



PH.D. IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PhD



School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**



RECENT OPINION POLLS SHOW IT PAYS TO HAVE ONE.

THE DEGREE AND EXPERIENCE YOU NEED TO SHAPE PUBLIC POLICY.

The Doctor of Philosophy program at the CU Denver School of Public Affairs is designed to address the demand for people who are skilled in the theory, concepts and research areas of public policy and public management.

Our Ph.D. in Public Affairs program attracts students seeking academic careers, scholar-practitioners serving in leadership roles in organizations, and policy analysts working in the public, nonprofit or private sectors. Graduates of the Ph.D. program are prepared to teach and conduct research at academic institutions, and to research and analyze complex public sector challenges.

As a Ph.D. student, you'll join a selective, focused program that admits 6-10 students each year. You will work with faculty who lead nationally ranked programs, with particular expertise in local government, environmental policy, emergency management, nonprofit management, public finance and criminology.

Mentoring by faculty and fellow Ph.D. students is an essential part of the program. You will meet regularly with faculty and be encouraged to engage with students and faculty in seminars and workshops outside of classes.

REWARDING CAREERS IN ACADEMIA AND BEYOND

Graduates of our Ph.D. program have consistently found rewarding careers in a wide range of fields. In addition to tenure-track positions at top colleges and universities, Ph.D. alumni serve in the public sector as leaders in local and regional government; program directors in state departments of education, transportation, human services and natural resources; executives at nonprofits and think tanks; and, program managers in state offices such as social security and emergency services.

CURRICULUM

The Ph.D. program requires an intensive commitment of time and effort. Most students take about 4-6 years to complete courses, preliminary exams and the dissertation.

The Ph.D. curriculum allows students to develop theoretical and analytical skills needed to produce, direct and analyze research related to public policy, management and administration. In doing so, students must complete the following core courses:

- » Historical and Comparative Foundations of Public Administration
- » Seminar in Public Management
- » Seminar in Public Policy
- » Seminar in Economic and Institutional Foundations of Public Affairs
- » Quantitative Methods I and II
- » Seminar on the Conduct of Empirical Inquiry
- » Qualitative methods course of the student's choosing

In addition, students have 12 credit hours (i.e., 4 semester courses) of electives in the doctoral program. Students are expected to use these electives to develop an emphasis in an area that furthers their dissertation and research interests.

After completing the required core courses and electives, students conduct dissertation research on topics that align with their interests and that have local to international impacts.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Earn your Ph.D. from a *U.S. News & World Report* top-ranked school

Many doctoral students receive funding through research assistantships

Faculty who lead programs ranked in top 25 nationally

Hosted events and conferences throughout the year featuring leading experts and practitioners

The School of Public Affairs is fully accredited by NASPAA

Diverse, urban setting with thriving nonprofit community and highest concentration of federal agencies outside of D.C.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants who can do so are encouraged to talk with (or email) and meet with the Director of the Doctoral Program and faculty prior to applying to the program.

All applicants are encouraged to use the online application system. If you prefer hard copies of the materials or have trouble with the online application, you can download the required materials from our website.

In order to apply please submit:

- » Graduate application, Part I and II (ucdenver.edu/apply)
- » Minimum of 3 letters of recommendation from colleagues and previous professors, focusing on potential for (a) future leadership in teaching, research and public service and (b) deriving benefit from the doctoral program
- » GRE scores
 - Applicants taking an examination should specify a graduate major at the University of Colorado in Public Administration (Graduate School Department Code Number 4801 for Item 11 on the Application Form; Institution Code R4875)
- » Two official transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate work
- » Current resume or vita
- » A (maximum) 1000-word statement of educational and career goals and how the School of Public Affairs can help achieve these goals, including the identification of 2-3 faculty members with whom the student would be interesting in working
- » Students may also submit samples of research reports or publications
- » Application fee (\$50; \$75 for international students)
- » Send all of the application materials to:
University of Colorado Denver
School of Public Affairs
Campus Box 142
PO Box 173364
Denver, CO 80217-3364

An oral interview may be required of applicant finalists, and is required for all international students for whom English is not the first language.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Students will be admitted to the doctoral program once a year during the spring semester, with their doctoral studies beginning the following fall semester. To be considered for admission for the fall semester, applications are due by February 1 for domestic students and January 15 for international students.

