INTERDISCIPLINARY PUBLIC AFFAIRS PH.D. AT UCF

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

The interdisciplinary Public Affairs Ph.D. is organized around broad community-related social problems and emphasizes collaborative relationships across the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Situated in the new College of Community Innovation and Education, the doctoral program features representation from academic specialties including public administration, social work, health management, criminal justice and governance. In 2019, the program will be housed at UCF Downtown. The relocation of the doctoral program will expand its community-based focus and engagement with enhanced access to urban sites.

Interdisciplinary
Interdisciplinary refers to the study, or practice, of a topic that integrates or incorporates the methods and approaches of multiple disciplines. For example, while criminal justice, social work, public administration and health services management are clearly distinct disciplines, they can be amalgamated or integrated to understand one topic such as violence against women, health disparities or immigration. We recognize the approach to interrelated problems associated with crime and justice, health services, and social welfare delivery — as well as the administration of public agencies that deal with these problems — should be interdisciplinary and integrated.

Curriculum
The 60-credit doctoral curriculum comprises multiple core competencies designed to train next-generation scholars and practitioners to study social problems and to effectively communicate with academic- and practitioner-based constituencies. Full-time students enroll in nine hours per semester and part-time students enroll in six hours per semester. All courses are offered face-to-face during the evenings from 6:00 to 8:50 p.m. Students may vary their plan of study to move from full-time to part-time or vice versa, if necessary.

Faculty
The program includes a distinguished group of senior faculty who are interested in fostering collaborative and transdisciplinary perspectives to solve societal issues and problems. As a global program, the Ph.D. in Public Affairs has produced more than 30 international graduates from multiple countries such as China, South Korea, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Armenia, South Africa, Taiwan and Ethiopia.

Financial Support
The doctoral program offers graduate assistantships, including tuition waivers. In addition, UCF and the College of Community Innovation and Education offer scholarships and fellowships, including the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship for African-American and Hispanic students.
WHERE CAN I GET A JOB?

Public affairs doctoral graduates find positions in a variety of industries, including education and healthcare. Many are employed as professors, instructors and administrators at private, state, and international universities and colleges. Others work as executives and analysts in public and private health care organizations.

Graduates also work for nonprofits, law enforcement and social service agencies, private firms, and local, state and federal government within the United States and within regional government agencies abroad. They secure positions as directors, research analysts, project managers, evaluators, grant writers and officials, to name a few.

WHERE GRADUATES WORK

Academia
- Florida International University
- Fox School of Business and Management
- Mississippi State University
- Penn State University
- San Diego State University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas A&M International University
- Tulane University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Texas

Health Care
- Adventist Health System
- ENIGMA Health Care
- Moffitt Cancer Center

Public Service, Governance, and Nonprofit Agencies
- Brevard Homeless Coalition
- Brevard Sheriff’s Office
- District Governor at Turkish Ministry of Interior
- Planned Parenthood
- Rural Health Research Group
- Veteran’s Administration

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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DID YOU KNOW?

Post-secondary teaching and combined research and teaching positions are expected to increase by 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than average for all occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics.