

MPPAL Degree Learning Expectations

	Degree-Level Expectation This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:	Program Learning Objectives By the end of this program, students will be able to:	Appropriate Degree Requirement and Assessment
1. Depth and breadth of knowledge	a systematic understanding of knowledge, including, where appropriate, relevant knowledge, outside the field and/or discipline, and a critical awareness of current problems, and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze, evaluate, and make equitable and socially just recommendations regarding public policy using a wide variety of tools including quantitative information (e.g., public opinion data and public accounts), qualitative evidence as well as norms and values; • perform the basic roles of a public sector manager through their knowledge of human resources requirements and leadership strategies, public sector accounting and budgeting, planning, and an understanding of ethics, equity, and public law; • develop a critical understanding of key areas of scholarship in the field of public policy and administration as constituted by the program’s three module areas: Public Policy and Management; Public Policy and Administration; Public Administration and Justice Studies; • recognize and offer critical awareness and assessments of key theoretical and methodological issues and debates in the defining scholarship of current public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses (assignments, presentations and participation); • program seminars and professional development training; • PPAL 6000 Public Management; • PPAL 6010 Leadership and Human Resources Management; • PPAL 6020 Public Finance and Accounting; • PPAL 6100 Constitutional and Administrative Law; • PPAL 6120 Administrative Law and Ethics; • PPAL 6130 Equity Policy, Law and Planning; • PPAL 6200 Research Design and Information Management; • PPAL 6210 Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis; and

		<p>policy and administration literature and research with respect to historical, social, cultural, political, and economic contexts and implications;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate knowledge of diversities such as race, class, gender, sexuality, ability as applied to topics taught in public policy and administration courses and to democratic governance; • demonstrate an awareness of current literature and research in the areas of Canadian public administration and public policy, public finance, research methods, and some constitutional law; • demonstrate an ability to link academic knowledge in the above areas to policy and social issues locally and globally; • demonstrate an ability to critically assess their own assumptions and to engage in constructive critiques of the views of others both in writing and orally; and • demonstrate a systematic and specific understanding and critical awareness of established and/or current debates, insights and issues informing the diverse scholarly disciplines and/or creative practices constituting effective public sector leadership and good governance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRP/ PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy course options.
<p>2. Research and scholarship</p>	<p>a conceptual understanding and methodological competence that:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess the appropriateness of the research and reasoning employed in specific texts or analyze the exposition of an argument or arguments in specific 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses (assignments, presentations and participation); • program seminars and

	<p>a) enables a working comprehension of how established techniques of research and inquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline;</p> <p>b) enables a critical evaluation of current research and scholarship in the discipline or area of professional competence;</p> <p>c) enables a treatment of complex issues and judgments based on established principles and techniques; and</p> <p>d) on the basis of that competence has shown at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the development and support of a sustained argument in written form; or an ii. originality in the application of knowledge. 	<p>text(s), bringing out underlying theoretical assumptions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discern and interrogate the use and abuse of the disciplinary and interdisciplinary skills and scholarly and/or creative knowledge associated with certain forms of public presentation/discourse, and with researching, writing and defending scholarly public policy and administration research; • identify the research question in someone else's work and evaluate the methodological framework/design; and • articulate an appropriate research question and assess the relevant; methodologies/frameworks/designs. • <i>For MRP students:</i> develop and produce a piece of original research or criticism on any approved topic, and write an extensive paper incorporating this research (broadening their knowledge within a wide range of public, private and para-public sector issues) under the direction and supervision of a faculty member of the MPPAL program. 	<p>professional development training;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPAL 6100 Constitutional and Administrative Law; • PPAL 6200 Research Design and Information Management; • PPAL 6210 Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis • MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy research proposal • MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy course options
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<p>3. Level of application of knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competence in the research process by applying an existing body of knowledge in the critical analysis of a new question or a specific problem or issues in a new setting; • concrete problem-solving and decision-making skills within a public sector work environment; and • demonstrated skill sets to lead a project team on an assignment that involves public participation and consensus building in reaching a final decision that is in the public interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to the analysis of public policy and administrative governance issues, locally and globally; • identify key concepts in existing literature on specific issues or topics relevant to public policy, administration and law; • understand the factors that inform policy development, such as public sector accountability, government priorities, public needs/demands, and stakeholder accommodations; • identify how paradigms and concepts, and debates about them, are actualized in concrete historical and contemporary examples/cases; • assess competing arguments and evidence; and • understand how to organize and synthesize findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses (assignments, presentations and participation); • program seminars and professional development training; • PPAL 6000 Public Management; • PPAL 6020 Public Finance and Accounting; • PPAL 6100 Constitutional and Administrative Law; • PPAL 6200 Research Design and Information Management; • PPAL 6210 Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis; • MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy research proposal; and • MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy course options.
<p>4. Professional capacity/autonomy</p>	<p>a) the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the exercise of initiative and of personal responsibility and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire time-management skills within graduate courses in order to complete readings and assignments; • present references and bibliographical information in a standardized format; • select a supervisor (and optional second reader) for an MRP project; • demonstrate familiarity with appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses (assignments, presentations and participation); • program seminars and professional development training; • PPAL 6200 Research Design and Information

	<p>accountability; and</p> <p>ii) decision-making in complex situations;</p> <p>b) the intellectual independence required for continuing professional development;</p> <p>c) the ethical behaviour consistent with academic integrity and the use of appropriate guidelines and procedures for responsible research; and</p> <p>d) the ability to appreciate the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts.</p>	<p>professional practices – meeting deadlines, timely responses to professional communications, long-term planning;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate an ability to design and carry out a substantial project with the guidance of a supervisor, in the context of an MRP or Topics in Public Policy course option; and • demonstrate an informed understanding of the importance of academic integrity in research and, when required, the ability to design, complete and adhere to research ethics protocols, as mandated by the MPPAL program, FGS, York University and the federal research funding Tri-Council of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. 	<p>Management;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPAL 6210 Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis; • MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy research proposal; and • MRP/ PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy course options.
<p>5. Level of communication skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to communicate complex and/or ambiguous ideas, issues and conclusions clearly; • effective communications strategies and programs to help achieve a consensus around particular issues; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write clearly for an appropriate audience; • critically analyze, compare and present orally and in writing theoretical arguments from a range of academic texts with respect to the fields of specialization of the program; • define and to conduct an independent research project; • extract major findings out of one’s own research project and presenting these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses (assignments, presentations and participation); • program seminars and professional development training; • PPAL 6000 Public Management; • PPAL 6020 Leadership and Human Resources;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrated proficiency in the use of traditional and contemporary social media for delivering effective communication messaging around particular public policy issues and concerns. 	<p>findings within graduate seminars and MRP presentations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participate in advanced oral discussion/debate with peers in a seminar setting; • present an advanced seminar discussion/debate on a specified topic; • receive, give and respond to feedback constructively, including resolving conflicting feedback; • engage with academic and non-academic vocational and/or professional audiences about debates, insights and issues informing the diverse scholarly disciplines; and • begin to develop a sense of the public impact of research and its communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPAL 6100 Constitutional and Administrative Law; • PPAL 6120 Administrative Law and Ethics; • PPAL 6130 Equity, Law and Planning; • PPAL 6200 Research Design and Information Management; • PPAL 6210 Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis; • MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy research proposal; and • MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy course options.
6. Awareness of limits of knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cognizance of the complexity of knowledge and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines; • recognition that the boundaries of knowledge are never fixed but contingent on discovery, invention and collaborative innovation; and • acknowledgement that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognize the strengths and weaknesses of a perspective, framework or argument; • know how to ask appropriate questions to reveal assumptions embedded in competing discourses; • examine issues of democratic governance and democratic citizenship and leadership in related disciplines; • demonstrate the ability to identify gaps in the forms of knowledge, modes of analysis and research results associated with the diverse scholarly disciplines and/or creative practices constituting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courses (assignments, presentations and participation); • program seminars and professional development training; • PPAL 6200 Research Design and Information Management; • PPAL 6120 Administrative Law and Ethics; • PPAL 6130 Equity, Law and Planning; • PPAL 6210 Program

	<p>the limits of knowledge, at any point in time, are temporal while, at the same time, appreciation that knowledge expands and contracts subject to the ability to be able to store and retrieve the information as needed, and to build on it through the constant upskilling of new researchers who are willing to continually add to the body of knowledge through acceptable, reliable and verifiable scientific principles and methodologies.</p>	<p>public policy and public sector administration studies and research; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• demonstrate the ability to propose suggestions for addressing gaps in the forms of knowledge, modes of analysis and research results associated with the diverse scholarly disciplines and/or creative practices constituting public policy and public sector administration studies and research.	<p>Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy research proposal;• MRP/PPAL 6230 Topics in Public Policy course options.
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