

School of Public Affairs

[Complete course list for the School of Public Affairs](#)

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Current Student Inquiries

General Inquiries: 303-315-2228

Graduate Students Last Name A–L:

Dawn Savage, Student Services Coordinator

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Graduate Students Last Name M–Z:

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Undergraduate Students

Laura Valcore, BACJ Academic Advisor/Program Coordinator

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Prospective Student Inquiries

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Undergraduate

Laura Valcore, BACJ Academic Advisor/Program Coordinator

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Application Deadlines

Undergraduate Deadlines

For fall semester—July 22

For spring semester—December 1

For summer semester—May 3

Masters Program Deadlines

	Preferred Deadline	Final Deadline
<i>Fall</i>	March 15	August 1
<i>Spring</i>	October 15	December 1
<i>Summer</i>	March 15	May 1

PhD Program Deadlines

Fall admission only -- February 1

Please note: deadlines for international students may vary. Check with the Office of International Admissions for more information.

About the School of Public Affairs

Graduates of the School of Public Affairs (SPA) are prepared to **lead** the field, **solve** pressing social issues and **change** communities for the better. Nationally ranked for excellence, SPA offers programs in multiple locations: on the CU Denver campus, at the CU Colorado Springs campus, on the Western Slope (Grand Junction) and online. The school offers four degrees: the bachelor of arts in criminal justice (BACJ), the master of public administration (MPA), the master of criminal justice (MCJ) and the PhD in public affairs. Qualified senior managers may elect to participate in the school's executive MPA option. SPA offers an accelerated MPA option as well as a variety of concentrations and certificates for students with diverse interests. Dual degrees are available in law, economics, public health, and urban and regional planning.

The School of Public Affairs is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

The Mission of the School of Public Affairs

The School of Public Affairs prepares the next generation of leaders in public service and criminal justice professions to solve society's most pressing problems. Working together, faculty, staff and students also conduct research that improves the quality of life and informs policy making and management in the public and nonprofit sectors.

SPA Students

The School of Public Affairs attracts a dynamic mix of students, from undergraduates just beginning their public service careers to well-seasoned professionals already immersed in public or nonprofit management and policy. Students encompass a range of age and experience, and they represent the diversity of the Denver metropolitan area. SPA classrooms promote interaction among students, and the variety of backgrounds -- including domestic, international, pre-career and mid-career students -- enriches learning enormously.

Our graduates are leaders. They include state legislators and department heads, city managers and mayors, police chiefs and correctional administrators, policy analysts and advocates, nonprofit and for-profit executives, school superintendents, university presidents and faculty.

A Commitment to Community, to Public Service and to Problem Solving

The School of Public Affairs seeks students committed to public service. We prepare those students through a rigorous course of study that combines scholarship and theory while building practical analytical, management and policy making skills. As a school of public affairs, we believe we have a responsibility to engage with our community and serve the public good. SPA students have a wide variety of ways to get involved with and learn from the community, including working on community-centered research projects with faculty, learning from distinguished local practitioners in classes, serving in internships in government and nonprofit offices, working with our applied research centers, and participating in the numerous public affairs-related events SPA holds every semester.

The Buechner Institute for Governance

The Buechner Institute for Governance (BIG) was created in 2010 to strengthen the longstanding bond between the School of Public Affairs and our community. The Institute is named for Dr. John Buechner, a former University of Colorado president, local government scholar, faculty member in the School of Public Affairs, state legislator and holder of several local elected offices. Staff and affiliated faculty are dedicated to serving the Colorado community through research, evaluation, and policy analysis. BIG staff also provide assistance to the public and nonprofit sectors by facilitating community discussions and decision-making processes, and helping organizations improve through strategic planning and organizational evaluation and development. The Buechner Institute improves the quality of public and nonprofit leadership through specialized programs to enhance knowledge, teach skills and build lasting networks. Among those leadership programs are the **Denver Community Leadership Forum**, the **Rocky Mountain Leadership Program**, and Colorado's only **accredited Certified Public Manager** program. Finally, the Buechner Institute sponsors regular forums for civic discourse both in person and through printed material. *Solutions*, an online journalism initiative and a leading source for health policy information in Colorado, is one example of such a forum, as are the monthly Buechner Breakfasts focusing on timely issues of public importance.

The Buechner Institute is home to four centers that provide information and services in specialized topic areas. These include the Center for Education Policy Analysis, the Center on Reinventing Public Education-Denver, the Center for Public/Private Sector Cooperation, and the Center for Local Government Research and Training.

Other projects at SPA devoted to bridging the gap between academia and the community include the Center on Domestic Violence and The Wirth Chair in Sustainable Development.

Departments and Programs

Programs

Bachelor of Arts

- [Criminal Justice BA](#)

Bachelor of Arts/Master of Criminal Justice

- [Criminal Justice BA/MCJ](#)

Bachelor of Arts/Master of Public Administration

- [Public Affairs BA/MPA](#)

Certificate

- [Domestic Violence Concentration/Graduate Certificate](#)
- [Emergency Management and Homeland Security Concentration/Graduate Certificate](#)
- [Environmental Policy, Management and Law Graduate Certificate](#)
- [Interpersonal Violence and Health Care Graduate Certificate](#)
- [Local Government Concentration and Graduate Certificate](#)
- [Nonprofit Management Graduate Certificate](#)

Non Degree

- [Criminal Justice Minor](#)

Master of Criminal Justice

- [Criminal Justice MCJ](#)

Master of Public Administration

- [Public Administration MPA](#)

Master of Public Administration/Dual Degree

- [Public Administration MPA/JD](#)
- [Public Administration/Criminal Justice MPA/MCJ](#)
- [Public Administration/Economics MPA/MA](#)
- [Public Administration/Public Health MPA/MPH](#)
- [Public Administration/Urban and Regional Planning MPA/MURP](#)

Doctor of Philosophy

- [Public Affairs PhD](#)