



AMELIA

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ABOUT MY MAJOR

Public Administration is both leading and serving communities. For the good of everybody and to facilitate positive change, it is broad but involves the local, state, and federal branches of the government. It's very political, which I would say it doesn't always have to be. I think everybody within Public Administration can take the route of wanting to do something with politics or they could decide to take more of a service approach which is apolitical. You may be dealing with politics and learning about politics, but that doesn't necessarily mean that you are declaring your opinions and arguing with people. It's not the messy politics that people may imagine.

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I attended Majors in Minutes and spoke with the two seniors from Public Administration and really liked them. They were both planning to do different things after graduation, which interested me because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do as a career. I like that there were so many different paths that I could take down the road. I looked at the major classes and the opportunities within the major, such as the required internship and the minors and certificates that pair nicely with Public Administration. Although I wasn't sure what job I wanted to have, the careers that were commonly associated with Public Administration were all jobs that I thought I could see myself in.

MINORS & CERTIFICATES

A lot of minors pair well with Public Administration, like International Affairs, Legal Studies, and Political Science. I'm minoring in International Affairs and Political Science. Public Administration is flexible and pairs easily with other majors and minors. Many students double major in Political Science, Criminology, Sociology, or Geography. This allows people to combine their interests and dig into what they want to learn more about.

HELPFUL SKILLS AND ADVICE

Some important skills to have with this major are the ability to talk and connect with different people, working in teams, and public speaking– which isn't my favorite to do! Critical thinking skills are important because you are presented with ideas that might be different than your personal ideas, and it's important to know how to respond to this.

I recommend talking to a Public Administration major directly or reaching out to a faculty member, especially Dr. Peters, the department head. My second piece of advice is to connect with somebody who is interested in similar things as you because the Public Administration field is so diverse. Connecting with others can help you navigate what you might want to do in the future.

CAREERS

I'm looking for jobs in state and federal government or with nonprofits that assist refugees or migrants with the resettlement process, which includes access to the workforce, housing, healthcare, and education. There are broader fields within Public Administration that people typically tend to gravitate towards– immigration, environment and sustainability, healthcare, public health, mental health, elder care and aging populations, and child welfare are some of the popular areas. Within those areas, you can focus on topics like rent, writing programs, managing policy, writing policies for organizations, lobbying, grant writing, policy development, and budget analysis.