

Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs

Accelerated Program for MPA and MIPA Graduate Programs

www.lafollette.wisc.edu

- UW-Madison undergraduates in a variety of disciplines such as international studies, social work, political science, education or economics (and others) are welcome to apply to the La Follette accelerated program.
- Eligible undergraduates begin taking graduate level Public Affairs courses during their senior year.
- These students can complete the Master of Public Affairs or International Affairs degree after a fifth year of study.

Admission Procedures: Application to the Accelerated Program must be made to the School after five semesters of undergraduate study. Applications are available at the school or on its web site, www.lafollette.wisc.edu.

Deadlines: The La Follette School admissions office must receive applications by March 1st. Applications received by January 1st will have priority consideration. The admissions committee will determine admission in mid-April so those accepted can register for appropriate fall courses.

Students who enroll in the public affairs accelerated program must also formally apply for regular Graduate School admission during their final year of undergraduate study. The online application to the graduate school must be completed by March 1st of their last undergraduate spring semester.

Prerequisites courses for the MIPA

- Minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.6
- International relations or comparative politics course
- One course in macroeconomics
- One course in calculus (preferred) or statistics
- One course in microeconomics
- Four semesters of foreign language or demonstrated competence in a language other than English

Prerequisites for the MPA

- Minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.6
- One course in American government
- One course in calculus (preferred) or statistics
- One course in microeconomics

For both the MPA and the MIPA the microeconomics prerequisite course may be waived if the candidate demonstrates strong quantitative ability.

Advising: The La Follette School student services coordinator and the associate director advise students on course requirements. Participating undergraduate departments are urged to count the graduate courses taken at the La Follette School in the student's fourth year toward the undergraduate major. Those departments may designate which courses would be counted accordingly.

These undergraduates were able to start gaining policy and management skills they needed for careers in public policy and management during their senior year.



Farha Tahir started at the La Follette School as an accelerated student in fall 2008. She graduated with a BA in International Studies and continued her studies as a La Follette graduate student. She will graduate with Master of International Public Affairs in May, 2010.

For Farha Tahir, gender analysis is the key to helping impoverished communities, even those she has never visited. As part of the International Public Affairs program Tahir spent the summer before continuing the La Follette program in Washington, D.C., where she was a global development policy intern with **Women Thrive Worldwide**, a nonprofit organization that advocates for the incorporation of gender into U.S. foreign policy. She researched foreign assistance reform, economic development, microfinance, gender mainstreaming and gender-based violence to help the agency advocate for appropriate assessment of the roles and responsibilities of men and women so that the impacts of policies are understood holistically. Read more at www.lafollette.wisc.edu.

Ryan Baumtrog was a political science and economics major at the UW. He began taking core public affairs courses during his senior year so that he could finish the MPA with one graduate year. He graduated in May, 2008.



In his current position, Ryan Baumtrog assesses economic development policy initiatives to aid the Minnesota governor's budget development. An executive budget officer with the Minnesota Management & Budget agency, Ryan also provides financial analysis on legislative proposals during session and works with state agencies to implement the budget. At MMB, Ryan helps coordinate American Recovery and Reinvestment Act activities, focusing on quarterly reporting and transparency issues. At La Follette, he interned with the Wisconsin Legislature and held a project assistantship with the La Follette School and the Menominee Nation.

Example of an Accelerated MPA or MIPA Curriculum

This sample program shows how courses for a master's degree in public affairs or international public affairs might be scheduled.

Senior Year

- Intro to Quantitative Tools for Public Policy Analysis, PA 818 (3 credits)
- Microeconomic Policy Analysis, PA 880 (3 credits)
- Approved electives at the intermediate or advanced level (6 credits)

Summer between Senior Year and Graduate School year

- Optional Internship (03 credits)

Fifth Year as Graduate Student

- Semester I (9–12 credits)
- Semester II (9–12 credits)

Master of Public Affairs: Courses in public management and policy analysis prepare students for careers in public policy and administration within the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The MPA program requires six foundational courses, plus eight electives. The electives enable students to develop specialized knowledge in one or two policy fields.

Master of International Public Affairs: The MIPA degree program includes five foundational courses and nine electives, at least three of which are MIPA policy electives. In policy focus fields, students master knowledge in major substantive areas of international public affairs. In regional focus fields, students develop broad expertise in a geographic region and may enroll in language courses.

The flexibility of the MIPA and MPA program allows students to take graduate-level courses in many graduate departments across campus including population health, Law School, Business School, political science, Agronomy, Applied and Agricultural Economics, Urban and Regional Planning and Education Leadership and Policy.

Career Development Statistics, 2009: Graduates of the La Follette School of Public Affairs are employed around the world for national, state and local governments, private businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Below is a list of where 2009 alumni are working:

Public Sector, Federal: Central Intelligence Agency, Government Accountability Office, Department of Homeland Security-Customs and Border Protection

Public Sector: State Government: Nebraska Department of Health and Family Services, Oregon Employment Department, Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Wisconsin Army National Guard, Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Energy Services, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Public Service Commission

Public Sector, Local Government: New York City's Office of School and Youth, Development in Department of Education, Lake County Board, Illinois

Nonprofit or Education Sector: State Environmental Leadership Program, Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, WISCAPE

Private Sector: Dorsey & Whitney, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Cambridge Systematics team in Bethesda, MD

International: Teaching English in China, Fulbright to Nepal, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Geneva, Switzerland, Congressional-Executive Commission on China

Please contact Mary Treleven, Office of Admissions and Advising, to set up an individual meeting.
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