

## Overview of the Field of Public Administration:

The field of public administration is comprehensive and it may be defined, on the one hand, as the implementation of policy by civil servants in an official executive framework. Additionally, public administrators manage nearly every aspect of public service at the federal, state and local levels offering the opportunity to help shape the future through government units, in non-profit organizations or in other agencies or institutions.

A degree in public administration provides an academic pathway for individuals pursuing a career in both government and non-governmental/non-profit organizations. There are several areas of overlap between these pursuits, so an education which combines both will give one a competitive advantage and allow one to move into either area, according to basic career interests. For example, a person may start a career in fundraising for a non-profit organization, and later become a member of a governmental grant-awarding body. Another person may develop programs, while yet another may evaluate services performed by an institution. A degree in public administration offers students great flexibility when changing careers.

Somewhat similar to a degree in management, a degree in public administration can focus on leadership, fund raising and event planning, organizational governance, program and service planning and evaluation, finance, law and administration. With this specialization, one may pursue jobs in local, state, or federal government; in public service sectors such as healthcare and animal welfare; or non-profit organizations focusing on all kinds of target populations of people, animals and much more.

Governmental and non-governmental institutions are evolving, maturing, and overlapping in services, which in turn creates a higher demand for well-educated management specialists in public service. A degree in public administration prepares public/nonprofit professionals to excel in this increasingly complex, politicized, intergovernmental environment. As job competition increases in this growing sector, online degrees in public administration have become more popular among working professionals who want to improve their academic credentials without putting their careers on hold.

Recent significant changes in the field of public administration:

- Public policy development
- Regulatory: changes to the ways services are delivered;
- Socio-economic: a demand for professionals with the skills and abilities to manage widespread technical resources and IT systems;
- Technological: an improvement in the quality of services delivered through technological innovations.
- More accountability

Necessary skills in the field of public administration:

- Creative thinking
- Innovative
- Resourceful
- Organized
- Effective people skills
- Flexible