

## **Academic Year 2020-2021 Spring Semester**

### **Greetings Undergraduate Public Administration Students**

Welcome future public service professionals to the Public Administration Program at California State University, San Bernardino!

Your success and progress in the Department of Public Administration (DPA) curriculum depends on both your commitment to learning and to navigating toward successful graduation. This advising letter attempts to ensure a successful educational experience. The following information is relevant to all students, whether you are new or previously enrolled in our program. It is divided into three sections: (1) Current Issues of Note—updated information of special importance, including course specific comments; (2) Useful Student Resources—URL links to information most frequently requested; and (3) General DPA Matters—basic information that supports your success and facilitates the DPA's service to students.

Please read the following carefully to keep yourself on track to your targeted graduation date. Each semester, we regrettably encounter students who fail to follow important procedures timely. The latest version of this document is always posted on the DPA website <http://pa.csusb.edu/> under the “Advising” section.

### **Current Issues of Note**

#### **✓ Division of PA Undergraduate Advising Responsibilities**

CBPA Student Services Center (SSC) JB-134, 909-537-3358

- General questions and information sessions;
- Advising for all “undeclared” concentrations;
- Student level perspective on course loads and registration process;
- Meet with students to review academic “roadmap,” PAWS, course scheduling, and course loads;
- Guide course selections to ensure General Education, concentration, and minor requirements met;
- Support students in addressing personal, financial, and medical difficulties;
- Serve as referral link to University services and resources;
- Provide information about scholarships, awards, research fellowships, exchange programs, and other opportunities;
- Provide information about rules, regulations, and degree requirements; and

-Limited course substitutions by professional advisors under guidelines from the Bulletin or DPA.

**DPA Assigned Faculty Advisor, *as needed***

- Provide guidance & mentor students;
- General guidance in field of study;
- Support students in research, graduate school application, and career counseling;
- Address unusual course substitution issues;
- Explain design of academic program, including concentration and minor, and the desirability of PA as a career field;
- Provide academic information about rules, regulations, and degree requirements; and
- Provide guidance on electives.

✓ **Undergraduate Coordination**

Dr. Sharon Velarde Pierce serves as the Undergraduate Coordinator for AY 2020-2021. She will oversee undergraduate advising and approve course substitutions recommended by DPA advisors. You may reach her at Sharon.pierce@csusb.edu

✓ **Faculty Advising on an As Needed Basis**

In most instances your advising needs will be served by the CBPA SSC. Should you go to a faculty advisor or the DPA Office (JB-456) in error, the faculty advisor or office staff will refer to the SSC.

Please see your assigned faculty advisor as needed. You may see your advisor during scheduled office hours or by appointment through e-mail. Include your student identification number (SID) and use your official CSUSB e-mail. Always bring an updated PAWS Report to your advising session with your thoughts and questions formulated in advance. Be sure to download the pdf version of the PAWS report. This automatically expands all fields. Professionalism requires that you keep your appointments on time and that you notify your advisor as soon as possible if you cannot make a scheduled appointment.

✓ **Tentative Course Schedule**

The DPA posts a tentative course schedule each academic year and revises it periodically. Please visit the DPA website to review this and other important information: <http://pa.csusb.edu/> There are always some changes and the schedule is always a working draft until the first day of classes in a given

semester (fortunately, it is rare for the department to cancel classes). The DPA makes every effort to accommodate those students inconvenienced by schedule changes. It is more difficult to accommodate those who have failed to plan well.

### ✓ **Registration**

AY 2021-2022 registration begins as follows:

April 12	Summer 2021 Registration
May 14 – June 25	Fall 2021 Priority Registration
November 8 - 26	Winter 2022 Registration
November 1 – December 10	Spring 2022 Registration
April 4	Summer 2022 Registration

### ✓ **Graduation Check**

Undergraduate students must file a Graduation Requirement Check (Grad Check) with the Office of the Registrar when they have completed 90 semester units towards their degree. This service is now available online through your MyCoyote Student Center. Please see the current University Bulletin for information regarding this: <http://rre.csusb.edu/evaluations/gradreqcheck.html>

A complete listing of courses for the PA Concentration may be reviewed at the following link: <https://www.csusb.edu/mpa/public-administration/pa-concentration>

## **Useful Student Resources**

CSUSB requires that you familiarize yourself with the content of the CSUSB Bulletin of Courses at: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/>. Major relevant sections of the Bulletin for undergraduates may be located as follows (URL links were active as of January 2021).

Academic Calendar: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/calendar/>

Admissions: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/admission-university/>

CBPA Student Services Center (SSC):  
<http://cbpa.csusb.edu/students/studentServicesCenter/index.html>

Undergraduate Degrees and Programs: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/undergraduate-degreeprograms/>

Public Administration Concentration (B.A. in Administration, Concentration in PA):  
<http://bulletin.csusb.edu/colleges-schools-departments/business-publicadministration/administration-public-concentration-ba/>

Please note that PA Concentrations substitute need to be approved by the Public Administration Undergraduate Coordinator.

Public Administration Minor: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/colleges-schoolsdepartments/business-public-administration/public-administration-minor/>

Public Administration Minor in Nonprofit Management:  
<https://www.csusb.edu/mpa/undergraduate-public-administration/minor-nonprofit-management>

Public Administration Course Descriptions: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/coursesaz/pa/>

Academic Support and Campus Services: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/academic-support/>

Student Life: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/student-life/>

Financial Information: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/financial-information/>

Academic Regulations and Standards: <http://bulletin.csusb.edu/academic-regulations/>

Previous Bulletins: <http://catalog.csusb.edu/>

University Advising and Academic Services:  
<http://undergradstudies.csusb.edu/advising/index.html>

Student Academic Resources Guide:  
<http://undergradstudies.csusb.edu/advising/studentguide4.pdf>

View My PAWS Report Tutorial:  
[http://cms.csusb.edu/ehelpStudent/grades\\_paws/mv/ST\\_View\\_My\\_PAWS\\_062314/ST\\_View\\_My\\_PAWS\\_062314.htm](http://cms.csusb.edu/ehelpStudent/grades_paws/mv/ST_View_My_PAWS_062314/ST_View_My_PAWS_062314.htm)

Computer Skills and Access (Technology Support Center): <https://support.csusb.edu/>

CBPA Business Writing Resource Center, Jack Brown Hall, Room 462, register online for an appointment: <https://csusb.mywconline.com/>

## **General DPA Matters**

The following material relates to general DPA matters to support student success.

### **1. Use your CSUSB E-mail Address and Visit the DPA Website**

Please always use your CSUSB e-mail address, keep your contact information updated, and check your e-mail daily for important communications. CBPA and the DPA sends out urgent student information throughout the year. You will be placed on a listserv and you are expected to check your e-mail regularly. Further, you should periodically check the departmental website for items of interest at <http://pa.csusb.edu/>

### **2. Electronic Communication**

Electronic communications are encouraged for routine matters. The benefits are that you frequently receive a faster response, you have a written record, and you save a trip to campus during office hours.

### **3. Course Enrollment**

Please register as soon as possible for courses, as many of our required courses fill to the maximum capacity quickly. Refer to the Bulletin for instructions about how to add a class for specific instructions:  
<https://www.csusb.edu/academic-scheduling>

### **4. Computer Skills and Access**

Students are expected to have basic computer skills and access. Some classes require some course work to be done online. If your computer has insufficient capabilities or you are experiencing technical difficulties, please use the computer labs provided for you on campus in places such as Jack Brown Hall.

### **5. Plagiarism and Cheating**

The following is quoted directly from the AY 2020-21 Bulletin: "Plagiarism and cheating are violations of the Student Discipline Code (see Appendix) and may be dealt with by both the instructor and the Judicial Affairs Officer. Procedures for addressing cheating and plagiarism are found below. Questions about academic dishonesty and the policy should be addressed to the Office of the Vice President, Student Services.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas and writing of another as one's own. Cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- Copying, in part or in whole, from another's test, software, or other evaluation instrument;
- Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy;
- Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by the department policies of both departments;
- Using or consulting during an examination sources or materials not authorized by the instructor;
- Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions;
- Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate;
- Any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work, which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

Plagiarism is academically dishonest and subjects the offending student to penalties up to and including expulsion. Students must make appropriate acknowledgements of the original source where material written or compiled by another is used.”

University regulations permits instructors to fail students in a class and allows programs to administratively disqualify students from the program of study. The DPA actively discourages plagiarism and investigates it through various means such as <http://www.turnitin.com> If asked to do so, students may be required to provide full source materials for review or an electronic copy of their work or both. Online students may be asked to retake tests in proctored environments at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to do so will be considered positive evidence of misconduct. Please check the following for clarification and examples and to improve your writing generally:

<http://libguides.csusb.edu/plagiarism2?hs=a>  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>  
<http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/selector.htm>  
<http://pa.csusb.edu/additionalResources/documents/PAwritingstyleguide.pdf>

## 6. Prerequisites

Prerequisites are enforced. You need to take responsibility for ensuring you meet them to avoid surprises. They are detailed in the course descriptions in the Bulletin.

## 7. Grades

You must earn a “C” or better in all units to fulfill the requirements of the concentration. Your grade point average is important for scholarship consideration as well as other discretionary determinations. An undergraduate grade point average of 3.0, or better, is also required for most graduate programs. Protect your future career options by maintaining good grades.

## 8. Electives

Electives provide an opportunity to explore student interests. Additionally, they can build an emphasis in a particular area. For example, PA is a highly desirable background for those interested in nonprofit agencies. A student with such an interest may want to use their two electives to take two of the three following classes to bolster their credential in this area: PA 514—Management of Private Nonprofit Organizations, PA 516—Public and Nonprofit Project Management, and PA 568—Accounting for Government and Nonprofit Organizations.

## 9. PA Minor

Any non-PA concentration in the CBPA is stronger with a minor in PA. Many other CSUSB concentrations across campus could benefit from the minor also. If you have a non-PA concentration, consider a minor in PA as early in your program as possible. The minor requires the following:

Requirements for a minor in Public Administration (total of 18 units):

*Upper-division requirements (15)*

Upper-division requirements (15)		
Course	Course Description	
PA 3800	Introduction to Public Administration	(3)
PA 3150	Society, Business, & Global Governance	(3)
PA 4620	Managing Human Resources in the Public Sector	(3)
PA 4630	Governmental Budgeting	(3)
PA 4700	Public Policy and Administration	(3)
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>15</b>

Three units chosen from the following courses: (3)

Three units from the following courses: (3)	
Course	Course Description
PA 3070	Public Relations in the Public Sector
PA 5010	Administrative Leadership
PA 5140	Nonprofit Management and Leadership
PA 5150	Executive Nonprofit Leadership
PA 5170	Nonprofit Fundraising and Grantwriting
PA 5190	Managing Diversity in Organizations
PA 5210	Urban Growth and Planning
PA 5280	Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Networks
PA 5570	Public Sector Labor Relations
PA 5640	Local Public Administration
PA 5730	Public Transportation Systems
	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>18</b>

### 10. PA Minor in Nonprofit Management

Any non-PA concentration in the CBPA is stronger with a minor in PA. Many other CSUSB concentrations across campus could benefit from the minor also. If you have a non-PA concentration, consider a minor in PA as early in your program as possible. The minor requires the following:

Nonprofit Minor	
Courses	Course Description
<a href="#">PA 3150</a> – Society, Business, & Global Governance	(3)
<a href="#">PA 3800</a> – Introduction to Public Administration	(3)
<a href="#">PA 5010</a> – Administrative Leadership	(3)
<a href="#">PA 5140</a> – Nonprofit Management and Leadership	(3)
<a href="#">PA 5170</a> – Nonprofit Fundraising and Grant-writing	(3)
<a href="#">PA 5150</a> – Executive Nonprofit Leadership	(3)
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>18</b>

### 11. Online Undergraduate Course Offerings

The DPA offers some courses online occasionally. Ensure that you know the teaching mode of each class (e.g., face-to-face or online). Online classes provide flexibility in one sense but are often demanding in another. Online classes often



start faster and require more activities in lieu of class time, in addition to tests, papers, group projects, etc. Do not be fooled into thinking online classes are easier. Indeed, sometimes you will find them less forgiving of periods of “inattention.” Below are two websites with student self-appraisal guides for your convenience in evaluating your online readiness. You are encouraged to review each of these before signing up for an online class.

<http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/selfEval.asp>

<http://www.cuesta.edu/student/aboutacad/distance/survey.html>

Fully online classes are media enhanced. They require substantial computing capacity and may require downloading additional software programs.

## **12. Manage Your Education**

Do not stretch yourself too thin. More than “just getting a degree,” your future career success will relate to what you actually have learned. Good grades are evidence of relative learning. They also relate to commitment, quality, discipline, and professionalism—all important values for future employees. Every undergraduate’s situation is different. Many students take 15 units per semester to ensure graduation in four years (based on attending two semesters each academic year). You may lower this per semester load to the extent that you complete some course work through the summer sessions. If you are raising a family and/or working fulltime, please consider pacing yourself differently. Freshman and community college transfers may find it wise to take fewer than 16 units during their first semester to acclimate to the semester system. Additionally, to keep on track, you should check your PAWS report periodically.

## **13. CBPA Student Services Center (SSC)**

The SSC supports students through initial advising for CBPA students, continuing guidance to undeclared majors, and assistance in selecting a concentration. It provides support by coaching and connecting students with internship opportunities. Further, it serves as a professional resource to faculty advisors on detailed elements of student advising and University rules and regulations as needed. The URL for the SSC follows.

<http://cbpa.csusb.edu/students/studentServicesCenter/index.html>

## **14. Internships**

Internships are recommended for students who wish to enhance their résumé with more work experience. They are also a great networking opportunity. Please do not wait until the last moment to seek an internship, since it takes some time to set one up. Because of the range of interests, students are responsible for seeking out internship locations in local city, county, and state governments, federal agencies, water districts, and other appropriate organizations. Students seeking internships should contact Jessica Chavez, Internship Coordinator, in the SSC ([jessicac@csusb.edu](mailto:jessicac@csusb.edu)).

## 15. Career Guidance

If you wish or need career guidance, you are encouraged to seek such advice from multiple sources. Talk with your assigned faculty advisor, other students, and professionals in public and nonprofit agencies. Begin such conversations early in your program. Do not postpone this! In short: (a) decide what you want to do with your degree, (b) ensure that your education is consistent with your career goals, and (c) network on an on-going basis to increase your chances of learning about job opportunities. There is no career magic that occurs at the end of your program. Keep a look out for career fairs; find opportunities to do agency site visits; and attend the local Inland Empire American Society for Public Administration (IEASPA), Public Administration Organization (PAO—student club), and SSC events. The University also has a Career Development Center is located at <http://career.csusb.edu>. It will provide information to you about job fairs. A series of useful tips on job searches, interviewing, resumes, etc. is located at <http://static.monstertrak.com/careerguide/>. The Career Center also provides a résumé critique service free of charge! A useful survey of public administration career and salary information is located at: <http://www.naspaa.org/students/careers/careers.asp> as does the website of the American Society for Public Administration: <http://www.publicservicecareers.org/>

## 16. Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA)

PAA is the Honor Society for Public Administration. The DPA established a local chapter in 2014. It encourages and recognizes outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration. Its objectives, such as fostering integrity, professionalism, and effective performance, promote the advancement of quality in the education and practice of the art and science of public affairs and administration. PAA membership identifies those with the highest performance levels in educational programs preparing them for public service careers. Induction ceremonies take place each year. To be eligible for membership, undergraduate students must have the following:

- Completed 20 units required for the public administration degree
- Possess a 3.5 GPA for all public administration courses
- Possess a 3.0 overall GPA

Are in the last semester of junior  
status

### **17. Public Administration Office (JB 456) Staff Contact Information**

Two staff members are available to assist and refer you to other CBPA and University resources.

Toni Ditty, Administrative Support Coordinator II  
[tditty@csusb.edu](mailto:tditty@csusb.edu) (909) 537-5758, JB 456

Marisol Botello, Administrative Support Assistant  
[Marisol.botello@csusb.edu](mailto:Marisol.botello@csusb.edu), (909) 537-5758

### **Concluding Comments**

Please look for updates on advising issues in the future.

Best wishes for AY 2020-2021!

*Kind regards,*

*Dr. Sharon Velarde Pierce*

*Assistant Professor*

*Public Administration Undergraduate Coordinator*