



## Master of Science in Public Policy (MSPP) FAQs

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### 1. 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.

### 2. 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.

### 3. How long does it take to get through the program?

It typically takes four semesters (i.e., two years) to complete the 46 credit-hours of the program.

### 4. Can I take the program part-time while working?

Yes. Students are required to take a minimum of 3 hours per term. It is not uncommon for students to take an extra semester or two, especially if they find relevant internships.

### 5. 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 upon admittance. The positions include a full tuition waiver and a monthly stipend of \$1392. Additional assistantship opportunities will be offered as they arise.

### 6. 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>



### **7. 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 11:59 PM EST, but we accept applications with space available until March 15th 11:59 PM EST. The deadline for application submissions for spring admission is October 1st 11:59 PM EST.

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

### **8. What do I need to submit to apply?**

The application package requires:

- Application fee - \$75 Domestic Applicants | \$85 International Applicants
- Official transcripts from all schools attended.
  - During the application process you can upload your unofficial transcript, and once you have been accepted you will be contacted with further information on where to send your official transcript.
- Test scores
  - GRE scores are mandatory for the MSPP program.
  - Institute code: R5248
  - Department code (GRE/TOEFL): 94
- English Proficiency requirements: <https://grad.gatech.edu/english-proficiency>
  - The department does not accept Duolingo test scores as a proof of English proficiency.
- An essay describing your career goals and preparation for the program
- 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.
- International Applicants should view this page: <https://grad.gatech.edu/international-students>

### **9. When will application decisions be released?**

No later than May 1st for the Fall semester. No later than December 1st for the Spring.

### **10. What are my chances of being accepted?**

The acceptance rate was 73.6% for the Fall of 2021.

### **11. Is it possible to pair two master's programs and study them concurrently as a dual degree?**

Not for any combination but we do offer a dual MS in Public Policy and City and Regional Planning.

### **12. Can I choose two tracks or concentrations?**

Students are encouraged to pursue more than one concentration. We offer both individualized and concentrations that are already developed by faculty



**13. Do I need to find a potential supervisor before applying for the program?**

No.

**14. Does the program qualify as a STEM program for Visa purposes?**

Unfortunately for interested international students, at this time the MSPP program does not qualify as a STEM program, including 24-month STEM OPT extensions for F1 Visas.

**15. Additional information for international students can be found at:**

**<https://oie.gatech.edu/directions>**