

UVA Batten School/Furman University *Partnership FAQs*

What is the MPP program?

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) is a two-year, full-time graduate program. Students must complete 49 credits, as well as a summer internship between the first and second year. The curriculum consists of twelve “core” courses in analysis, leadership, foundations and contexts, and experiential. Students are also required to take fifteen elective credits, which allow them to gain substantive expertise in their areas of policy interest. The capstone of the program is an Applied Policy Project in which students perform a professional-quality study for a real-world client under faculty supervision.

What will the MPP program prepare me for, professionally?

Graduates’ Batten School experiences have led them to challenging positions that span the globe. Whether pursuing a fellowship in Cambodia or for-profit consultancies in our nation’s largest cities, our graduates are ever-mindful of the School’s founding purpose—to educate ethical and enlightened leaders who are prepared to serve as thoughtful change-agents in whatever position they pursue. After graduation, students end up in policy-oriented careers in the public sector, such as with the government; the private sector, such as with consulting; and the non-profit sector.

What benefits do I get if I apply to the MPP program under the partnership?

Under the new partnership agreement, all eligible applicants, regardless of admissions decision, will receive an application fee waiver by submitting to the Batten School written proof of their enrollment at Furman.

What benefits do I get if I enroll in the MPP program under the partnership?

Furman applicants selected for admission will receive an annual fellowship of at least \$12,500 for Virginia residents and at least \$20,000 for non-Virginia residents in each of the MPP program's two years. Students may also earn additional assistantships, fellowships, or other awards in the second year; however, total funding cannot exceed the cost of tuition and fees.

Who is eligible for these benefits?

Any student currently enrolled at Furman is eligible under this new partnership.

What other costs will I be responsible for if I enroll in the program?

While the minimum guaranteed fellowship will cover a portion of the tuition and fees for the program, students must also consider the cost of books and supplies, housing, and other living expenses as well as any remaining costs associated with tuition and fees.

Am I guaranteed to be accepted to the MPP program if I apply under the partnership?

No, students are not automatically accepted to the MPP program under this partnership. Each individual is holistically reviewed and considered.

Am I obligated to enroll in the program if I am accepted?

No! Students are encouraged to find the best graduate program for them.

If I am accepted, can I defer my acceptance and enroll in the program later? If so, for how long can I defer?

Yes, you can defer admission to the next year on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Jeff Chidester (jchidester@virginia.edu) if you have any questions should this situation arise.

How long will it take me to complete the MPP program?

The MPP Program is a two-year, full-time program offered on the Grounds of the University of Virginia.

What degree will I come out of the program with?

Students graduating from the Batten School will graduate with a Master of Public Policy.

What are the expectations of me in a "fellowship"?

At Batten, fellowships are considered as unearned aid; therefore, no work or repayment is required to receive them. Students are only required to stay in good academic standing.

Are there any prerequisites for admission into the program?

For the Post-Graduate MPP Program there are not prerequisites. However, some coursework in microeconomics, a calculus-based math, and statistics is strongly encouraged.

Are scores other than the GRE accepted?

Students applying to one of the Batten School's dual-degree programs can submit scores for their other graduate program in lieu of the GRE.

Can I visit the Batten School?

Absolutely! Please contact Courtney Leistensnider (crl4sn@virginia.edu) to set up a visit.

Where do I find more information about the partnership and program?

Interested students should visit batten.virginia.edu or contact Jeff Chidester (jchidester@virginia.edu) or Courtney Leistensnider (crl4sn@virginia.edu) for more information.