

Graduate Studies in Public Administration

The Local Government Program - www.localgovernment.uwo.ca

Why Local Government Public Administration?

Careers in local government are among the most exciting opportunities in Canada's public sector, since local government is closest to the community and addresses some of the most critical issues in the lives of citizens.

The inter-disciplinary faculty of the MPA and Graduate DPA programs include both academic researchers specializing in local government and public policy, and practitioners with extensive local government experience. The alumni of Western's Local Government Program include many of Canada's senior municipal officials. Students generally find that the professional networks and friendships they develop with one another are one of the richest legacies of the program.

Graduate Studies at Western

As a graduate student, you are working to advance your knowledge, while also advancing society's understanding in your field of study. Studying at Western University helps you achieve those goals, as you work with world-class researchers in a supportive academic environment.

Western is one of Canada's largest research-intensive universities, renowned for the strength of its research and innovative graduate programs. The Faculty of Social Science at Western has consistently been ranked as one of the Top 100 Social Science faculties in the world. Our graduate programs are research-focused. Students work with world-class researchers in a range of fields including unique interdisciplinary options and specialized focus within fields.

Our strength is people



Zack Taylor
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Taylor's research focuses on political conflict within cities, how different levels of government collectively govern cities, and the influence of urbanization on Canadian politics since Confederation. He is an accredited urban planner and the Director of Western's Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance.



Christopher Alcantara
Associate Professor of Political Science

Alcantara's expertise is in the areas of intergovernmental cooperation and multi-level governance in Canada. His current project focuses on the intergovernmental relationships that exist between Indigenous and local governments, with a focus on accountability and transparency mechanisms in these agreements and the potential use of water-sharing partnerships to increase Indigenous water security in Ontario.



Western
Social Science



Program Options

Masters of Public Administration (MPA)

Western's Master of Public Administration program is designed for people aspiring to senior management positions in Canadian municipalities and their associated boards and commissions. Its focus on graduate-level education for local government management is unique in English-speaking Canada.

The MPA program aims to integrate general knowledge of management techniques with the broader understanding of politics and the public sector which is essential for local government executives. Demonstrating and exploring the connections between management and the political process is the central concern of the curriculum as a whole. That is why the prime responsibility for its development rests with the Department of Political Science.

The MPA is offered as both a one year full-time program, and a three year part-time program with a schedule that accommodates working professionals.

"The MPA program was a critical part of my transition to a senior leadership role in local government. The skills I gained enabled me to contribute to my organization at a more strategic level and challenged me to see my role from a holistic perspective. On a daily basis I use the skills and connections I've acquired through the program to contribute to policy development, governance and community engagement in a meaningful way. I can't recommend the experience enough."

Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith, BA, MPA
Manager, Corporate Communications, Town of Aurora

Graduate Diploma in Public Administration (Graduate DPA)

Western's Graduate Diploma in Public Administration (Graduate DPA) is designed especially for mid-career local government administrators who wish to further develop their public management perspectives and skills at the graduate level. Most students work in municipal government, but some are employed by separate boards, provincial ministries, not-for-profit organizations or in the private sector. Graduate DPA Courses offer specialized education in local administration and policy analysis, giving the experienced student the prospect of being better prepared for the challenges of modern community, urban and regional governance and administration.

The Graduate DPA courses are offered in May and June as week-long intensive courses.



Contact for more information

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