FAQ ON THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY (MSPP)

Thank you for your interest in the Master of Science in Public Policy.

The Master of Science in Public Policy at Georgia Tech is an established *policy analytics* graduate program that builds on an interdisciplinary approach to public policy with an emphasis on analytics. The analytical methods include a full spectrum of quantitative and qualitative methods, including the addition of big data and data analytics to economic analysis, policy analysis, benefit-cost analysis, evaluation, valuation framework development, as well as philosophical and ethical foundations of policy approaches. With an analytical focus, you may address substantive areas such as science, technology and innovation policy, environmental policy, information and communication policy, health policy, social policy, public administration and public management, policy evaluation, among others.

What kind of background do students in the program have?
MSPP students come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds. It is also a very diverse student body concerning gender, age, ethnicity, and national origin. It is especially suited for students who wish to develop a complete set of analytical skills applicable in many policy domains, the interface of private, public and non-profit sectors, and the pursuit of advanced research oriented graduate degrees. Since it is not common for students to already be proficient in several analytical tools, the program offers the opportunity to strengthen those in which they have less experience. This applies to quantitative, economic, conceptual, ethical, data science, qualitative, analytical tools.

What kind of opportunities are available for graduates of the MSPP?
The School of Public Policy has an outstanding record in placement of graduates in both the public and private sectors. Our graduates go on to work for all levels of government in the United States and beyond, multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank and the United Nations, consulting firms, government liaison offices in business corporations, NGOs in various areas of interest, among others. Others go on to pursue further advanced degrees. Their analytical profile is especially sought after.

How long does it take to get through the program?
It takes four semesters (i.e., two years) to complete the 46 credit-hours of the program.

Can I take the program part-time while working?
Yes. Some courses are held in the evening for working students and there is no requirement to take a specific number of credits each semester.

What kind of financial aid is available?
The School of Public Policy has several Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs) and Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) available to qualified students. The positions include a tuition waiver and a monthly stipend of $1392. Admitted students will be notified of open positions close to the start of the term.

What courses do I need to take to complete the degree program?
The MSPP is a 46 credit degree program. The MSPP curriculum consists of a core of 8 three-hour courses and a one-hour introductory seminar plus 6 three-hour electives. The curriculum is described in full on the following website:
https://spp.gatech.edu/masters/mspp/curriculum

When do I need to apply?

The MSPP program admits students for both fall and spring terms. The fall admission priority deadline is February 15th, but we accept applications with space available until June 15th. The deadline for application submissions for spring admission is October 31st.

Our application process is online at: http://grad.gatech.edu/apply-now.

What do I need to submit to apply?

The application package requires:

1. Application fee - $75 Domestic Applicants | $85 International Applicants
2. Official transcripts from all schools attended
3. Test scores
    a. ~~GRE General Exam (Required for all campus applicants, not required for online applicants)~~ The School of Public Policy has waived the GRE for the 2020 and 2021 calendar year due to the global pandemic.
4. An essay describing your career goals and preparation for the program
5. Three letters of recommendation from people in the field, your former employers or teachers who can vouch for your interest in the field and capabilities to do graduate level work.
6. International Applicants should view this page: https://grad.gatech.edu/international-students