

***The mission of the Department of Public Affairs is to build the capacity of public service leaders and executives, and the organizations they serve, through exceptional education, research, and service to the community. We prepare entrepreneurial and innovative leaders for success in nonprofit and governmental organizations.***

Teaching is central to our purpose. The public administration education is substantive, integrative and practical, offering a curriculum that brings the perspectives of multiple disciplines to bear on the complex challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century organizations and communities. Learning experiences are practice-focused, preparing students to lead and manage diverse and complex organizations, engage in disciplined analytical and critical thinking, and engage in entrepreneurial and innovative action. PA programming is globally relevant and locally applicable, and our graduates understand the value of diversity and inclusion and are capable of leading and managing in ethical, effective, culturally competent ways.

We offer education and professional development learning experiences that are designed to meet the needs of:

- Pre-service and early-career nonprofit and public service professionals,
- In-service or mid-career nonprofit and public service professionals,
- Mid-career executives and managers, and
- Advanced-career executives and managers.

The department also provides programming for a small cadre of professionals who aspire to faculty and executive leadership roles in academic institutions.

Research is equally central to the mission of the department, and high quality scholarship is critical to our success. Bloch PA research is unique for its dual focus on quality scholarship and relevance. The best of our research enhances the potential for public service leaders to more fully understand how to be entrepreneurial, innovative, and effective in their work. We are an urban public university, and our research agenda is directly relevant to the needs and challenges of the urban community. Bloch PA research is designed to provide unique insights into innovative and entrepreneurial ways to address and resolve the most complex and “wicked” urban challenges and issues.

The third element of the department’s mission, that of service, also is central to our vision of the department’s future. For public affairs, service means active and substantive engagement in the work of the people and organizations of our urban community. Our department understands service as a collaborative form of engagement with community leaders, and well-developed internships and service learning initiatives provide excellent vehicles for linking the teaching and service elements of our mission.