Master of Public Policy
Duke University ■ Sanford School of Public Policy
Join our Close Community

- By limiting enrollment to 60-65 students each year, we keep our class sizes small.
- Nearly all admitted students receive a merit-based scholarship.
- Sanford delivers on the promise of individualized career counseling.
- Professors are known for high-quality teaching and provide one-on-one mentoring.
- Our program's personalized nature creates a fiercely loyal alumni network.

Easy Access to DC & Major East Coast Cities

More than half of the U.S. population lives within a day's drive or an hour's flight of Duke University. RDU International Airport is only 20 minutes away, so it's easy to get away for a job interview or a break.

“"You're going to be so busy with classes and academics that you'll be essentially wasting money if you go to school in a really expensive city like San Francisco or New York. You will get way more bang for your buck living in Durham.”
— Eric Nakano MBA/MPP'14 Consultant, Accenture, San Francisco, CA

“I invite you to join us in our quest for a better world, to maximize your potential, and to take part in the remarkable intellectual and personal environment Sanford provides.”
— Kelly Brownell, Dean of the Sanford School of Public Policy

“I chose Duke because of the people. The folks who sat by my side during the Open House became my classmates and friends. The professors and staff I met became my mentors. I felt I was not just joining the Sanford School, but a community of passionate public servants invested in making a difference in the world.”
— Megha Bansal MPP’12, Senior Consultant, Monitor Deloitte, and Junior Board Member, StreetWise Partners, Washington, DC

sanford.duke.edu
Sanford students have many opportunities to learn from the leaders who are shaping the future. Policymakers, politicians and other dignitaries regularly speak to Sanford students in classes, small-group lunches, and public lectures.

"Your ‘true north’ should be a constant search for the right answer. Distrust the sound bite or talking point that is not backed up by objective evidence or reliable analytics. Seek to raise the level of dialogue to ensure that fair, substantive and multi-layered analyses drive our public policy outcomes."


“When the president says, ‘We need you to do this,’ of course you say, ‘Yes.’”

“Your ‘true north’ should be a constant search for the right answer. Distrust the sound bite or talking point that is not backed up by objective evidence or reliable analytics. Seek to raise the level of dialogue to ensure that fair, substantive and multi-layered analyses drive our public policy outcomes.”

After a successful career in housing and community development, Donna Dyer returned to Sanford and has provided career advising since 1997. Her work experience in government, nonprofit management and public-private partnerships, along with her direct and realistic advising style, generate loyalty among Sanford MPP students and alumni.

Over her 18-year career, she has built a deep understanding of the complicated federal job search process, the government consulting market and the dynamic international development field. She is particularly skilled in helping students find work options to match their skills and passions. She is a certified career advisor.

“The Career Services Office provides personalized attention to each MPP student. Our individualized services result in tremendously dedicated alumni who help our students with advice and connections. When hiring, they always look to Sanford for great candidates.”

— Donna Dyer, Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development

MPP, NC State University; BA (Public Policy), Duke University

After a successful career in housing and community development, Donna Dyer returned to Sanford and has provided career advising since 1997. Her work experience in government, nonprofit management and public-private partnerships, along with her direct and realistic advising style, generate loyalty among Sanford MPP students and alumni.

Over her 18-year career, she has built a deep understanding of the complicated federal job search process, the government consulting market and the dynamic international development field. She is particularly skilled in helping students find work options to match their skills and passions. She is a certified career advisor.

“The Career Services Office provides personalized attention to each MPP student. Our individualized services result in tremendously dedicated alumni who help our students with advice and connections. When hiring, they always look to Sanford for great candidates.”

— Donna Dyer, Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development

MPP, NC State University; BA (Public Policy), Duke University

After a successful career in housing and community development, Donna Dyer returned to Sanford and has provided career advising since 1997. Her work experience in government, nonprofit management and public-private partnerships, along with her direct and realistic advising style, generate loyalty among Sanford MPP students and alumni.

Over her 18-year career, she has built a deep understanding of the complicated federal job search process, the government consulting market and the dynamic international development field. She is particularly skilled in helping students find work options to match their skills and passions. She is a certified career advisor.

“The Career Services Office provides personalized attention to each MPP student. Our individualized services result in tremendously dedicated alumni who help our students with advice and connections. When hiring, they always look to Sanford for great candidates.”

— Donna Dyer, Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development

MPP, NC State University; BA (Public Policy), Duke University

After a successful career in housing and community development, Donna Dyer returned to Sanford and has provided career advising since 1997. Her work experience in government, nonprofit management and public-private partnerships, along with her direct and realistic advising style, generate loyalty among Sanford MPP students and alumni.

Over her 18-year career, she has built a deep understanding of the complicated federal job search process, the government consulting market and the dynamic international development field. She is particularly skilled in helping students find work options to match their skills and passions. She is a certified career advisor.
**Lead & Innovate on Campus**

**Student Groups**
- Bridging Communities
- Duke Microfinance Leadership Initiative
- Latin American & Caribbean Group
- MPP Student Council & MPP Social Committee
- National Security Club
- Sanford Board Leadership Initiative
- Sanford Journal of Public Policy
- Sanford Women in Policy
- Sanford Energy and Environment Club
- Social Innovation and Policy Initiative

**Bass Connections**
The unique Duke-wide initiative was created to respond to complex challenges via problem-focused project teams and educational pathways.

Students get:
- Sustained mentorship in teams made up of faculty, graduate students and undergraduates
- Inquiry across the disciplines
- Partnership with unlikely fellow thinkers

**CREATE SOLUTIONS**
“We were at Dame’s Chicken and Waffles, where all good ideas start,” remembers Danny Heller MPP’14. PhD student Jen Shen “drew a flowchart that had engineers, business people and policy people, with an arrow pointing to good ideas.” Duke Interdisciplinary Social Innovators was born.

**Our Grads Pursue Diverse Interests**
*MPP First Positions by Topic Area, 2011-2015*

---

sanford.duke.edu
In the Classroom

Our challenging core courses provide a strong foundation in economics, statistics, policy analysis, and the politics of policymaking throughout the domestic and international spheres. Sanford faculty experts develop and teach our core courses. Our two-year, full-time program includes a summer internship.

Students can choose from a diverse array of electives within the Sanford School and in schools and departments at Duke and neighboring universities. Electives give students the flexibility to gain general expertise in multiple policy areas and to specialize in a policy concentration.

Optional Concentrations

Assistant Professor Deondra Rose leads a seminar.

The Master’s Project
A year-long policy research project, conducted with guidance from faculty advisors, is the capstone to the MPP degree. Recent MPs have included:

■ Race and Gender in Policing: Are More Representative Departments More Effective?
■ Integrated Behavioral-Physical Care Management in the Primary Care Setting
■ Strong Leaders for North Carolina Schools: School Principal Preparation Programs
■ Deforestation Impacts of the Forest Stewardship Council Certification in the Peruvian Amazon

Dual Degree Options
Business (MBA-MPP)
Duke’s top-ranked Fuqua School of Business or UNC-Chapel Hill’s Kenan-Flagler Business School

Divinity (MDiv-MPP)
Duke Divinity School

Environment (MEM-MPP)
Duke’s Nicholas School of the Environment

Law (JD-MPP)
Duke Law School, UNC-Chapel Hill Law School or NC Central Law School

Medicine (MD-MPP)
#8-ranked Duke School of Medicine

sanford.duke.edu
In the Field

First-Year Consulting Projects

The projects help MPP students build concrete teamwork skills as well as experience with real-world clients. Students define a problem, frame a policy question, conduct interviews in the field, research policy options, undertake analysis, draw conclusions, and present their recommendations to the client.

Summer Internships

Internships allow MPP students to field-test their analytical skills, make connections for their master’s projects, and explore career paths. Our career services office helps students secure summer internships with employers across the country and internationally, such as:

The World Bank | Deloitte Consulting | Agilent Technologies
USAID | Action Aid, Ghana | UN Environmental Programme
Booz Allen Hamilton Consulting | FBI Counterintelligence Unit
U.S. Senate Finance Committee | World Health Organization

“Despite reading tons about randomized controlled trials and behavioral economics this past year, nothing really prepared me for the field realities in rural India.”

— Nina Brooks MPP’14, Senior Research Analyst, NORC at the University of Chicago. She interned with Professor Pattanayak’s household energy and health research project.

UN Secretary General Bahn Ki-moon shakes hands with Raphael Obonyo MPP’14 during his UN internship. Obonyo is co-founder of Youth Congress, Kenya, and Africa’s representative to the World Bank’s Global Coordination Board on Youth and Anti-Corruption.

“It has been tremendously satisfying to embark on a program evaluation process that I’ve learned about through our statistics classes. This work is perfect for my interests in education, labor, and social policy.”

— Connie Ma MPP’15, Intern, Taiwan Fund for Children and Families

Professor Subhrendu Pattanayak carries a cookstove up a mountain in India.
Influential Faculty

“The Sanford School faculty aren’t just academics. Within a few moments of talking with any of your professors, you realize they are drawing on a vast wealth of actual policymaking experience.”

—Rob Lalka MPP’08, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Village Capital, New Orleans, LA

“Charter schools in N.C. appear to be a way for white students to get out of more racially integrated schools.”

—Professor Helen Ladd, The Washington Post

BRUCE JENTLESON served as a senior advisor to the U.S. State Department, on the National Security Advisory Steering Committee for the Obama 2012 campaign, and as a foreign policy aide to two senators. He was selected for the 2015-16 Henry Kissinger Chair at the Library of Congress Kluge Center.

DAVID SCHANZER directs the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security. He served as staff director for the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security and legal counsel to Senators Joseph Biden Jr. and William Cohen. He also held executive branch positions in the departments of Defense and Justice.

“Foreign policy is going to play into this election in a bank-shot way.” —Professor Bruce Jentleson, The Hill

HELEN LADD, an economist, has won numerous accolades during her career. She was elected to the National Academy of Education, twice named among the “most influential” U.S. education scholars, and won Duke’s Scholar/Teacher Award. She co-chairs the national campaign for a Broader, Bolder Approach to Education.

“The main terrorist threat in the U.S. is not from Muslim extremists, but from right-wing extremists. Just ask the police.”

—Associate Professor of the Practice David Schanzer, The New York Times
Global Reach

Internships

UDAIPUR, INDIA • “If you want to help those in poverty, you need to experience the hardships firsthand,” says Professor Anirudh Krishna. His program, a partnership with the Indian Institute of Management, pairs MPP students with Indian peers for research projects.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND • “Thanks to the reputation that the Duke program has cultivated, we were treated to intimate dialogues with diplomats, ambassadors, and high-ranking officials from prominent NGOs,” said Adrian Evans-Burke MPP’12, Analyst, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC. The unique program combines coursework and internships with unparalleled access to leaders in organizations such as the UN, WHO, and WTO.

KAPCHORWA, UGANDA • Students gain experience through internships.

“I’ve done a lot of things in my life and this internship was by far one of the most amazing experiences I’ve ever had.”
– David Cohen MPP’07, USAID. He worked on land rights disputes with ActionAid International.

sanford.duke.edu
Student Life

Durham, NC: ‘Where Great Things Happen’

Durham, Chapel Hill (home of UNC), and Raleigh, the state capital, are collectively known as North Carolina’s Research Triangle area. With 1.8 million people and three major state universities in addition to Duke, it is home to high-powered scholarship and an entrepreneurial spirit.

- 10 Best Places to Live – US News & World Report
- America’s Foodiest Small Town – Bon Appétit magazine
- Best Places for Businesses and Careers – Forbes
- Ten Most Educated Cities in America – Forbes

“Durham offers big-city activities without the big-city hassle. It’s the best of both worlds—you can be outdoors hiking in nature and then have dinner at a terrific restaurant. The residents here love their city, and our students often don’t want to leave.”

— Pope “Mac” McCorkle, Director, Graduate Studies, MPP

Average sunny days each year

216

‘AMERICA’S FOODIEST SMALL TOWN’
Is Our Program Right for You?

The Sanford School's two-year, professional Master of Public Policy (MPP) program prepares students for careers as analysts, managers and leaders in various levels of business, government, and nonprofit organizations in the United States and around the world.

MPP or MPA? In recent years, the two degree programs have begun to look similar. However, policy analysis is at the heart of the MPP curriculum, which typically includes economics and quantitative courses. MPA coursework at universities across the country often puts greater emphasis on management, public organizations and budgeting. The Sanford School offers the MPP degree. It also offers a Master's in International Development Policy and a PhD in Public Policy.

Scholarships

The Duke MPP program is among the very few that offer a merit-based scholarship to nearly all admitted students. Scholarships range from partial to full tuition, and teaching or research graduate assistantships may also be awarded.

In addition, through agreements with the Duke MPP program, these partners may provide tuition funding for qualified applicants:
- AmeriCorps Educational Program
- Charles B. Rangel Fellowship Program
- City Year Fellowship Program
- Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP)
- Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program (Peace Corps)
- Teach for America Educational Program
- Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program
- Yellow Ribbon Military Veterans Program
- U.S. Military Academy Teaching Position Agreement

Who Can Apply?

Diversity is a core value at Sanford. We seek applicants from diverse academic, professional, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

Factors that influence acceptance:
- Undergraduate academic performance and courses taken
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
- English and writing skills
- Statement of purpose
- Relevant work experience (2+ years preferred after completion of the undergraduate degree)
- Faculty and employer evaluations

Prerequisite coursework: Prior to matriculation, students are required to complete both basic statistics and microeconomics at an accredited academic institution and achieve a grade of B or better.

Seeing is Believing

We strongly encourage prospective students to:
- Visit our campus. Engage with our supportive, close-knit community and explore Duke's beautiful campus. Please complete the Visit Request Form at least two weeks before your projected arrival date: sanford.duke.edu/admissions/mpp
- Attend an in-person or virtual recruiting event. View our schedule online: sanford.duke.edu/admissions/mpp/recruiting
- If admitted, attend our Open House in late March or early April.

Apply Online

All materials, including official GRE and TOEFL scores, must be received by January 5 at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. A completed application includes:
- Electronic Application
  sanford.duke.edu/admissions/master-public-policy/how-apply
- Transcript(s)
  An uploaded unofficial undergraduate transcript with degree posted and other transcripts for all colleges and universities attended.
- Test Scores
  - GRE
  - TOEFL/IELTS (non-native English speakers who are not U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents)
  - GMAT (MPP/MBA applicants only)
  - LSAT (MPP/JD applicants only)
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Statement of Purpose: 1,500-word limit
- Resume: 2-page limit
- Video Essay (Strongly Recommended): 1-minute limit

Deferrals

An admission offer is for the semester specified in the letter of admission. We do not permit deferrals.

Contact us: 919.613.9205 MPPadmit@duke.edu

FAQs? Visit our website

sanford.duke.edu
“This school has always moved with a sense of innovation and a determination not to get boxed into doing things in predictable ways.”

– Terry Sanford