Master of Public Administration

Competencies for Each Area of Emphasis

The following competencies were developed in December 2011 with input and feedback from students, the Advisory Council, and SUU administrators. The final competency list was adopted by the MPA core faculty in January 2012. The first course for each area was offered fall semester, 2012.

Student must complete 12 elective credits selected from the preapproved list of electives for their area of emphasis.

The MPA program accomplishes its Mission when students who complete the area of emphasis demonstrate the following competencies:

Criminal Justice

1. Administer and manage a criminal justice agency and program in an ethical and effective manner.
2. Research, interpret, and apply laws, rules, codes, constitutional policies, and other legal concepts, and communicate to all levels of government, the private sector, and the general public.

Student Services in Higher Education

1. Manage and administer student services in higher education in an ethical and effective manner.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the developmental stages of students in higher education environments.
3. Navigate organizational structures of higher education and prioritize competing interests.

Non-profit Administration and Management

1. Manage and administer nonprofit organizations in an ethical and effective manner.
2. Differentiate the roles of the nonprofit entity from public and private organizations.
3. Develop and demonstrate skills unique to nonprofits such as fundraising, volunteer programs, board relations, and legal restrictions.

State and Local Government
1. Identify and apply relevant legal issues and regulations for state and local governments.

2. Demonstrate ability to manage state and local government resources and programs in an effective and ethical manner.

3. Communicate and coordinate between different levels of government, the private sector, and the general public.