The Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg: PhD Program in Public Administration

The mission of the PhD program in Public Administration at Penn State Harrisburg is to provide advanced graduate education in theory and research in the field to prepare students for academic, research, and advanced professional careers.

The program offers unique features that allow students to customize their programs of study. The program offers a structured specialization in homeland security, including emergency management.

The other specializations are public and nonprofit management, organizations and human resource management, public budgeting and finance, public policy analysis, state and local government administration, criminal justice, and health administration.

Penn State University does not require a specified number of courses or credits to complete a PhD program. Instead, PhD students are required demonstrate their substantive knowledge of their respective fields and their competency in conducting research, in multiple stages: course work, comprehensive examinations, and dissertation.

Although Penn State University does not require that PhD students take a certain minimum number of credits to earn their degrees, students must earn certain numbers of credits in different phases of the PhD program in public administration. A student must first successfully complete the prerequisite courses specified by the program to make up for deficiencies, if any exist. After these are completed, a student must take a minimum of 42 credits: five 3-credit foundation courses, four 3-credit research methods courses, and five 3-credit specialization area courses.

All doctoral students must pass a candidacy examination, a comprehensive written and oral examination, and a final oral examination (the dissertation defense). To earn the PhD degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the doctoral committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

In the first stage of the advancement in the PhD program in public administration, a student must take the following foundational courses:

- PADM 570: Scope and Methods
- PADM 571: Seminar in Organizational Theory
- PADM 572. Research and Theory in Public Budgeting and Finance
- PADM 573: Research and Theory in Public Policy and Governance
- PADM 574: Research and Theory in Public and Nonprofit Management

The following two research methods courses are also required:

- PADM 503: Research Methods
- PADM 575: Advanced Research Design
Then, a student can choose homeland security and emergency management as their specialization area. They may select from the courses available in the graduate programs of the School of Public Affairs and other schools and departments of Penn State. The following are examples of the courses a student can take for the homeland security and emergency management specialization area:

- **PADM/HLS 802**  Multifaceted Approaches to Homeland Security
- **HLS 540**  Comparative Homeland Security and Related Methods
- **PLSC 593**  Tools and Analysis of Terrorism and Counterterrorism
- **HLS 558**  Disaster Psychology
- **IST 564**  Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management
- **PHP 527**  Public Health Evaluation of Disasters and Bioterrorism
- **LEAD 555**  Full Range Leadership Development
- **PSY 532**  Psychological Foundations of Leadership

The Pennsylvania State University is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

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Additional information: PhD program website: [http://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/public-administration/doctor-philosophy-public-administration](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/public-administration/doctor-philosophy-public-administration)

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