline for Fall admission is May 1. The application deadline for Spring admission is November 1.

How to apply

Apply online through the Virginia Tech Graduate School's website:

<https://graduateschool.vt.edu/admissions/how-to-apply.html>

Application materials

- Undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- A personal statement detailing your research interests and goals, including evidence of your aptitude for doctoral studies in public administration and public affairs
- A resume outlining your educational and professional experiences
- Three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty members or supervisors who can speak to the applicant's potential to thrive in a scholarly PhD program in public administration and public affairs
- Application fee

Minimum GPA for admission

Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA for admission to the Ph.D. program, though students admitted to the program typically have a higher GPA.

Testing requirements

CPAP typically requires Ph.D. applicants to submit scores from a commonly accepted standardized test for graduate admissions, such as the GRE, GMA, LSAT, etc. The standardized test score requirement for PAPA Ph.D. program is waived for applications submitted for admission during 2022.

Additional tests for international students

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](#).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

CPAP offers a limited number of graduate assistantships on a competitive basis. Applicants should indicate their interest in financial assistance via the online application. Assistantships typically offer three years of support and include a monthly stipend during the academic year (excluding summer), tuition scholarship and academic fees and qualifies students for subsidized health insurance benefits. Students are responsible for paying some fees. Many students are supported by assistantships and scholarships external to CPAP, with the Graduate School website a good resource for leads.

More information about assistantships, financial aid, and Virginia Tech's tuition, fee, and stipend rates (determined on a yearly basis) can be found on the Graduate School website under Tuition and Costs: <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/>.

PROGRAM LOCATIONS & FORMAT

The Ph.D. program is located in Blacksburg, VA, and Arlington, VA. The program requires in-person participation at a campus location for core coursework. Some courses are available via Zoom or other modalities.

Students may enroll in the program on a full-time or part-time basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See the CPAP Policy Guide under Resources at <https://spia.vt.edu/academics/graduate/papa.html>

Please contact Kelly Crist at kcrist@vt.edu for more information about CPAP programs in Blacksburg. For information about CPAP programs in Arlington, contact Elia Amegashie at elia@vt.edu.