

Frequently Asked Questions: Master of Public Administration Program at the FIU Broward Pines Center

General Program Questions

Q. What makes the Master of Public Administration (MPA) at the FIU Broward Pines Center unique?

- A. The MPA at the Broward Pines Center is an accelerated, 18-month program with classes meeting on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. This accelerated format is not available at any other FIU campus or academic center. In addition, only the MPA at the Pines Center offers specializations in Homeland Security and Emergency Management or Community Development.

Q. Where, when, and at what time are classes held?

- A. Classes are held at the FIU Broward Pines Center (17195 Sheridan Street, Pembroke Pines, FL) on Friday evenings from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Three courses will be offered per semester (fall, spring, summer), including two core courses and one elective course. Each term two of the scheduled classes will meet for 10 weeks simultaneously, with one class meeting on Friday evenings and the second class meeting on Saturday mornings. After the 10-week courses are completed, they will be followed by a five-week course meeting on **both** the Friday evening and Saturday morning time slots.

Q. How long does it take to finish my MPA degree?

- A. The MPA can be completed in 18-months if students begin the program in fall 2009 and complete 9 credits per semester for five consecutive semesters. The program will take additional time to complete for students who do not always take 9 credits per semester for five consecutive semesters.

Q. Can I start the program in any semester?

- A. Currently, to guarantee the 18-month degree completion, a student must start in fall 2009 and complete 9 credits per semester. However, if a student applies and is admitted in spring 2010, degree completion in 18-months cannot be guaranteed.

Q. Is the program accredited?

- A. The MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

Admission Requirements and Application Questions

Q. What are the admission requirements for the MPA?

- A. The MPA program requires the following:
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution;
 - A minimum 3.0 GPA based on the last 60 credits of upper-division undergraduate coursework;
 - One letter of recommendation from a current or former professor, employer, or supervisor;
 - A 3 to 5 page statement outlining career goals as they relate to the field of public administration.

Q. Is the GRE or GMAT required for admission?

- A. Neither the GRE nor the GMAT is required for admission.

Q. How do I apply to the program?

- A. To apply for the MPA, you must complete the following:
- Submit an online graduate application available at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu>. E-mail the PDF copy of the completed application to broward@fiu.edu;
 - Submit a \$30 non-refundable application fee payable by check, money order, or credit card that must be submitted in order for your application to be processed;
 - Submit official transcripts from all institutions attended. Transcripts must be sent directly by each college/university to the Graduate Admission Office;
 - Submit the letter of recommendation and statement of goals to the Graduate Admissions Office.

Admission Requirements and Application Questions (cont.)

Q. Where should I send my transcripts and supporting documentation?

- A. Mail transcripts and supporting documents to:
- Florida International University
Graduate Admissions Office
P.O. Box 659004
Miami, FL 33265-9004

Q. What is the deadline to apply for fall 2009 admission?

- A. The priority deadline to submit an application, transcripts and supporting documentation for fall 2009 admission is June 1, 2009. The final deadline to apply and submit all materials is June 30 2009.

Q. Can I start the program as a non-degree seeking student?

- A. Yes, you may start taking classes as a non-degree seeking student if you need additional time to get your graduate application materials submitted. There is a separate application required for non-degree seeking students that is available online at <http://broward.fiu.edu/registrar.html#2> or you can stop by the Broward Pines Center to pick up a paper application. In addition to the application, you must also supply proof of Florida residency to qualify for the in-state tuition rate, as well as provide proof of immunizations in order to be eligible to register for classes. Non-degree seeking graduate level students are limited to taking 12 credits. Please be advised that you will not be eligible for federal financial aid as a non-degree student. If you plan on taking advantage of a state tuition waiver or employer tuition reimbursement program, check with your Human Resources department regarding its policy. If you are interested in pursuing this option, please contact the Broward Pines Center at (954) 438-8600 for assistance.

Tuition, Fees & Financial Aid Questions

Q. What are the tuition and fees for the MPA program?

- A. Tuition and fees for the MPA program include the following:
- In-state Graduate Tuition (Florida resident): \$895.92 per 3 credit course
 - Out-of-state Graduate Tuition (non-resident): \$2406.13 per 3 credit course
 - Program fee: \$299 per 3 credit course
 - Photo ID fee: \$10.00 annually
 - Athletic Fee: \$10 per term
 - Parking Access fee: \$82.39 per term

Q. What is included in the tuition and fees for the program?

- A. Tuition and fees include the accelerated program delivery, light meals and refreshments on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, streamlined registration and administrative support onsite.

Q. Can I apply for financial aid?

- A. Yes, financial aid is available to degree-seeking graduate students in the form of loans and scholarships. Apply online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. For specific information about financial aid or to find out about the status of your application, contact the university's Financial Aid Office at 305-348-7272 or use the Live Chat feature available via the Financial Aid Office's website. For information on graduate scholarships and deadlines, visit <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/financial.html>. It is advisable to begin the process as early as possible.