About the Department

The mission of the Department of Public Administration, as a part of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University, is to advance excellence in teaching, research and service to the community, the nation and the world. Our emphasis is on educating people for positions that require creative problem solving, leadership and management skills.

FIU is located in Miami, a major global city in the United States. The Miami metropolitan area is a diverse community with a significant share of immigrant population. It is comprised of 90 cities of different sizes and socioeconomic status. Our location is ideal for the study of almost any urban management issue. It is also particularly appropriate as a laboratory for international and comparative development issues.
Ph.D. in Public Affairs

The Doctor of Philosophy in Public Affairs is designed for academic and research careers that deal with urban and comparative governance. It also helps to prepare students for senior level positions in public, non-profit and international organizations. The degree provides a sound foundation in current administrative research in public administration and its cognate disciplines within the fields of public policy and management. Doctoral students are expected to demonstrate significant research capacity in the discipline through the writing of a dissertation.

Faculty

Faculty members have national and international reputations. They are prominent in professional public administration associations across the globe including the National Academy of Public Administration, the American Society for Public Administration and the NASPAA Executive Council. The faculty members are very active in research — they are competitively placed with other top schools in faculty scholarly productivity. They have a high volume of research publications in leading journals, and are prominent in public administration and allied conferences across the world.

The faculty research areas include:
- Budgeting and public finance
- Homeland security and emergency management
- Human resource management
- International and comparative governance
- Local and regional economic development
- Social equity

The faculty members are also internationally recognized for their research in specific areas. Such specialization areas include: citizen participation, decentralization, emotional labor, e-government, ethics, gender and race relations, innovation systems, leadership and performance management.

For a complete list of our faculty members and their research interests, visit pa.fiu.edu.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should generally have a master’s degree prior to their enrollment, though outstanding applicants with only a baccalaureate degree may also be considered. Admission is not restricted to students with prior course work in public administration. The program encourages candidates with diverse academic backgrounds to apply. Applicants should ideally demonstrate knowledge of American political institutions and fundamentals of social research methods.

For more information regarding application materials and deadlines, visit pa.fiu.edu. To apply online, visit gradschool.fiu.edu.

About our Students

Our Ph.D. student body is representative of the global community. Domestic students hail from all over the United States. International students are from many countries, including: Belarus, China, Colombia, Germany, Iran, Italy, Kuwait, Lithuania, Romania, and South Korea. The student body is diverse, with both full-time and part-time students.

Our students have received very competitive awards nationally and internationally. Recent highlights include awards given at the following conferences: American Society for Public Administration, Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe, International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration.

We provide teaching assistantships and fellowships to highly qualified students. For more information, visit pa.fiu.edu.

Ph.D. Majors

The Ph.D. program in Public Affairs broadly encompasses public administration, management, policy and service. Within the Ph.D. program, we offer two optional majors: Criminal Justice (CJ) and Health Policy and Management (HPM). The CJ major is intended for those with an interest in organizational issues of law enforcement and criminology. The HPM major is intended for those with an interest in health related public policy and organizational management.

Career Opportunities

We provide outstanding training and mentoring to our graduates, placing them in academia as well as senior positions in public, private and non-profit sectors.

Our alumni have established careers at universities in the United States and abroad, including senior administrative positions, tenure-track faculty appointments in public administration and related disciplines. The universities include: Georgia Southern University, Indiana University-Purdue University, University of Central Florida, University of Memphis, University of Texas-Pan American and at Arlington, among others. Internationally, the placements include Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, City University of Hong Kong, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Chung-Ang University in Seoul and Shandong University in Weihai.

Our graduates also pursue careers as senior officers in public agencies, private firms, and non-profit organizations — some are principals of their own non-profits.