Institute for Public and Nonprofit Studies

The Institute for Public and Nonprofit Studies (IPNS) serves as the focal point for scholarship, teaching, and service in the fields of Public Administration and Public Policy at Georgia Southern University, throughout southeast Georgia, and beyond. The IPNS was founded with the mission to advance excellence in public and nonprofit management.

The minor in Public Administration introduces students to the major areas of public and nonprofit management. Students completing the minor will be prepared for careers in public serving organizations or for future graduate student in the management of these organizations. The minor is comprised of courses focusing on issues related to the delivery and management of public programs, public policy analysis, leadership and innovation management, budgeting and financial management, administrative law, and civic engagement and responsibility. Students from all majors are welcomed and encouraged to boost their career options within government, nonprofit, and corporate institutions with the applied and strategic minor.

Students completing the minor in Public Administration will be able to:

1. define major theories underlying the field of public administration and public administrators' role in American democracy.
2. identify the core mechanisms of public administration, including the organization and management of human and financial resources.
3. describe and explain the structure and components of the public and nonprofit sectors.
4. recognize and focus on ethical problems, develop and refine appropriate methods of moral reasoning, and be sensitive to the nuances and ambiguities of ethical situations.
5. formulate a public policy response to a "real world" social or economic problem.
6. discuss the political, economic, legal, and social environments of public policy and administration.
7. discuss various leadership styles and explain how differing styles impact organizational outcomes.

Public and Nonprofit Studies Minor


PBAD 3231 Introduction to Public Administration
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides a comprehensive overview of the history of public administration, its development as a field, and a survey of the critical theories and normative issues within public administration and the implication for practice.

PBAD 3431 Public Budgeting and Financial Management
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course serves as an introduction to public sector budgeting and financial management providing students with practical knowledge about how the public sector budget process works, an overview of the technical aspects of public budgeting and various theories of budgeting and finance.

PBAD 3631 Introduction to Nonprofit Management
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course serves as an overview of the nonprofit sector and to introduce a range of common practices and concerns related to managing in this sector including leadership, board governance, fundraising and philanthropy.

PBAD 3731 Public Policy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course serves as an introduction to public policy. The formulation, analysis, and implementation of public policy is stressed, introducing students to the forces that influence these practices and the analytic skills needed to perform these important decisionmaking functions.

PBAD 4231 Administrative Law
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course serves as an introduction to administrative law providing students with practical knowledge about administrative law procedures, how administrative law fits into the constitutional and legal framework, and the role of administrative law in policy.

PBAD 4331 Leadership & Managerial Innovation
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course introduces students to the literature on the successful leadership of people and groups in public serving organizations. In order to lead well, managers need expertise in multiple areas, including personality, motivation, group behavior, power, leadership, decision-making, and change management. This course also examines the meaning and significance of managerial innovation.

PBAD 4431 Special Topics in Public Administration
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is an elective in the Minor in Public Administration focusing on special topics in public administration.

PBAD 4791 Field Internship in Public Administration
3-9 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This internship in public administration is designed to provide students with meaningful experience in public-serving organizations. Students are approved to intern in a public or nonprofit organization, serving in positions that allow them to gain exposure to the management of these organizations. No more than three credit hours can be counted towards completion of the Minor in Public Administration.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" and prior or concurrent enrollment in PBAD 3231.