Accelerated MPA, MSES, MPA/MSES Programs

Description
The Accelerated Master’s Program (AMP) is intended for exceptional students from among SPEA's top undergraduate majors. Students may apply to the Master of Public Affairs (MPA), the Master of Science in Environmental Science (MSES), or the dual MPA/MSES program early in their junior year. Selection for the Program enables the accelerated student to fulfill first-year master's degree program requirements during their senior year. This is accomplished by the replacement of undergraduate degree requirements with graduate course credits from the first year of the AMP's degree program.

To be considered, a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5*, and meet specific degree requirements as part of their undergraduate program. It is requisite that all undergraduate students interested in SPEA’s accelerated programs consult an advisor in the Undergraduate Program Office (UPO).

* BSES students applying for the Accelerated MSES program must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

Structure

First Year:
24 credit hours of graduate coursework comprised of primarily core and required concentration courses as part of the AMP's master's degree program (MPA, MSES or MPA/MSES). The credit hours from the first year of graduate study will, then, be substituted into the AMP's student record in order to complete and meet undergraduate degree requirements.

Summer:
Options range from: Internship; Overseas Education Program; Research or Field Experience; and/or VISTA Fellows.

Second Year:
Up to 24 credit hours of graduate coursework to complete concentration(s) and the Capstone requirement in order to meet 48-credit hour requirement for MPA or MSES. AMPs who are part of the dual MPA/MSES will have one additional summer to apply classroom training via the options above and one remaining semester to complete master's coursework to meet the 60-credit hour requirement.

Application Checklist Deadline: March 1

☐ Application form http://go.iu.edu/JcY
  o $55 application fee must be submitted before the application will be processed.

☐ Departmental Questions (https://spea.indiana.edu//masters/specform/dept_questions.html)
  o Upon submission, the Departmental Questions will be automatically emailed to our office.
  o Under Section II, Educational Objectives, please indicate that you are applying for the Accelerated program.

☐ 3 Letters of Recommendation — preferably from faculty members
  o If you are a SPEA Honors student you only need to submit one letter of recommendation. In the online application, please list “Amy Bastin” as an offline recommender two times in addition to your designated recommender.

☐ Resumé – may be submitted directly to SPEA 260, or emailed to: speaapps@indiana.edu; Subject Line: Application Resume.

☐ Transcript – our Admissions Assistant will look up your Indiana University transcripts on your behalf. If you have attended any other university, please submit official copies of these transcripts.

☐ Interview – all Accelerated applicants will have a personal interview with SPEA’s Director of Graduate Student Services. Please contact the Masters Program Office (MPO) at 812.855.2840 or speampo@indiana.edu to schedule an interview after your application has been received.
Funding

- **Year 1:** Accelerated students are eligible for undergraduate funding options during the first year of the program; therefore, they are not eligible to be considered for merit-based funding at the graduate level. First-year AMPs may apply for hourly teaching assistantships/graduate assistantships (TA/GA). For additional undergraduate funding opportunities, students should consult with the UPO.

- **Year 2:** AMPs are encouraged to apply for any merit aid opportunities made available to SPEA masters students. AMPs will not be considered for merit based awards in the same pool with incoming first year students.

For AMP Eligibility:
Undergraduate Program Office  
SPEA Suite 240  
812.855.0635  
speugrd@indiana.edu

For AMP Information:
Masters Program Office  
SPEA Suite 260  
812.855.2840  
speainfo@indiana.edu

Polly Fairfield  
MPA 2015  
AmeriCorps VISTA; Common Good City Farm, Washington, D.C.

I came to IU as an undergraduate specifically for SPEA — I was drawn by the combination of environment, management, and policy. The accelerated program fits my goals perfectly. I was able to start pursuing a master’s degree after just three years of undergraduate work, and now I am pursuing another opportunity through SPEA as a VISTA Fellow. This AmeriCorps program allows me to gain work experience and perspective before I return to finish my master’s degree. The accelerated program offers an amazing opportunity to earn two degrees, and with the year of practice experience, the program will help me become a professional who will be prepared to lead and make a difference.