Through rigorous professional training across disciplines, the master of international public affairs (MIPA) degree program prepares students from the United States and around the world to engage in governance in ways that meet the challenges of globalization. Graduates work in government at home and abroad, in businesses involved in the global economy, in non-governmental agencies, in consulting firms analyzing implications of international policies, and in many other areas. Students can focus on environmental policy, trade and finance, economic development, a specific region and language, or propose an alternate focus utilizing courses from public affairs and other graduate departments.

Some students choose to pursue a dual degree with the Law School, a double degree with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, or a dual degree with the School of Medicine and Public Health’s neuroscience Ph.D. program. MIPA and MPA students can also pursue a graduate/professional certificate in energy analysis and policy, or in transportation management and policy.

FUNDING

La Follette School fellowships and scholarships are offered on a competitive basis to all public affairs and international public affairs applicants. Priority consideration is given to applications received by January 1. Applications are accepted after this date on a rolling admission basis.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

To make progress toward a graduate degree, students must meet the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext) in addition to the requirements of the program.

MASTER’S DEGREES

MIPA, with available accelerated track

MINIMUM GRADUATE DEGREE CREDIT REQUIREMENT

MIPA: 42 credits

MIPA accelerated track: 36 credits

MINIMUM GRADUATE RESIDENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENT

MIPA: 16 credits

MIPA accelerated track: 36 credits

MINIMUM GRADUATE COURSEWORK (50%) REQUIREMENT

Half of degree coursework (21 out of 42 total credits) must be completed in graduate-level coursework. For MIPA accelerated track, 21 of 36 must be completed in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: GRADUATE WORK FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements. This work does not appear on UW–Madison transcript nor count toward graduate career GPA.

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNDERGRADUATE

Up to 7 credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree. This work will not appear on the student’s graduate transcript. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNIVERSITY SPECIAL

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

MIPA: 13 credits are advised if a student hold other appointments on campus. Students need advisor approval to take 15 credits.

MIPA accelerated track: 15 credits

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COURSES REQUIRED

For program-specific courses, see the MIPA website (http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu/degreeprograms/mipa.html).

OVERALL GRADUATE GPA REQUIREMENT

3.0 GPA required

OTHER GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn a B or above in all core curriculum coursework.

PROBATION POLICY

The status of a student can be one of three options:

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).
2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).
ADVISOR/COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Requirements are determined by the program.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

No language requirement.

ADMISSIONS

Applicants for the MIPA program should submit transcripts showing undergraduate performance with at least the equivalent of a 3.0 G.P.A. (on a 4.0 scale), statement of purpose, GRE scores, and a resume. Preferred prerequisite courses are introductory microeconomics and introductory macroeconomics, an introductory course in calculus or statistics, a comparative politics or international relations course, and language study. Applicants without this background may be admitted with the understanding that these courses will be completed before beginning the program.

Every applicant whose first language is not English and whose complete four-year undergraduate instruction was not in English, must provide official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB). The applicant must provide at least one of these minimum standardized test scores: TOEFL computer-based test score 237, TOEFL internet-based test score 92, IELTS score 7, or MELAB 82. Even if a student has the minimum score, the program can require the admitted applicant to take the on-campus ESL exam and register for any recommended English-as-a-second-language course(s) in the first semester of graduate study.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING GOALS

• (Communication) Students will communicate in clear written language: a real-world policy problem, relevant scholarly studies and practical applications, a policy-analytic method to investigate the problem, and client-oriented advice to mitigate the problem.
• (Communication) Students will communicate substance of point 1 highly concisely and in language understandable to a non-specialist.
• (Communication) Students will communicate substance of point 2 orally.
• (Professional skills and career preparation) Students will develop effective job-seeking tools and utilize job-seeking techniques.
• (Professional skills and career preparation) Students will complete high quality group projects, including demonstration of effective project management and teamwork.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Blank, Cancian, Chinn, Haveman, Herd, Meyer, Moynihan, Smeeding, Weimer, Wolfe, Yackee (director); Associate Professors: Collins, Copelovitch, Fletcher, Nemet, Wallace; Assistant Professors: O’Brien, Tjernstrom

LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

• (Knowledge) Students will demonstrate understanding of major current and past policy debates, research findings, and analytical methodologies in each of the following core areas: microeconomic policy analysis, macroeconomic policy analysis, quantitative tools for policy analysis, policy analysis, and international governance.