

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
March 11, 2021

Board Meeting  
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ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY,  
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the Master of Public Policy, College of Public Affairs and Administration

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Administration to establish the Master of Public Policy (MPP).

Housed within the Department of Public Administration, the UIS MPP will prepare students with the skills and abilities to analyze and evaluate public policy to serve the public interest and advance civic engagement. The program will educate current and future government and nonprofit public service professionals through innovative integration of disciplinary knowledge and skills with practice. The location of the UIS campus in the state capital provides access to a diverse network of community and public affairs scholars, practitioners, and students. Although the proposed MPP will complement the existing Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, the MPP will focus on building analytical skills for students interested in policy research, analysis, and evaluation, while the MPA is an implementation and management degree. Student

outcomes for the MPP program are aligned directly to the core competencies of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) and include the ability to lead and manage in public governance; to participate in and contribute to the policy process; to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions; to articulate and apply a public service perspective; and to communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.

The proposed 36 credit-hour MPP program consists of 24 hours of core coursework and 12 hours of electives. Elective coursework may be used to complete a concentration in areas such as Child Advocacy, Education Policy, Health Policy, Policy Analysis Tools, or Social Policy. The program plans to seek NASPAA accreditation for the MPP program. Because the MPA program is already accredited by NASPAA and the accreditation criteria overlap substantially with the MPA, much of the groundwork for adding the MPP program and gaining accreditation is already laid for the new program.

The program will be offered in face-to-face, blended, and online formats. No additional funding is required for the proposed MPP, as the program will be built on the MPA, with just three new core classes to be added to support the new degree. As a result, current funding is sufficient to launch the new program.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.