



**2014 Academic Program Review
Summary**

**College for Design and Social Inquiry
School of Public Administration**

**Part 1:
Overview**

A. Degree Programs by Level

Bachelor: Bachelor of Public Management
Bachelor of Public Safety Administration

Master: Master of Public Administration
Master of Nonprofit Management

Ph.D.: Ph.D. of Public Administration

B. Mission and Purpose

The mission and purpose of the School of Public Administration is to provide intellectual, analytical, technical, and practical education to advance the state of knowledge in public administration and to enhance ethical and other public service values within our service region. SPA's mission is linked to the State University System mission and goals that seek to provide undergraduate, graduate and professional education, research, and public service of the highest quality through a coordinated system of institutions of higher learning. The Missions of the Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.D. programs in SPA are identified in the SSR and are linked to the missions of FAU.

C. Major changes since the last program review

- SPA offered a new Bachelor of Public Safety Administration program in Fall 2012. After only two years, this program has 106 students taking courses in fall 2014.
- In 2007, SPA offered two online Certificates of Public Procurement Programs, one undergraduate and one graduate, to meet the need of government in the field of government contracting. Each program offers five new courses in public procurement.
- In fall 2012, in order to increase the quality of our nationally ranked and accredited MPA program, we raised our admission standards by raising GPA from 3.00 to 3.2.

- Our MPA program was re-accredited for a 7-year period, starting fall 2014 to summer 2021.
- Our total enrollments experienced an unprecedented growth in the last 5 years.

Part 2: Findings

A. Strengths

SPA and its public administration programs are attempting to serve a wide array of purposes and students with five distinct degree programs. The PRT admires the energy and enthusiasm the faculty and staff bring to SPA and its students.

B. Weaknesses

SPA does not have a clear guiding mission and strategic focus. Having a clear focus is than ever before because of the unsettled future directions of FAU. FAU is undergoing significant leadership changes at a time when there also is an emerging strong statewide emphasis on undergraduate student retention and graduation, and the sudden formation of a statewide system of state colleges. The “place” of SPA and its programs are unclear to many in administration at FAU. The overall need for additional resources in SPA makes a clear mission and a strategic focus imperative. We are concerned about the likelihood of faculty burn-out if it continues attempting to provide “everything for everyone.”

C. Recommendations

Summarized below is the Review Committee recommendations, the School of Public Administration’s action plans, and the Dean’s support for each recommendation. Those requiring no additional funding will be implemented by the School of Public Administration; those requiring funding will be prioritized with other College needs and presented as part of the College’s budget request in the future.

Four recommendations were made and they are listed without priority order; please note that the recommendation number as listed by the Review Committee is retained.

Recommendation 1: Increase Resources and Sharpen SPA Mission and Strategic Focus

- Add 5 faculty members for PA programs
- Add 3 faculty members for the NMN program
- Sharpen its mission and strategic focus
- Reduce the number of degree programs offered by SPA from five to three (a) by merging the MNM program into the MPA program as strong, vibrant concentration; and (b) by negotiating the relocation of the Bachelor of Public Safety program.

Recommendation 2: Ph.D. Program

- Slowly but steadily reduce the number of students in the Ph.D. program
- Raise stipends to at least \$18,000 for 9 months (with tuition waiver)

Recommendation 3: MPA Program

- The MPA Program should carefully plan enrollment reduction
- The MPA Program should consider accelerated master's degree programs
- The MPA Program should create joint degree programs, such as MPA/MSW, MPA/MPH, MPA/JD

Recommendation 4: Bachelor of Public Management

- SPA needs more faculty involvement in the BPM Program
- SPA should more closely align the BPM program with the graduate programs in SPA
- SPA should consider eliminating "public management" in favor of a degree program such as "civic engagement"

3. Recommendation 5: MNM Program

- SPA and the MNM Program should establish joint degree programs with graduate and undergraduate programs in SPA, FAU and in the state colleges
- MNM program curriculum should be revised to have more nonprofit management focus
- MNM program should alter the mission and strategic focus of the MNM program from entry into management of a nonprofit organization toward community leadership through nonprofit,
- MNM program should include cultural competencies and creating a culture of inclusiveness in the MNM curriculum and course syllabi
- MNM program should Consider Adding a Required Capstone Seminar to Conclude the MNM Program