

## **Non-Major Modification Program Changes**

**1. Program:** Master of Public Policy, Administration & Law

**2. Degree Designation:** MPPAL

**3. Type of Modification:**

Offer a full-time option within the existing MPPAL program and professional fee structure (starting with 6 FT students per year in total, i.e. 3 per cohort) for students wishing to fast track the MPPAL.

**4. Effective Date:** Fall 2019

**5. State what the changes are (Example: increase / decrease to the number of major credits):**

Following our 2016 Cyclical Program Review (CPR), we are proposing to offer a full-time option within the existing MPPAL program.

**6. Provide the rationale for the proposed changes that is rooted in the program learning outcomes**

The MPPAL is presently an exclusively part-time program. At the time that the MPPAL was created, it was envisioned that the program would be able to expand and eventually include a full-time option (see memo from VPA Sheila Embleton, dated 8 Nov. 2006).

Our proposed change is in line with the vision endorsed by our external CPR assessors. It is focused on modest growth, while at the same time preserving the professional 'heart' of the program (and its professional fee structure). The 'modest growth' approach is further reflected in the fact that we do not want to raise our current admission targets; rather we would reserve 6 spots in our overall target (out of 50 students annually, i.e. 3 full-time students in each of our two cohorts) for such students.

Offering prospective applicants a full-time option has immediate benefits to both the students and the University. Our future full-time MPPAL students would be receiving the full government subsidy and would aid York in delivering on its promised graduate student target as outlined in the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

Currently, our part-time students are disadvantaged inside and outside the university. As outlined in our initial CPR program brief, at present MPPAL students are not eligible for regular OSAP (and even under the improved 2017-18 access plan, will continue to be excluded) and similar financial aid, and - despite paying high, professional tuition fees - additionally, are not eligible for most scholarships, bursaries and awards offered by FGS because most are restricted to full-time York graduate students. (Note that as professional graduate students, they further

do not receive York's standard graduate student funding package, including York graduate fellowships, something that will remain unchanged under this proposal.)

At present, MPPAL students are also not automatically eligible for existing government internships because those are often limited to full-time students. Creating a full-time MPPAL option would open up these opportunities for our currently most under-served student population – those students with approximately 2 years of work experience, who are the most likely candidates for these internships (see extensive discussion in our CPR program brief, pt. 4.) and who have most frequently inquired about a full-time option. These students constitute about 25 percent of our past and current student population.

Our current program requirements ask students to complete a total of 9 courses or 27 credits over 2 years (i.e. six terms), on a two-year, part-time basis. These 27 credits are made up of 3 thematic modules with 3 required courses each. In their first year, students take 12 credits, followed by 15 credits in their second year, including an MRP (weighted as a 3.0 course) or an MRP-equivalent "Topics" course. This amounts to one 3.0-credit course in the evenings in the fall/winter term, plus one 3.0-credit course on weekends (Saturday or Sunday option available) stretched over 6 class meets during the Y term. In the summer term, students take only one 3.0-credit course. In second year, this pattern is repeated (including for the summer term), except students also complete either an MRP or equivalent "Topics" course (3.0 credits) in that year.

As mentioned in our CPR response, we want to admit only a very small number of full-time students, starting with 6 FT students in total per year, i.e. 3 students per our existing cohort size of 25. Given the small numbers (6 students out of our current target of 50 is equal to only 12 percent), these students would study alongside their part-time counter-parts, i.e. they would take the same courses taken by our first and second year part-time students, except that full-timers would take them simultaneously. Since courses complement each other (and none have prerequisites), there is also no change to the sequencing of the courses needed.

This compressed time frame will obviously increase student prep time, including the amount of course readings proportionately. However, other one year, full-time public policy programs in Ontario have equal or higher course loads (see chart below).<sup>1</sup>

Not only that, over the years we have already had a few students wishing to informally fast-track (e.g. because they were moving, had accepted a job outside of the GTA). They all completed without difficulties (and at least one received OSAP).<sup>2</sup> In sum, we simply want to codify existing, past practice in the program and based on our experience with these students, do not anticipate the compressed workload to be a problem for the newly admitted FT-students.

## **Ontario Public Policy Masters Programs (\*MRP or equivalent stream only, 3.0**

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<sup>1</sup> Information in the chart is extracted from a comparative study of 119 public management Masters programs across North America (MPP/MPA or equivalent) conducted in 2015 and supplemented with relevant, updated information from the respective programs' web-sites. The comparative study found that the MPPAL program was generally on the low-end course requirement wise. Programs with higher course loads were typically two-year, full-time study programs (including an MRP or equivalent). See <http://www.atlas101.ca/pm/analysis/mpp-mpa-curricular-types/>

<sup>2</sup> OSAP receipt was confirmed by Julie Parna, Director, Academic Programs and Policy, VP's office in preparation of this minor modification request, e-mail dated July 19, 2018 (attached).

**course credit values)**

| <b>University</b> | <b>Degree</b> | <b>Terms</b>   | <b>Courses*</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Ottawa            | MAPA          | 3              | 8               | If co-op: 5 terms   |
| York              | MPPAL         | 6 (PT)         | 9               | <i>part-time only</i>                                     |
| Ryerson           | MPPA          | 3              | 10              | Field placement option (non-credit, FT students only)     |
| Waterloo          | MPS           | 3 (5)          | 10              | If co-op: 5 terms   |
| Queen's           | PMPA          | 6 or 7 (if PT) | 10              | Exchange option   |
| Queen's           | MPA           | 3              | 12              | Internship (non-cred)                                     |
| Carleton          | MPA           | 6              | 14              | Part-time option  |
| Western           | MPA (LGP)     | 3              | 14              | If PT: 7-10 terms   |
| UofT              | MPP           | 6              | 18              | Internship (credit), Exchange option; no part-time option |

By introducing a select number of full-time students into our student mix, another concern that might arise is whether we would be weakening the cohort support structure that is at the heart of the MPPAL program's success story. Based on our recent experience with adding a Saturday vs. Sunday choice to our weekend classes (i.e. students can now choose whether to take their weekend class on either a Saturday or a Sunday), we do not expect this to be an issue. In fact, based on our observations so far, students seem to enjoy meeting classmates from the other cohort in their respective weekend class. We do not anticipate this to be any different with our full-time students.

All in all, we are confident that full-time students would be able to achieve the same, existing learning outcomes (see below) as their part-time counterparts.

**7. Provide an updated mapping of the program requirements to the program learning outcomes to illustrate how the proposed requirements will support the achievement of program learning objectives.**

No change.

**8. If relevant, summarize the consultation undertaken with relevant academic units, including commentary on the impact of the proposed changes on other programs. Provide individual statements from the relevant program(s) confirming consultation and their support.**

No impact anticipated.

Historically, there has been only minimal overlap of MPPAL applications with other programs at York. Typically, only 5-8 applicants (out of about 120-130 total) apply to other graduate programs at York, typically other professional programs, such as DEM, SOWK, MBA. in short, there is no regular pattern of overlap with any particular graduate program at York, which shows that the MPPAL program is viewed as clearly distinct by the applicants.

**9. Describe any resource implications and how they are being addressed (e.g., through a reallocation of existing resources). If new/additional resources are required, provide a statement from the relevant Dean(s)/Principal confirming resources will be in place to implement the changes.**

There are no resource implications.

Since we currently run two cohorts of 25 students max., one at the Keele campus and the other at our downtown location (traditionally at the Osgoode Professional Development Centre or OPD), our current class/teaching schedule is already set up to allow for the integration of the full-time students into our existing classes since Keele/OPD schedules do not overlap for resource reasons (i.e. to allow the same faculty member to teach both sections of a given course).

As is the case for students in other executive Masters programs at York (e.g. MHRM), students choosing the full-time MPPAL option would continue to remain ineligible for York's standard graduate student funding package, including York graduate fellowships.

**Provide a summary of how students currently enrolled in the program will be accommodated.**

The proposal does not impact students presently enrolled in the program and their degree requirements.

**Provide as an appendix a side-by-side comparison of the existing and proposed program requirements as they will appear in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendar**

| Existing Calendar Copy (Change From)  | Proposed Calendar Copy (Change To):   |
|---|---|
| <p>Example: Delete this text.</p> <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b></p> <p>York's executive-style Master of Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law is an interdisciplinary graduate program designed to provide students with the skills needed for effective public administration and public policy analysis, with an emphasis on the themes of constitutional and administrative law and social justice.</p> <p>While including all the elements of the standard curriculum followed by other Canadian MPA programs, this graduate program includes leading-edge subjects such as change management, human resources management, the impact of multiculturalism on policy development and implementation, as well as innovative approaches to labour relations and conflict resolution, e-government and the impact of globalization.</p> <p>Students are provided with a combination of legal, policy analysis and public management skills all rooted in a social justice perspective, and applicable to any area of the public sector, including government, emergency, police and military services.</p> <p>The Graduate Program in Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law is offered as a two-year, part-time program. Courses are held <del>once a week</del> during the evening or in intensive monthly weekend sessions over two terms. Course materials may be accessed by students up to three months in advance, so</p> | <p><b>Example: Add</b> this text.</p> <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b></p> <p>York's executive-style Master of Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law is an interdisciplinary graduate program designed to provide students with the skills needed for effective public administration and public policy analysis, with an emphasis on the themes of constitutional and administrative law and social justice.</p> <p>While including all the elements of the standard curriculum followed by other Canadian MPA programs, this graduate program includes leading-edge subjects such as change management, human resources management, the impact of multiculturalism on policy development and implementation, as well as innovative approaches to labour relations and conflict resolution, e-government and the impact of globalization.</p> <p>Students are provided with a combination of legal, policy analysis and public management skills all rooted in a social justice perspective, and applicable to any area of the public sector, including government, emergency, police and military services.</p> <p>The Graduate Program in Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law is offered as a two-year, part-time <u>or a one-year full-time program.</u> Courses are held <u>during the evenings</u> or in intensive monthly weekend sessions over two terms. Course materials may be accessed by students up to three</p> |

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| <p>that readings can be spread over a longer period of time.</p> <p><b>MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY, ADMINISTRATION &amp; LAW PROGRAM</b></p> <p><b>ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>Candidates must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ have completed an Honours Bachelors degree or its equivalent from a recognized University with a minimum grade point average of B+ in the final two years and a minimum of five years work experience in a relevant public sector management, administrative, or supervisory position.; OR,</li> <li>❖ have completed an honours bachelors degree or its equivalent from a recognized University with a minimum grade point average of A in the final two years. Under this category, students may have completed less than five years work experience in a relevant public sector management, administrative, or supervisory position. Preference will be given to students who have completed an honours bachelors degree in public administration or political science with an emphasis on public administration.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates also must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ submit a curriculum vitae or résumé, statement of areas of interest, and a letter outlining their experience and background</li> <li>❖ for students whose first language is not English, have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600 (paper-based) or 250 (computer-based); or York English Language Test score 1.</li> </ul> | <p>months in advance, so that readings can be spread over a longer period of time.</p> <p><b>MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY, ADMINISTRATION &amp; LAW PROGRAM</b></p> <p><b>ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>Candidates must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ have completed an Honours Bachelors degree or its equivalent from a recognized University with a minimum grade point average of B+ in the final two years and a minimum of five years work experience in a relevant public sector management, administrative, or supervisory position.; OR,</li> <li>❖ have completed an honours bachelors degree or its equivalent from a recognized University with a minimum grade point average of A in the final two years. Under this category, students may have completed less than five years work experience in a relevant public sector management, administrative, or supervisory position. Preference will be given to students who have completed an honours bachelors degree in public administration or political science with an emphasis on public administration.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates also must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ submit a curriculum vitae or résumé, statement of areas of interest, and a letter outlining their experience and background</li> <li>❖ for students whose first language is not English, have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600 (paper-based) or 250 (computer-based); or York English Language Test score 1.</li> </ul> |
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| <p>At the discretion of the selection committee, in exceptional circumstances, students who have completed a three-year bachelors degree with a minimum grade point average of B+ and have significant work experience in terms of time frame and/or quality of experience (specifically more than five years work experience in a relevant public sector management, administrative, or supervisory position) may be recommended for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.</p>   | <p>At the discretion of the selection committee, in exceptional circumstances, students who have completed a three-year bachelors degree with a minimum grade point average of B+ and have significant work experience in terms of time frame and/or quality of experience (specifically more than five years work experience in a relevant public sector management, administrative, or supervisory position) may be recommended for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.</p>   |
| <p>Although it is not a prerequisite, students are advised that they may find it helpful to have completed a university level two-term introductory course covering both microeconomics and macroeconomics (Economics 1000 3.0/1010 3.0 or equivalent) prior to enrolling in the program.</p>   | <p>Although it is not a prerequisite, students are advised that they may find it helpful to have completed a university level two-term introductory course covering both microeconomics and macroeconomics (Economics 1000 3.0/1010 3.0 or equivalent) prior to enrolling in the program.</p>   |
| <h3><b>Advanced standing</b></h3>   | <h3><b>Advanced standing</b></h3>   |
| <p>Students who have completed advanced level courses (i.e., only graduate level) offered by accredited universities or colleges or other accredited professional development courses which overlap significantly with courses in the Graduate Program in Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law, may be able to apply for advanced standing. General procedures for awarding advanced standing are determined by the Graduate Program Director in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Students may be awarded no more than 6 credits of advanced standing.</p> | <p>Students who have completed advanced level courses (i.e., only graduate level) offered by accredited universities or colleges or other accredited professional development courses which overlap significantly with courses in the Graduate Program in Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law, may be able to apply for advanced standing. General procedures for awarding advanced standing are determined by the Graduate Program Director in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Students may be awarded no more than 6 credits of advanced standing.</p> |
| <h3><b>DEGREE REQUIREMENTS</b></h3>   | <h3><b>DEGREE REQUIREMENTS</b></h3>   |
| <p>The program is offered on a part-time basis, with a recommended time of two years for completion of the program.</p>   | <p>The program is offered on a part-time <b>or full-time</b> basis, with a recommended time of two years <b>part-time or one year full-time</b> for completion of the program.</p>  |
| <p>Program courses cover the essential curriculum that forms the core of any public</p>   | <p>Program courses cover the essential curriculum that forms the core of any public policy and administration program, but they</p>   |

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| <p>policy and administration program, but they also include substantial original content focused on a more comprehensive consideration of social justice issues, public law, administrative law, public sector ethics, and human rights.</p> <p>Students move through three conceptual modules, with 9 credits in each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ public management and finance</li> <li>❖ law, administration and ethics</li> <li>❖ public policy and analysis</li> </ul> <p>Each module must be completed in its entirety. The last module provides students with the option of completing a research paper or a public policy issue and development course.</p> <p>Students normally progress as a cohort. The specific order in which courses are taught may vary from year to year. However, students must complete the Research Methods and Information Systems and Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis courses in Module 3 before embarking on the Major Research Paper.</p> <p><b>Module 1: Public Management and Finance (9 credits)</b></p> <p>The public management and finance module emphasizes the skills, knowledge, and behaviours that are essential to an effective lower-middle level public sector manager. These include a firm understanding of the basics of public administration, as well as effective change management, leadership, human resources management, public finance, and accountability mechanisms.</p> <p>Students must successfully complete the following courses:</p> <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law 6000 3.0: Public Management;</b></p> | <p>also include substantial original content focused on a more comprehensive consideration of social justice issues, public law, administrative law, public sector ethics, and human rights.</p> <p>Students move through three conceptual modules, with 9 credits in each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ public management and finance</li> <li>❖ law, administration and ethics</li> <li>❖ public policy and analysis</li> </ul> <p>Each module must be completed in its entirety. The last module provides students with the option of completing a research paper or a public policy issue and development course.</p> <p>Students normally progress as a cohort. The specific order in which courses are taught may vary from year to year. However, students must complete the Research Methods and Information Systems and Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis courses in Module 3 before embarking on the Major Research Paper.</p> <p><b>Module 1: Public Management and Finance (9 credits)</b></p> <p>The public management and finance module emphasizes the skills, knowledge, and behaviours that are essential to an effective lower-middle level public sector manager. These include a firm understanding of the basics of public administration, as well as effective change management, leadership, human resources management, public finance, and accountability mechanisms.</p> <p>Students must successfully complete the following courses:</p> <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law 6000 3.0: Public Management;</b></p> |
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| <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6010 3.0: Leadership and Human Resources Management; and,</b><br/> <b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6020 3.0: Public Finance and Accounting.</b></p> <p><b>Module 2: Law and Ethics (9 credits)</b></p> <p>The law and ethics module is designed to provide students with the tools to deal competently with legal and ethical matters in public affairs. Students must successfully complete the following courses:</p> <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6100 3.0: Canadian Constitutional Law;</b><br/> <b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6120 3.0: Administrative Law and Ethics: Principles and Practices in the Policy-Making Context; and, Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law 6130 3.0: Equity, Policy, Law and Planning.</b></p> <p><b>Module 3: Public Policy and Analysis (9 credits)</b></p> <p>This module is designed to provide students with a firm understanding of the skills of program evaluation, and with relevant analytical tools regarding public policy development and the public policy cycle.</p> <p>Students must successfully complete the following courses:</p> <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6200 3.0: Research Methods and Information Systems; Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law 6210 3.0: Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis; and</b> one of the following two courses:<br/> <b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6230 3.0: Topics in Public Policy; OR</b></p> | <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6010 3.0: Leadership and Human Resources Management; and,</b><br/> <b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6020 3.0: Public Finance and Accounting.</b></p> <p><b>Module 2: Law and Ethics (9 credits)</b></p> <p>The law and ethics module is designed to provide students with the tools to deal competently with legal and ethical matters in public affairs. Students must successfully complete the following courses:</p> <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6100 3.0: Canadian Constitutional Law;</b><br/> <b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6120 3.0: Administrative Law and Ethics: Principles and Practices in the Policy-Making Context; and, Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law 6130 3.0: Equity, Policy, Law and Planning.</b></p> <p><b>Module 3: Public Policy and Analysis (9 credits)</b></p> <p>This module is designed to provide students with a firm understanding of the skills of program evaluation, and with relevant analytical tools regarding public policy development and the public policy cycle.</p> <p>Students must successfully complete the following courses:</p> <p><b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6200 3.0: Research Methods and Information Systems; Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law 6210 3.0: Program Evaluation and Public Policy Analysis; and</b> one of the following two courses:<br/> <b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6230 3.0: Topics in Public Policy; OR</b><br/> <b>Public Policy, Administration &amp; Law</b><br/> <b>6250 3.0: Major Research Paper.</b></p> |
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**Public Policy, Administration & Law**  
**6250 3.0: Major Research Paper.**

Program level approval: Sept 27, 2018