

EXECUTIVE MPA (MPA)

Executive MPA (MPA) Website (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/education/degrees/executive-mpa/>)

NYSED: 84546 HEGIS: 2102.00 CIP: 44.0401

Program Description

As a driven, experienced professional, you're always seeking new opportunities to grow. You want to expand your skills, build valuable connections, and leverage your leadership experience to create greater impact. Our Executive MPA (EMPA) program is designed to merge your expertise with a targeted, practical education—advancing your career while empowering you to drive social change at a higher level.

Program graduates lead initiatives that enhance public service, shape policy, and drive organizational success. They excel in senior leadership roles across government, nonprofit, and global sectors, making decisions that have a lasting impact on communities. Here are some of the impactful roles that Executive MPA graduates step into as they advance their careers: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Senior Director of Development, VP of Customer Experience, VP for Program Strategy

Program Highlights

- **Flexible and Customizable Curriculum.** Students work with their advisors to develop a customized curriculum that aligns with their personal and professional goals. Approximately 70% of the program consists of elective courses, allowing students to focus on specific topics or skill sets. Students can complete the program in one year as full-time students, or take longer as needed if studying part-time.
- **Cohort-Based Program.** You'll move through the program alongside a group of peers, building strong professional relationships and a support network that lasts well beyond graduation. Additionally, the program offers access to an extensive alumni network and an exclusive LinkedIn group, providing valuable connections and resources to help you advance your career and expand your impact.
- **Strong Network of NYU Alumni.** As an Executive MPA (EMPA) student, you'll gain access to a powerful network of NYU alumni. Wagner's alumni network, combined with the broader NYU community, spans across New York and the globe, offering invaluable connections in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors.
- **One-On-One Leadership Coaching.** Personalized coaching and leadership development are key components of the year-one EMPA experience. We empower students through executive coaching, targeted leadership development courses, and a co-curricular series that includes skill-building workshops and insights from accomplished leaders in the field.

Program Tracks

Public Service Leaders

EMPA students learn to lead organizations and address public service challenges at the highest level in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors.

Global Public Service Leaders

EMPA students interested in international development policy and management can focus their curriculum on leading organizations in a global context.

Admissions

Our streamlined application process allows you to highlight your professional experience and leadership potential. Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in management and leadership and at least seven years of full-time work experience, ideally with supervisory duties. We seek individuals who have a passion for leadership and a proven ability to inspire and drive meaningful change. Applicants must submit:

- **Two essays** to introduce yourself and to inform the admissions committee about your goals, background, and career plans as they relate to your intended academic pursuits.
- **Transcripts** from all colleges or universities attended in which you earned grades and/or academic credits at the post-secondary level, including undergraduate, transfer credits, continuing education, etc.
- **An up-to-date resume** that includes your education and employment history.
- **Two letters of recommendation**, from academic or professional sources.
- **An application fee** of \$85.

Refer to the EMPA Application Checklist (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/admissions/degree-checklist/empa/>) for admission requirements and instructions specific to this program.

International Applicants should review the International Applicant Checklist (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/admissions/degree-checklist/international/>) for a complete and comprehensive list of application requirements and instructions.

Dual-Degree Option

With NYU's Silver School of Social Work, NYU Wagner offers a dual-degree EMPA-MSW program (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/education/degrees/dual-degree-program/empa-msw/>). This program helps seasoned professionals become strategic leaders by complementing a rigorous course of study in social work with additional expertise in management, finance, and policy. This multi-disciplinary approach means you'll walk away with the tools to take your compassion and amplify it through strong, sustainable organizations and relevant, life-changing programs. Please note that entry to this program requires separate application (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/admissions/degree-checklist/dual/>) and admission to each participating school.

Program Requirements

The program requires the completion of 30 credits, and students must choose one of the following tracks:

Public Service Leaders

Course	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
EXEC-GP 3190	EMPA Seminar: Leadership Confronted	3
EXEC-GP 2141	Financial Decision Making and Management	3
EXEC-GP 1194	Strategic Leadership	3
Electives		
Select 21 credits of electives ¹		21
Total Credits		30

¹ Students choose electives from a wide array of courses at Wagner (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/education/degrees/executive-mpa/public->

service-leaders/electives/), and may also propose coursework in other divisions of NYU (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/portal/students/academics/courses/across-nyu/>).

Global Public Service Leaders

Course	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
EXEC-GP 3190	EMPA Seminar: Leadership Confronted	3
EXEC-GP 2201	Institutions, Governance, and Public Sector Reform	3
EXEC-GP 1194	Strategic Leadership	3
Experiential Learning ¹		
Select one of the following:		3
Public Service Practicum		
Approved graduate-level NYU course abroad		
Electives		
Select 18 credits of electives ²		18
Total Credits		30

¹ Students will engage in a unique opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in a global context as part of the Global Public Service Leaders cohort. Students will choose between participating in either a Public Service Practicum with a client organization or an approved, graduate-level NYU course abroad.

² Students choose electives from a wide array of courses at Wagner (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/education/degrees/executive-mpa/public-service-leaders/electives/>), and may also propose coursework in other divisions of NYU (<https://wagner.nyu.edu/portal/students/academics/courses/across-nyu/>).

Sample Plan of Study
Public Service Leaders

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
EXEC-GP 3190	EMPA Seminar: Leadership Confronted	3
EXEC-GP 2141	Financial Decision Making and Management	3
Electives		6
Credits		12
2nd Semester/Term		
Elective		3
Credits		3
3rd Semester/Term		
EXEC-GP 1194	Strategic Leadership	3
Electives		9
Credits		12
4th Semester/Term		
Elective		3
Credits		3
Total Credits		30

Part-Time

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
EXEC-GP 3190	EMPA Seminar: Leadership Confronted	3
EXEC-GP 2141	Financial Decision Making and Management	3
Credits		6

2nd Semester/Term		
EXEC-GP 1194	Strategic Leadership	3
Elective		3
Credits		6
3rd Semester/Term		
Elective		3
Credits		3
4th Semester/Term		
Electives		6
Credits		6
5th Semester/Term		
Electives		6
Credits		6
6th Semester/Term		
Elective		3
Credits		3
Total Credits		30

Global Public Service Leaders

Course	Title	Credits
Full-Time		
1st Semester/Term		
EXEC-GP 3190	EMPA Seminar: Leadership Confronted	3
EXEC-GP 2201	Institutions, Governance, and Public Sector Reform	3
Electives		6
Credits		12
2nd Semester/Term		
Elective		3
Credits		3
3rd Semester/Term		
EXEC-GP 1194	Strategic Leadership	3
Electives		9
Credits		12
4th Semester/Term		
INDEP-GP 1900	Independent Reading ¹	3
Credits		3
Total Credits		30

¹ Or an approved, graduate-level NYU course abroad.

Part-Time

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
EXEC-GP 3190	EMPA Seminar: Leadership Confronted	3
EXEC-GP 2201	Institutions, Governance, and Public Sector Reform	3
Credits		6
2nd Semester/Term		
EXEC-GP 1194	Strategic Leadership	3
Elective		3
Credits		6
3rd Semester/Term		
Elective		3
Credits		3
4th Semester/Term		
Electives		6
Credits		6
5th Semester/Term		
Electives		6
Credits		6

6th Semester/Term		
INDEP-GP 1900	Independent Reading ¹	3
Credits		3
Total Credits		30

¹ Or an approved, graduate-level NYU course abroad.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Embrace a shared leadership model/style.
2. Utilize an adaptive leadership model that consists of changing attitudes, taking risks, and challenging the status quo in order to move communities forward.
3. Conduct a multi-faceted organizational diagnostic and data-driven analysis.
4. Develop organizational change strategies that are designed to clarify and crystallize the relationships of the activities of nonprofits and the societal impact they desire to achieve.
5. Integrate financial analysis into financial forecasting and analysis, decision-making, strategic planning, risk analysis, and program evaluation.
6. Provide leadership support to peers.
7. Promote leadership behavior.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

Wagner Policies

Additional academic policies can be found on the Wagner academic policy page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/public-service/academic-policies/>).