Cornell University’s Executive Master of Public Administration program focuses on the skills and theories that mid-career public affairs and public service professionals need to succeed in leadership roles in their organizations and the field as a whole.

As a culminating experience, each student will undertake a capstone project where you will apply your newly-learned management skills to a project deemed to be a strategic priority by your current employer. Throughout the program, Executives-in-Residence will provide you with general guidance and mentorship and will serve as a valuable resource for your capstone project.

EMPA students develop competencies in five broad areas: communication skills; research and analytical problem-solving skills; institutional knowledge and organizational financial management; values; and specialized policy expertise.

Your Executive MPA from Cornell University will prepare you to:

- Communicate powerfully and manage effectively at the intersections of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- Improve policy and lead change in the face of complex problems that affect the lives and well-being of people in your community and around the world.
- Bring the credibility, strategic mindset, and analytical skills to your work in your organization as well as with its partners, to have a consequential impact on seemingly intractable challenges.
- Apply research and data to real-world problems and policy, translate research into practice, and conduct data-driven evaluation of the results and effectiveness of programs and policies.

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COURSES and OVERVIEW

Cornell’s Executive MPA consists of 22 five-week, online core courses and 4 online electives. The degree includes three 1-week residential sessions in Ithaca, New York and a substantial capstone project, which unfolds over the duration of the program and culminates in a final presentation. The entire program (online courses + on-campus intensive sessions + capstone project) comprises 36 credits. Students should expect to spend an average of 18-20 hours per week on their studies.

ONLINE CORE COURSES
- Public Administration
- Managerial Statistics
- International Public and NGO Management
- Nonprofit Finance and Management
- Special Topics in Public Affairs 1
- Special Topics in Public Affairs 2
- Microeconomics for Management and Policy
- Effective Writing for Public Affairs
- Public Finance and Budgeting
- Leveraging Information Technology for Public and Nonprofit Management
- Systems Thinking and Modeling for Public Affairs
- Translation of Research into Policy and Practice
- Legal Aspects of Public Agency Decision Making
- Corporate Responsibility
- Fundraising, Grantmaking, and Lobbying
- Strategic Stakeholder Engagement
- Leadership in Public Affairs
- Negotiation Skills
- Project Management
- Market Regulation and Public Policy
- Program Evaluation

ON-CAMPUS COURSES
Students will make three 1-week visits to Cornell’s campus, where they will meet their classmates and professors in person. These residencies include intensive courses in:

Year 1 – Summer Residency Week
- Microeconomics for Managers, Part 2
- Nonprofit Finance and Management, Part 2
- International Public and NGO Management, Part 2

Year 2 – Summer Residency Week
- Vulnerability and Resilience Planning
- Politics of the Policymaking Process
- Public-Private Partnerships

Year 2 – December Residency Week
- Project Management
- Capstone Project Presentations

CONCENTRATION ELECTIVE COURSES
Tailor your program by choosing from 2 concentrations:
- Public and Nonprofit Management, with elective courses in managing technology, managing personnel, decision analytics, and leadership and strategy
- International Policy, with elective courses in frontiers of international policy, human rights, international management, and leadership and strategy

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MEET the FACULTY

Rebecca Brenner
Lecturer, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs

R. Richard Geddes
Professor of Policy Analysis and Management, Director, Cornell Program in Infrastructure Policy

John Mathiason
Lecturer, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs

Derek Cabrera
Lecturer, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs

Joe Grasso
Lecturer, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs; Associate Dean for Finance, Administration, and Corporate Relations, School of Industrial and Labor Relations

Laurie Miller
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Daniel Manne
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Professor of Practice, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs and Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management

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