

XAVIER UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR

Education in the spirit of "Magis"

(www.xub.edu.in)

SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

(www.sgpa.edu.in)

MASTER IN PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

(with concentration in Business)

Your passport to leadership in the global field of public action

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why should I choose to do a Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) course?

An MPPG demystifies the esoteric world of government policy – its making, implementation and evaluation, among others. It makes the student comfortable with the world of politics, government and the public sector. The course exposes students to the minds of policy makers and helps them understand the communities for which policy is made. Approaching public policy from the lenses of economics, politics, sociology, development science and data sciences is an exciting, challenging, invigorating opportunity. Some of the world's most prestigious higher educational institutions are ones that teach public policy and the study is, both, highly valued and coveted.

2. Why should I choose to do an MPPG at Xavier University, Bhubaneswar?

Xavier University, Bhubaneswar – www.xub.edu.in - is a prestigious Jesuit institution of higher education. Established in

2013 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Xavier University now has 12 Schools in its fold and 1800 students in its offering of courses. The University has grown around the highly successful business school, Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar (XIMB), which was established in 1987 and is consistently ranked among India's Top 20 business schools in several surveys. The School of Governance and Public Affairs is Xavier University's 11th school, established to deliver the MPPG, which is its flagship course. The School will not just deliver the course; it will also be a hub for research and scholarship on public policy. Our vision is to make the School a global center of excellence in public policy studies, with close relationship with internationally recognized faculty and schools. You would have made an exceptionally wise choice in choosing to do the MPP at Xavier University, Bhubaneswar.

3. What is meant by 'with concentration in Business' for the MPP course? How is the course different from an MBA?

As stated earlier Xavier University's origins lie in one of India's most highly rated business schools, the Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar. Over the past three decades and more we have taught business with passion, for the service of humankind. Some of Xavier University, Bhubaneswar's best known schools today carry the legacy of XIMB, like the School of Human Resource Management, School of Economics, School of Rural Management and School of Commerce. (Please visit our university website for more information on our Schools). In the course of our teaching and research in business we have found many unique linkages between business and other sectors in society, be it urban and rural communities, research institutions, academic bodies or, of course, government. Our MPP course, therefore, explores the linkages between public policy and business operations. Through core courses like „Introduction to Government, Business and Society“, „Business and Public Policy“ and „Negotiation and Communication“ and elective offerings like „International Business and Government“ and „Business and Government Policy“, we bring a strong business focus to our MPPG, utilizing our three decade long experience in teaching business. We will explore in depth the impact of business on public policy and vice-versa.

Our MPPG and MBA course, however, are very different from each other. Public policy studies the process, implementation and outcomes of government policy, which impacts many areas of our life deeply. MBA studies are related to the operations of business in various domains: Marketing, Finance, Human Resources, and Operations Management. The two courses train students differently, for different roles in life.

4. Who should take the MPPG course?

Students and professionals with a deep interest in public policy area should take this course to attain an understanding of this complex subject and the activities it entails. The course will be attractive to professionals already working in organizations whose work entails substantial public engagement, like the bureaucracy, non-profits, rural development organizations, policy research bodies, academic institutions, international development organizations and corporations that need to engage with communities on the one hand and with the government on the other. Students who would seek to work in the public affairs domain in any of these organization types will benefit from the course.

We will develop young leadership, those who want to build their leadership skills and be the leaders of tomorrow that the country and the global world are looking for, through this program. There will be many opportunities to enhance learning and leading experiences by interaction with experts and practitioners.

5. What are the job and career opportunities on completing this course?

Students of public policy are sought after in governments, NGOs, journalism, corporations and academia. As societies transform under the impact of increasing literacy, the internet and awareness, governments too are changing as are their policies. Organizations need professionals who can interpret and influence such policies.

Roles in Government Relations, External Relations, Corporate Affairs, Corporate Social Responsibility, Resource Mobilization and Project Management usually prefer MPP graduates. These could be in the for-profit and non-profit sectors.

6. Is it mandatory to have an academic background in Engineering/Economics/Statistics to join the MPPG course in Xavier University, Bhubaneswar?

No, it is not mandatory. Our website says a "Graduate in any discipline from a recognized University/Institute with 55% marks in aggregate" is eligible to apply and "basic exposure to Economics/Mathematics/Statistics/Engineering" is recommended. Since our MPPG teaching will emphasize research methodologies and empirical study of public policy, the recommendation has been made. Most students with basic exposure to Class XII level Mathematics/Statistics will find it easy to navigate the course.

7. What about work experience? Is that, too, mandatory?

The answer, again, is no! Our application eligibility norm states that "candidates with demonstrated leadership skills in previous work/assignments shall be preferred". The study of public policy trains our students for leadership roles in public facing work. We, therefore, will give preference to students with previous leadership experience. That does not mean an organizational role or title only. It could be experience in social, community settings in which you might have made a difference and can describe it to us. The MPPG course requires students with maturity, gravitas, and a high degree of self-motivation. We believe that leadership and work experience build these in an individual.

8. How is the MPPG in Xavier University, Bhubaneswar structured?

Our Master's in Public Policy and Governance course is a full-time two year four-semester course. The first year will have nearly 18 Core Courses focusing on public policy processes, understanding of business, quantitative methods, negotiation and communication,

economic analysis, public finance and public leadership. In the second year there are electives, capstone projects, case studies.

9. Is the selection to the course entirely on the basis of the Statement of Purpose (SOP) that a candidate is required to submit?

Not entirely, but significantly so. We will also have interviews with candidates who are screened on the basis of their SOP. The 500 words you write on your leadership aspirations and the role of the MPPG program in realizing them will be evaluated rigorously by the University and candidates screened on the basis of that document for the interview round.

10. Do we have to travel to Bhubaneswar for the interview?

We intend to conduct most of our interviews digitally, over Skype/Zoom.

HAVE ANOTHER QUERY? WE ARE THERE TO PROVIDE ANSWERS. PLEASE MAIL YOUR QUESTION TO deansgpa_office@xub.edu.in AND WE WILL RESPOND QUICKLY