

AMERICAN FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

School of Public Affairs and Governance

OFFICIAL CURRICULUM PLAN DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (DPA)

Academic Year 2025–2026 · 6 Semesters · 120 Credits · 1,920 Contact Hours

Degree	Duration	Total Credits	Contact Hours
Doctor of Public Administration	6 Semesters (3 Years)	120 Credits	1,920 Hours

I. Program Overview

The Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) at the American Federal Institute of Harvard University is a terminal professional doctorate designed to prepare scholars and practitioners for distinguished careers in public service, administrative leadership, and policy governance. This program develops advanced competencies in strategic management, public sector economics, policy advocacy, and applied research, enabling graduates to lead transformative change in governmental, nonprofit, and international organizations.

The curriculum is structured across six (6) rigorous semesters, totaling 120 graduate credits and 1,920 contact hours of doctoral-level instruction, research, and applied scholarship. The program culminates in an original dissertation addressing a substantive organizational or public policy challenge, defended before a faculty committee and submitted for scholarly publication.

II. Course Schedule by Semester

Code	Course Title	Credits	Hours	Type
SEMESTER I — Foundations of Public Administration				
<i>Core Theoretical Framework · 20 Credits · 320 Contact Hours</i>				
DPA-601	Foundations of Public Administration Theory	4	64	Required
DPA-602	Advanced Research Methods in Public Policy	4	64	Required

Code	Course Title	Credits	Hours	Type
DPA-603	Governance, Democracy, and Institutional Design	4	64	Required
DPA-604	Public Sector Economics and Financial Management	4	64	Required
DPA-605	Ethics, Accountability, and Public Service Values	4	64	Required
Semester 1 Subtotal:		20	320	

SEMESTER II — Strategic Management & Leadership				
<i>Leadership and Organizational Excellence · 20 Credits · 320 Contact Hours</i>				
DPA-611	Strategic Planning and Performance Management	4	64	Required
DPA-612	Public Administration Leadership and Organizational Behavior	4	64	Required
DPA-613	Comparative Public Administration and Global Governance	4	64	Required
DPA-614	Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation	4	64	Required
DPA-615	Human Capital Management in Public Organizations	4	64	Required
Semester 2 Subtotal:		20	320	

SEMESTER III — Policy, Law & Advanced Practice				
<i>Applied Policy and Legal Frameworks · 20 Credits · 320 Contact Hours</i>				
DPA-621	Administrative Law and Regulatory Policy	4	64	Required
DPA-622	Intergovernmental Relations and Federalism	4	64	Required
DPA-623	Public Finance, Budgeting, and Fiscal Policy	4	64	Required
DPA-624	Crisis Management and Emergency Administration	4	64	Required
DPA-625	Technology, Innovation, and Digital Government	4	64	Required
Semester 3 Subtotal:		20	320	

SEMESTER IV — Specialization & Concentration				
<i>Doctoral Concentration Area · 20 Credits · 320 Contact Hours</i>				

Code	Course Title	Credits	Hours	Type
DPA-631	Environmental Policy and Sustainable Governance	4	64	Required
DPA-632	Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusive Administration	4	64	Required
DPA-633	Health Policy and Public Administration	4	64	Required
DPA-634	Urban Planning, Community Development, and Housing Policy	4	64	Required
DPA-635	Doctoral Seminar I: Dissertation Prospectus Development	4	64	Required
Semester 4 Subtotal:		20	320	

SEMESTER V — Doctoral Research & Dissertation				
<i>Applied Doctoral Scholarship · 20 Credits · 320 Contact Hours</i>				
DPA-641	Advanced Quantitative Methods and Data Analytics	4	64	Required
DPA-642	Qualitative Research Design and Case Study Methodology	4	64	Required
DPA-643	Doctoral Seminar II: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework	4	64	Required
DPA-644	Dissertation Proposal Defense and IRB Approval	4	64	Required
DPA-645	Collaborative Research Practicum with Faculty	4	64	Required
Semester 5 Subtotal:		20	320	

SEMESTER VI — Dissertation Completion & Defense				
<i>Doctoral Dissertation and Academic Contribution · 20 Credits · 320 Contact Hours</i>				
DPA-651	Doctoral Seminar III: Data Collection and Field Research	4	64	Required
DPA-652	Doctoral Seminar IV: Analysis, Writing, and Scholarly Contribution	4	64	Required
DPA-653	Applied Public Administration Internship / Executive Residency	4	64	Required
DPA-654	Dissertation Final Defense and Oral Examination	4	64	Required
DPA-655	Publication, Dissemination, and Professional Practice Portfolio	4	64	Required

Code	Course Title	Credits	Hours	Type
Semester 6 Subtotal:		20	320	
TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS:		120	1,920	

III. Admission Requirements

1. Master's degree (M.P.A., M.P.P., M.B.A., J.D., or equivalent) from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Minimum of five (5) years of progressive professional experience in public administration, government, or related fields.
3. Doctoral Statement of Purpose (minimum 1,500 words) outlining scholarly interests and research agenda.
4. Three (3) confidential letters of recommendation from academic or senior professional referees.
5. Writing sample demonstrating capacity for graduate-level scholarly research and critical analysis.
6. Interview with the DPA Admissions Committee (in-person or virtual, by invitation).
7. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.

IV. Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of all degree requirements, graduates of the DPA program will demonstrate mastery of the following doctoral competencies:

1. Synthesize advanced theoretical frameworks in public administration and apply them to complex governance challenges.
2. Design and conduct rigorous scholarly research using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods methodologies.
3. Formulate evidence-based public policy recommendations at local, national, and international levels.
4. Lead strategic organizational change and institutional reform within public and nonprofit sector environments.
5. Communicate scholarly findings through peer-reviewed publications, conferences, and executive briefings.
6. Demonstrate ethical leadership and commitment to equity, accountability, and public service values.
7. Engage collaboratively with stakeholders, communities, and governmental bodies to advance the public interest.

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