University of Colorado Colorado Springs
College of Public Service & College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
Dual MPA/MA in Sociology Degree Plan

REQUIRES COMPLETION OF A MINIMUM OF 53 CREDIT HOURS

Name: _____ Student ID: _____ Beginning Term: _____

Advisor Name: _____ Advisor Email: _____

MPA Core Courses (15 HOURS)

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
PADM 5001*	Intro to Public Administration and Public Service	3		
PADM 5002	Organizational Management and Behavior	3		
PADM 5004	Budgeting and Public Finance	3		
PADM 5005	The Policy Process and Democracy	3		
PADM 5006	Ethics and Leadership	3		

*PADM 5001 should be taken within the first 2 semesters.

MA in Sociology Core Courses (11-12 hours)

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
SOC 5050*	Proseminar in Sociology	1		
SOC 5160**	Social Theory II	3		
SOC 5070***	Research Methods	4		
AND one of these Advanced Methods courses				
SOC 5170	Advanced Statistics and Research	4		
SOC 5180	Community Ortganization and Analysis (Ethnography)	3		
SOC 5200	Program Evaluation	3		
SOC 5370	Sociology of Media and Popular Culture (Content Analysis)	3		
SOC 5830	Race and Ethnic Relations (Participant Observation)	3		
SOC 5950	Inequality, Crime, and Justice	3		
SOC 5550	Sociology of the Family	3		

*Students are required to take SOC 5050 in their first fall semester.
**Incoming graduate students who have not taken an undergraduate course in Social Theory are also required to take SOC 5150 Social Theory 1 (1 credit).
***Incoming graduate students who have not taken an undergraduate course in Social statistics are also required to take SOC 5020 Social Statistics (1 credit).

Please note: Students taking SOC 5020 and/or SOC 5150 as pre-requisites may count these courses towards their degree; however these 1 credit courses may impact the number of elective credits required.

Electives (21-24 hours depending on choice of Capstone or Thesis)

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
PADM		3		
PADM		3		
SOC		3		
SOC		3		
PADM OR SOC		3		
PADM OR SOC		3		
PADM OR SOC		3		
PADM OR SOC		3		

Choose at least 6-hours of electives from PADM and at least 6-hours of electives from SOC then 9-12 additional hours from several electives offered by either PADM or SOC. See the Academic Catalog for elective offerings. **Please note:** Students who took the 1 credit pre-requisites SOC 5020 and/or SOC 5150 may need to adjust the number of electives required.

Internship (3 hours, unless waived)

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
PADM 6910*	Field Study in Public Admin	3		

*Required of those students lacking significant experience in pubic service.

Capstone OR Thesis (3-6 HOURS)

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
PADM 5361* or PADM 6950 & SOC7000*	Capstone Seminar or Master's Thesis	3-6		

*This will be your final course and should be taken alone, if possible. All core courses must be complete before enrolling in Capstone or Thesis. Contact your faculty advisor for more information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ACCEPTABLE GRADES
Grades of B- or better are required in all courses applied to the program for those students beginning in Fall 2016 catalog or later. In order to remain in good academic standing and to receive his/her degree, a student is required to maintain at least a B (3.0) GPA, which includes all work required for the MPA degree while taken at UCCS (classified and unclassified) and may differ from the University GPA.

REPEATING COURSES
A student who receives a grade below B in a course may repeat that course once, with the approval of the MPA program director, provided the course has not been previously applied toward a degree. The grade received in a repeated course may substitute for the original grade and only the latter grade will be used in calculating the student's MPA GPA for graduation; however, all grades received during the student graduate school experience will appear on the student's transcript and will be used in calculating the student's UCCS GPA.

CERTIFICATES
Students may choose to focus electives so as to earn one or more graduate certificates concurrently with the MPA degree. Graduate certificates available for MPA students through UCCS include: Nonprofit Management; Criminal Justice; Homeland Security and Emergency Management Leadership; National Security Intelligence; and Grant Writing, Management, and Program Evaluation. You must submit a Certificate Declaration form to the Graduate Student Services Specialist in the College of Public Service in order to pursue a certificate(s).

INTERNSHIPS
Pre-service students—those without at least one year of professional experience in a public administration-related field (e.g., government, nonprofit, national security, homeland security, or emergency management)—are also required to complete a 3-credit-hour internship course (PADM 6910), bringing the total hours required for the degree to 39. Student employment is not eligible to count as relevant work experience. Student employment is not eligible to count as relevant work experience. Students are notified upon admission whether an internship is required for completion of program requirements. Students who believe vital experiences have been overlooked may ask the MPA program director to reconsider the decision by submitting a written request.

Students must have completed at least 9 credit hours of coursework to enroll in Internship. A minimum of 240 hours of supervised work is required to earn 3 hours of credit. The internship is graded as Pass/Fail. Internship guidelines are set forth in the MPA Student Internship Information Handbook.

Should a student gain at least one year of professional experience during their tenure in the program, they may submit a Graduate Internship Waiver Request Form that will be reviewed by the MPA Program Director.

In-service students who are interested in professional development opportunities can request to take an Independent Study (PADM 9500); the internship course is not available for in-service students. Using this option, a plan can be tailored to best meet their needs.

CAPSTONE VS THESIS
Please discuss your options with your faculty advisor early in your program. A Capstone/Thesis orientation is held in both the fall and spring and is open to all College of Public graduate students. All core courses must be completed before enrolling in Capstone or Thesis.

GRADUATION
Students should meet with their faculty advisor or the Graduate Recruitment and Retention Specialist periodically to ensure they are meeting the requirements for graduation. Please apply for graduation at the beginning of the semester in which you intend to graduate. Deadlines and forms are found on the Graduate School website.

Guide Updated February 17, 2026