

Master of Public Administration

Department of Public Administration — Faculty of Economics and Administration
King Abdulaziz University

Part I: Mandatory Courses (18 Credit Hours)

Public Administration Theory (PAD 501)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course covers the theoretical and intellectual frameworks foundational to public administration. It traces the evolution of administrative thought from classical schools to contemporary approaches, analyzing various models of governmental organization within their political and social environments.

Research Methods in Public Administration (PAD 502)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course equips students with methodological skills for conducting scientific research in public administration. Topics include research design, quantitative and qualitative methods, data collection and analysis, and writing research reports according to accepted academic standards.

Human Behavior in Public Organizations (PAD 521)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course examines individual and group behavior within public organizations and its impact on institutional performance. It addresses motivation, leadership, organizational communication, and conflict management, developing students' understanding of human dynamics in public sector workplaces.

Islamic Ethics in Public Administration (PAD 550)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course addresses Islamic values and principles and their application in governmental administration. It explores concepts of trust, justice, consultation, and accountability from an Islamic perspective, linking them to good governance practices and administrative decision-making in public institutions.

Public Budgeting (PAD 582)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course covers theory and practice in governmental budget preparation, management, and oversight. Students study budget cycle phases, types of public budgets, resource allocation methods, financial performance evaluation, and ensuring transparency in public expenditure.

Computer Applications in Public Organizations (PAD 588)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course introduces students to major computing and digital technology applications used in public organizations. It covers management information systems, e-government, and database management, preparing students to leverage technology for improving efficiency in governmental services and operations.

Part II: Elective Courses (9 Credit Hours)

Organizational Theory (PAD 511)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course traces the evolution of organizational thought from classical to postmodern theories. It addresses organizational structure, culture, and decision-making mechanisms, with application to governmental and public sector contexts.

Comparative Politics (PAD 512)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course examines political and administrative systems in various countries using a comparative analytical approach. It focuses on understanding factors influencing public policy formulation and comparing administrative reform and governance experiences internationally.

Administrative Decentralization (PAD 513)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course addresses decentralization concepts, its various forms, and its impact on governmental efficiency. It discusses the distribution of authority among different governmental levels and international experiences in implementing administrative decentralization models.

Administrative Analysis (PAD 515)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course develops students' analytical skills for diagnosing and evaluating administrative and organizational problems. It draws on tools and methods for work-system analysis, re-engineering, and performance measurement to develop effective administrative solutions.

Organizational Development Strategies (PAD 523)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course examines strategies for developing public organizations and managing institutional change. It covers organizational diagnosis, designing development programs, measuring their impact, and emphasizes building institutional capacities and a culture of continuous improvement.

Contemporary Issues in Civil Service (PAD 531)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course discusses major challenges and emerging issues facing civil service in the modern era. It covers governmental reform, public human resource management, employment challenges, and competency development amid digital and economic transformations.

Public Utilities Management (PAD 540)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course covers the management of essential public utilities and services such as water, electricity, transportation, and health. It examines management models, pricing and regulatory policies, and the role of the private sector and partnerships in service development.

Governmental Systems in Saudi Arabia (PAD 544)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course examines the legislative and regulatory structure of the Saudi Arabian government. It reviews systems and regulations governing governmental work, oversight and accountability mechanisms, and administrative reforms within the Vision 2030 framework.

Comparative Systems in Local Administration (PAD 570)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course compares local administration systems in various countries in terms of structure, authority, and the relationship with central government. It evaluates successful local governance experiences and extracts lessons applicable to the Saudi context.

Planning and Development Management (PAD 580)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course covers governmental planning theories, methodologies, and mechanisms linking planning to comprehensive development. It examines the stages of developing plans at national, regional, and local levels, emphasizing performance indicators and sustainable development goals.

Governmental Program Evaluation (PAD 584)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course introduces students to methods and tools for evaluating governmental programs and policies and measuring their impact. It covers evaluation design, evidence collection and analysis, and formulating recommendations to improve governmental performance and inform decision-making.

Public Policy and Decision Making (PAD 586)

Credit Hours	3 Credits
Course Description	This course examines the public policy cycle from problem identification to formulating alternatives, selection, implementation, and evaluation. It addresses political, economic, and social factors influencing governmental decision-making and the roles of various stakeholders.

Part III: Master's Thesis (9 Credit Hours)

Master's Thesis (PAD 699)

Credit Hours	9 Credits
Course Description	The master's thesis is the capstone requirement for the Master of Public Administration degree, carrying nine credit hours. The student conducts original independent research on a topic in public administration under the supervision of a specialized academic advisor. Stages include topic selection, problem formulation, literature review,

methodology design, data collection and analysis, and writing findings and recommendations. The thesis is assessed by a specialized academic committee through a formal defense.