

Example Full-Time 3-Year Degree Path (2024 and beyond)

YEAR 1	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	UAPP 8009 (3) UAPP 8011 (3) Qualitative Methods (3)	UAPP 8014 (3) UAPP 8010 GIS Course or SUAP 8100/POLS 7101 (3)
BENCHMARKS	Choose Faculty Advisor	Pass Spring Qualifying/Comprehensive Exams
YEAR 2	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	UAPP 8012 (3) Theory Course 1 (3) Theory Course 2 (3)	UAPP 8013 (3) Specialization Course 1 (3) Specialization Course 2 (3) UAPP 9001 (1)
BENCHMARKS	Choose Dissertation Committee	Prepare Dissertation Prospectus and Schedule Defense
YEAR 3	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	UAPP 9000 Dissertation Research (varies) UAPP 8200 Directed Research (if needed) or Specialization Course 3 (3)	Dissertation Research (varies) UAPP 8200 Directed Research (3 hours, if needed) or Specialization Course 3 (3)
BENCHMARKS		Prepare Dissertation and Schedule Defense *Note: students who are late- stage candidates can take one credit hour of dissertation each semester until they have amassed 8 total hours. Students can take more hours of UAPP 9000 Dissertation, but only eight is required for the degree.

Example Part-Time Degree Path

YEAR 1	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	UAPP 8009 (3)	UAPP 8014 (3) SUAP 8100 (3) if needed
BENCHMARKS		Select Faculty Advisor
YEAR 2	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	UAPP 8011 (3)	UAPP 8010 (3)
BENCHMARKS		Pass Spring Qualifying/Comprehensive Exams
YEAR 3	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	GIS Course or Qualitative Methods Course	Theory Course 1
BENCHMARKS		
YEAR 4	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	Theory Course 2	Specialization Course 1
BENCHMARKS		
YEAR 5	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	Specialization Course 2	Specialization Course 3 UAPP 9001 (1)
BENCHMARKS	Choose Dissertation Committee	Prepare Dissertation Prospectus and Schedule Defense
YEAR 6	FALL	SPRING
COURSEWORK	UAPP 9000 Dissertation Research (varies) UAPP 8200 Directed Research (if needed)	Dissertation Research (varies) UAPP 8200 Directed Research (3 hours, if needed)
BENCHMARKS		Prepare Dissertation and Schedule Defense *Note: students who are late- stage candidates can take one credit hour of dissertation each semester until they have amassed 8 total hours. Students can take more hours of UAPP 9000 Dissertation, but only eight is required for the degree.

UAPP Course Descriptions

UAPP 8009 Exploration of Policy Theory and Frameworks (3 credits) This course is broadly concerned with public policy theory and research on policy processes in the United States, including democratic theory, multiple streams, and punctuated equilibrium. This course will focus on major policy process theories, explore how policy changes, and examine important empirical contributions to the policy field. The course will examine micro-foundations of policy dynamics through models of individual to organizational decision-making and explore policy agendas, formation of public policies, and the factors influencing change to agendas and policies over time. It will emphasize process approaches to examine policy change rather than substantive issues. However, a focus on policies that impact the urban core, such as housing, education, criminal justice, healthcare, and other social policies, will also be reviewed. This course focuses primarily on American politics but will include select works on comparative policy process perspectives. This is a required core course in the Urban Affairs Ph.D. curriculum.

UAPP 8010 Exploration of Urban Research Theory (3 credits) This is a survey course that provides a critical examination of the theories and theoretical frameworks of the multiple social science disciplines central to the Urban Affairs PhD curriculum. Explores theories relevant to urbanism and urban environments, their structures, the processes of urbanization, urban power and economics, industrial and post-industrial cities, and other urban forces. Covers urban theories ranging from classical to contemporary theoretical perspectives.

UAPP 8011 Methodological Approaches in Urban Affairs Research (3 credits) This course focuses on research design and epistemology used in qualitative and quantitative research. It introduces different types of studies, such as theoretical, explorative, empirical, and experimental research. Emphasis will be placed on 'ways of knowing' in social science, which includes a detailed discussion of ontology and epistemology in the context of urban affairs research. This course also discusses how theories can be developed and how theories lead to testable hypotheses. After theories and hypotheses are derived, the focus shifts to data collection (e.g. surveys, case studies, experiments, interviews, and the selection and use of secondary data). Sampling is crucial to avoid sample selection biases will be discussed. Finally, students will discuss the construction of variables, including latent variables (e.g., social constructs), selecting proxy variables, and using control variables in social science research.

UAPP 8012: Collaborative Urban Problem Solving I (3 credits) Collaborative Urban Problem Solving I is a required course for the Ph.D. in Urban Affairs. It is the first course in a two-course sequence generally completed in the student's second year of study. This course serves as the synthesis mechanism for the Ph.D. program, which is 1) interdisciplinary, 2) geared at preparing researchers to address urban or metropolitan issues, and 3) designed to give students the opportunity to learn through engaging in local research that benefits the greater Memphis community.

UAPP 8013: Collaborative Urban Problem Solving II (3 credits) Second course in a two-course sequence that is generally completed in the student's second year of study. This course serves as the synthesis mechanism for the Urban Affairs and Public Policy Ph.D. program, which is 1)

interdisciplinary, 2) geared at preparing researchers to address urban or metropolitan issues, and 3) designed to give students the opportunity to learn through engaging in local research that benefits the greater Memphis community. Students will work collaboratively (internally and externally) to address a complex community challenge.

UAPP 8014 Seminar in Advanced Quantitative Methods (3 credits) This course shows how to do high-quality data analysis in social science. Students will gain a deep intuition behind the theories of inference underlying most statistical methods. This course will cover statistical methods beyond ordinary least squares, including but not limited to binary logistic regression, multinomial logistic regression, hierarchical linear modeling, time series analysis, structural equation modeling, and Cox-Proportional Hazards modeling in urban affairs research. Students will utilize statistical software (STATA, R) to analyze different datasets throughout the course. This is a required core course in the Urban Affairs Ph.D. curriculum.

UAPP 8200 Directed Readings

UAPP 9000 Dissertation (Variable) The final and central requirement for awarding an Urban Affairs Ph.D. is completing a substantial and original independent research project. The dissertation is individual research that reflects the student's ability to delineate, investigate, and analyze an appropriate topic of inquiry in a professional manner. The successful completion of this requirement is demonstrated through the production of a dissertation document describing the research project and its results and completing a public defense of the project from challenges offered by the members of a student's Dissertation Committee. The quality of the dissertation and defense of its thesis will be evaluated by each student's Dissertation Committee.

UAPP 9001 Dissertation Proposal Development (1 credit workshop) This course is a dissertation research and design workshop for students who have completed their comprehensive exams. This course will take students through the process of developing a dissertation proposal. It will focus on writing a cohesive literature review, defining, and refining theory for testing, developing testable hypotheses, understanding the internal and external validity issues of a student's selected research design, and identifying data or datasets for doctoral students. This is a required course in the UAPP curriculum.