

**Program Description**  
**Concentration in Urban Affairs**  
**To Be Offered by Indiana University at Indianapolis**  
**Date Submitted: January 4, 2016**

**1. Characteristics of the Program**

A. Campus(es) Offering Program: Indiana University Purdue University—Indianapolis (IUPUI)

B. Scope of Delivery (Specific Sites or Statewide): IUPUI Campus, Indianapolis

C. Mode of Delivery (Classroom, Blended, or Online): Classroom

D. Other Delivery Aspects (Co-ops, Internships, Clinicals, Practica, etc.): Practica

E. Academic Unit(s) Offering Program: School of Public and Environmental Affairs

F. Anticipated starting semester: Fall 2016

**2. Rationale for the Program**

SPEA IUPUI is proposing a 15 credit hour concentration in Urban Affairs within the existing Master of Public Affairs (MPA).

***Rationale for Proposal***

Over 80% of Americans are living in cities and this number is projected to grow over the next decades. More broadly, 60% of the world's population is projected to live in an urban area by 2030. A majority of economic output is generated in cities and they represent the political and cultural centers of states and nations. At the same time, cities are facing challenges that will become increasingly pressing. The National League of Cities, for example, has identified challenges that include fragile budgets, deteriorating infrastructure, education and housing, declining public trust in government, and a shrinking middle class. The Urban Affairs concentration will build upon the existing interests and strengths of SPEA IUPUI's faculty, the urban location of the university, and the social, demographic and economic trends that are attracting greater numbers of students to study, live, and work in metropolitan areas.

The proposed concentration prepares student with the theoretical, analytical, and quantitative skills to plan, implement, and evaluate public policies that address complex, multidimensional urban and regional problems. The projected growth and importance of cities demands new jobs that MPA students with a concentration in Urban Affairs will be able to fill.

### ***Fit with Existing Degrees and Certificates***

SPEA IUPUI currently offers two graduate degrees: the Master of Public Affairs (MPA) and the Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Public Safety (MS CJPS).

The concentration in Urban Affairs will provide MPA students with greater flexibility to customize their degree. The concentration is a complement to the “urban sustainability” concentration and the “policy analysis” concentration. More generally, the degree helps SPEA IUPUI to further develop mission driven student competencies in the analysis of urban policies and problems.

Drawing on the strengths of the MS CJPS faculty, there is also the opportunity to offer students pursuing the Urban Affairs concentration with topic classes such as “Crime, Grime and Fear” and “Crime and Place.”

### ***Learning Objectives***

The Urban Affairs concentration prepares students with the theoretical and technical skills needed to make policy recommendations to address the challenges and opportunities found in urban areas. Students will be able to accurately interpret and conduct technical and quantitative analyses common to urban policy problems such as spatial analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), shift-share analysis, economic impact analysis, and multivariate regression analysis including limited dependent variables and time series.

Students successfully completing the program will be able to:

- Analyze urban problems and make appropriate, theoretically informed, policy recommendations to solve those problems;
- Evaluate urban management practices and generate innovative solutions to improve those practices;
- Critically interpret and conduct technical and quantitative analyses that contribute to the understanding of contemporary urban problems; and
- Present complex ideas clearly and systematically in verbal, graphical, and written forms.

### ***Alignment with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs' Mission***

*SPEA works to build a better world by helping people solve complex problems at the crossroads of policy, management and science. We promote sound decisions, well-managed organizations, just, healthy societies, and a sustainable environment through education, scholarship, and civic engagement. We give our students the knowledge and skills to have a significant impact in diverse settings around the globe.*

The proposed concentration within the existing MPA is consistent with SPEA’s mission to provide students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to solve complex problems drawing on policy, management, and science. The Urban Affairs concentration places additional

focus on addressing problems within an urban context.

### ***Alignment with IUPUI's Strategic Plan***

The concentration in Urban Affairs supports IUPUI's strategic goals to "Increase the Capacity for Graduate Education," "Develop New Professional Masters Programs," and "Deepen our Commitment to Community Engagement." The concentration in Urban Affairs is intended to serve existing MPA students and attract new professional students to pursue their graduate degree at IUPUI. MPA students are actively involved in community based capstone projects, service learning, internships and other forms of community engagement. Students who complete the Urban Affairs concentration may also complete a practicum that allows them to apply their theoretical and methodological classwork.

### ***Building upon the Strengths of IUPUI***

The Urban Affairs concentration leverages IUPUI's location in a vibrant urban community and builds on the campus' strengths and identity as an urban serving university. SPEA IUPUI has the opportunity to become a leader in urban affairs and management. The Urban Affairs concentration will build upon the existing interests and strengths of SPEA IUPUI's faculty, the urban location of the university, and the social, demographic, and economic trends that are attracting greater numbers of students to study, live, and work in metropolitan areas.

### ***Student Population to be Served***

The target population for the Urban Affairs concentration is similar to that of the MPA generally—students in the state and region who are seeking a professional degree in public affairs. The degree is appropriate for students from a range of educational and occupational backgrounds. A professional MPA degree concentrated in urban affairs combines components of a traditional planning degree with elements of public management and policy analysis.

## **3. State Rationale**

Consistent with the aims identified in *Reaching Higher, Achieving More*, the Urban Policy and Analysis Concentration (1) provides a "smart path" to completion by helping students select a meaningful and coherent set of electives that match their interests and provide greater degree specialization to meet specific career goals; and (2), creates a new graduate concentration that has value to students and employers.

Students will be able to work successfully in a variety of analytical, planning, and advocacy positions in organizations that need urban and regional analysis, urban and regional planning, or more effective and informed community development skills and ideas. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), approximately 66% of current graduates are working for local governments. Graduates with an Urban Affairs concentration will be able to propose and analyze plans to create livable communities, help accommodate a growing population in urban areas, and serve as experts to develop and renew urban areas. See the appendix for a list of

possible careers.

Projected job demand, BLS estimates that the demand for “Urban and Regional Planners,” which is closely related to the type of work graduates from the proposed Urban Policy and Analysis will seek, will be 4,000 over the time period between 2012 and 2022. This corresponds to a growth rate of 10% over the same time period. The entry-level education that is required for this type of work is a Masters degree.

The median 2012 pay for “Urban and Regional Planners” was \$65,230 per year or \$31.36 per hour according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Appendix A

### Brief Description

The Urban Affairs concentration is a 15 credit hour course of study within the Master of Public Affairs. This concentration prepares student with the theoretical, analytical, and quantitative skills to plan, implement, and evaluate urban policies that address complex, multidimensional urban and regional problems.

### Program Rationale

Projected growth and the increasing importance of cities will create demand for new jobs that MPA students with a concentration in Urban Affairs will be prepared to fill. The Urban Affairs concentration will build upon the existing interests and strengths of SPEA IUPUI's faculty, the urban location of the university, and the social, demographic and economic trends that are attracting greater numbers of students to study, live, and work in metropolitan areas.

The MPA with a concentration in Urban Policy and Analysis will prepare students for careers in areas such as:

- Urban and regional planning
- City management
- Local, state, and federal government
- Regional development
- Consulting
- Nonprofit sectors and organizations
- Real estate,
- Economic Development
- Environmental/transportation planner
- Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis
- Environmental Advocacy/Management

### Curriculum

#### Urban Systems (3 credits)

V594 – Principles of Urban and Regional Science

V527 – Urban sustainability

#### Urban Analysis (6 credits)

V507 – Data Analysis and Modeling

V508 – Topics in Quantitative Analysis

E529 – Applications of GIS

V562 – Public Program Evaluation

V663 – Policy Analysis

#### Local Finance (3 credits)

V567 – Public Financial Administration

## Applications (3 credits)

V572 – Urban Topics

V 585 – Practicum in Public Affairs

## **Course Descriptions**

*SPEA-V 507 Data Analysis and Modeling for Public Affairs (3 cr.) P: E538 or V506.*

Focus on analytical models and their use in solving problems and making decisions in the public sector. Discussion of standard approaches to modeling and estimation of parameters.

*SPEA-V 508 Topics in Quantitative Analysis (1-3 cr.) P: consent of instructor.*

Study and application of selected quantitative methods of analysis. Additional topics that are not included in V506 and V507 may be presented, or more advanced examination of topics that are introduced in V506 or V507 may be presented.

☐ *SPEA-V 594 Principles of Urban and Regional Science (3 cr.)*

Discussion of the basic processes of change and development in regional systems, with emphasis on metropolitan regions. Includes economic, demographic, and environmental aspects of their interactions.

*SPEA-V 527 Urban Sustainability (3 cr.)*

This course is an introduction to urban government and policy issues within the context of sustainability. Specifically, the course introduces social, fiscal, economic, physical, and political aspects of sustainable policy in urban areas.

*SPEA-E 529 Application of Geographic Information Systems (3 cr.)*

Conceptual and technical overview of geographic information systems (GIS). Applications in various fields of public affairs and environmental science.

*SPEA-V 562 Public Program Evaluation (1-3 cr.)*

Examination of how the programs of public agencies are proposed, established, operated, and evaluated. Discussion of the role and conduct of research in the program evaluation process. In addition, techniques of effective evaluation and analysis are discussed.

*SPEA-V 572 Urban Topics (3 cr.)*

Selected topics in urban policy and administration. The course is sometimes restricted to a special group of students focusing on a particular research interest.

*SPEA-V 567 Public Financial Administration (3 cr.)*

Problems of financial management in governmental units; alternative revenue sources, financial planning, and control; cash debt management; and survey of modern expenditure management, control, and planning.

*SPEA-V 585 Practicum in Public Affairs (1-6 cr.)*

Students hold work assignments with public agencies. Grading is on an S/F basis. This course may be repeated for credit.

*SPEA-V 663 Policy Analysis (3 cr.)*

An introduction to the field of policy analysis. Includes discussion of different models, approaches, conceptual foundations of the field, and the basic issues surrounding application.

# DRAFT - MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Urban Affairs

## 48 credit hours

The MPA is a course of study that requires the completion of (1) the MPA core, (2) the concentration requirement, (3) the experiential requirement, and (4) sufficient electives and/or mid-career option credit to total **48 credit hours**. **All students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA to be in good standing and graduate.**

**EXPERIENTIAL COMPONENT:** In order to be awarded the M.P.A. degree, students must obtain professionally relevant experience through an internship in **SPEA-V 585**. This requirement is automatically satisfied if a student is granted **Mid-Career Option** credit.

### MPA CORE (21 Credit Hours)

Dept	Course	Title	Credit
<b>Required of all students:</b>			
SPEA-V	<b>506</b>	Statistical Analysis for Effective Decision Making	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>517</b>	Public Management Economics	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>540</b>	Law and Public Affairs	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>598</b>	Governing and Leading in a Global Society	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>600</b>	Capstone in Public and Environmental Affairs **	3.0
<b>Choose ONE management course</b>			
SPEA-V	<b>502</b>	Public Management <b>OR</b>	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>525</b>	Management in the Nonprofit Sector	3.0
<b>Choose One financial management course</b>			
SPEA-V	<b>560</b>	Public Finance and Budgeting <b>OR</b>	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>526</b>	Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations	3.0

**\*\*NOTE: V600 cannot be taken until all MPA core courses are completed. V600 is only offered as an in-person class and cannot be substituted or transferred in from another university. Plan your schedule accordingly!**

### INTERNSHIP AND ELECTIVES (12 Credit Hours)

SPEA-V	<b>585</b>	Practicum in Public Affairs or Mid Career Option Credit	3.0
	Elective #1		3.0
	Elective #2		3.0
	Elective #3		3.0

### URBAN CONCENTRATION (15 CREDIT HOURS)

Dept	Course	Title	Credit
<b>Urban Systems: (3 credit hours)</b>			
SPEA-V	<b>594</b>	Principles of Urban and Regional Science	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>527</b>	Urban Sustainability	3.0
<b>Urban Analysis: (6 credit hours)</b>			
SPEA-V	<b>507</b>	Data Analysis and Modeling for Public Affairs	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>508</b>	Topics in Quantitative Analysis	3.0
SPEA-E	<b>529</b>	Applications of GIS	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>562</b>	Public Program Evaluation	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>550</b>	Policy Analysis	3.0
<b>Local Finance: (3 credit hours)</b>			
SPEA-V	<b>567</b>	Public Financial Administration	3.0
<b>Applications: (3 credit hours)</b>			
SPEA-V	<b>572</b>	Urban Topics	3.0
SPEA-V	<b>585</b>	Practicum in Public Affairs	3.0

PLUS A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL COURSES TO MEET THE MINIMUM DEGREE REQUIREMENT OF 48 CREDIT HOURS WITH A 3.0 CUMULATIVE GRADE AVERAGE.

**\*\*Please note that the course rotation is subject to change. This listing is for planning purposes only. Please check with SPEA Graduate Student Services to ensure you are meeting degree requirements.**

**Fall Core Classes**

V 506  
V 517  
V 540  
V 598  
V 600  
V 560

**Fall Concentration Classes**

V 521  
V 522  
V 557 (every other fall – opposite V 602)  
V 602 (every other fall - opposite V 557)  
V 544  
V 539  
V 541  
V 547  
V 561

**Spring Core Classes**

V 506  
V 517  
V540  
V 600  
V 502  
V 560  
V 525  
V 526

**Spring Concentration Classes**

V 558  
V 559  
V 504 (every other spring)  
V 516 (every other spring)  
V 547  
V 562

**Summer Core Classes**

V 540  
V 598