

Public Administration

What can I do with this degree?

What makes a professional career in public service so unique is the emphasis on the challenging issues that define the public agenda and call for talented individuals to devote their efforts to finding solutions. Here are just a few of the common problems encountered by today's public servants:

- Managing global climate change and controlling its underlying causes such as carbon emissions
- Supplying food, energy and clean water to the growing populations in developing countries
- Securing the United States and other countries against the possibility of chemical, biological and nuclear terrorism
- Redeveloping older urban areas that have lost their economic base in manufacturing
- Transitioning recently incarcerated persons into productive, nonviolent lives in society
- Ending the epidemic of HIV infection in developed and developing countries.
- Providing quality education and health care to children living in poverty.

These high profile problems are only a piece of the entire picture of public service careers. Many worthwhile careers in the public sector are devoted to providing absolutely vital daily services to the public in cities, counties, states and nations around the world. Professionals in these careers often must tackle very challenging problems such as expanding services to meet the needs of changing populations without necessarily raising taxes, implementing information technologies that better connect citizens to their governments, and improving responses to natural disasters. Employment demand for professionals to provide leadership, financial management, policy analysis and other such skills has never been stronger for the public sector.

Prospective students often focus on the types of jobs. Is there a typical career path for a graduate with a public administration degree? No, not really. Graduates of these programs pursue a wide variety of careers. Most people choose this degree because they are committed to public service and enjoy working on these issues or problems. BPA programs exist to provide professional training for government officials (at all levels), the non-profit and private sectors, both in the United States and around the world.

Some graduates move back and forth between the public, private and nonprofit sector, or between an international setting and a domestic one. They can do this because the BPA degree provides a set of analytical and management skills that are often transferable across sectors and across issue areas. Some of the major sectors our graduates work in are:

- Nonprofit
- Government (all levels)
- Environment
- Healthcare
- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Homeland Security
- International Agencies