Programs in the Field of
Public Sector and Social Services
The Path for Public Good

In this sector, each program is a passion project – a commitment to community advocacy and a better future for us all. Whether you’re an experienced professional or just entering the field, we can help you find a degree or certificate to match your goals.

To create these programs, we worked closely with city and county agencies to identify the most useful and professionally attractive skills for the sector. In each course, faculty use real-world experience to introduce concepts and methods you can apply immediately. With case studies, close industry partnerships, and powerful peer networks, an education with us is a singular opportunity.

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Whatever your ambition, our programs can prepare you for an enriching career in public service. Explore our options – from short-term leadership certificates to industry focused graduate degrees – and build the future you want.

Start your new path.
Job Outlook

When choosing a program, it’s important to know the outcomes of previous students. Whether they went on to successful careers or what jobs they began after graduation – this data can help you plan your future and decide which program is right for you.

**Public Administration:**
CSUN ranks 3rd as a talent provider for occupations like Social and Community Service Managers, Chief Executives, General and Operations Managers, Legislators. Administrative Services Managers, and Managers, all other in Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Anaheim.

**Social Services:**
Where Our Alumni Are Today

3,055
Number of master’s-level alumni in the sector

86%
of MPA alumni are employed full-time nationwide
(Source: NASPAA Data Center)

Top job titles:
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers
- Chief Executives
- Social and Human Service Assistants
- Public Relations and Fundraising Managers
- Social and Community Service Managers
- Management Analysts
- General and Operations Managers

Since 1985, more than 2,000 graduates have earned their MPA degrees at CSUN.

Companies they work for:
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
- Los Angeles County FCA
- Kaiser Permanente
- County of Ventura

Companies hiring:
- Anthem Inc.
- Northrop Grumman Corporation
- Deloitte LLP
- Edwards Lifesciences Corporation
- University of California
- Raytheon Company
- Easter Seals, Inc.

PUBLIC SECTOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES
LEARN MORE
OTHER FIELDS
Features to help you advance in your career.

Get ongoing, personal support.
From day one, you'll receive the support of a personal program team. These specialists, in addition to being good listeners, can help you with all administrative matters, freeing you to focus on your course work and your career.

Learn with a community – from start to finish.
When you start a new program, you'll join a learning community of students and faculty. With this group of professionals and industry experts, you'll move toward graduation, building a network along the way and setting the stage for advancement in your field.

Professional programs from a university you can trust.
All of our programs are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and many possess field-specific accreditations as well. On professional and licensure exams, our students regularly score as high as or higher than their on-campus counterparts – and, in many fields, we lead the nation in pass rates.

Receive guaranteed tuition.
When you enter one of our programs, you pay the same price from start to finish. No changes, no increases – just the amount you agreed to at the start. By ensuring a fixed price, we give you the peace of mind to continue your studies without changes or disruptions.

Take courses designed and taught by industry experts.
Before a program begins, our professors spend four to six months working with a credentialed instructional designer. During that time, the team works to integrate the instructor's personal teaching style and expertise into every lecture, assignment and learning module.

Learn your field from anywhere, at any time.
Interested in career advancement, but prefer to learn virtually? On our convenient online platform, you can earn your professional experience and credentials without ever leaving the comfort and safety of home. Our online courses feature real-time class sessions, on-demand access to learning materials, and frequent networking opportunities with your peers. Learn more about CSUN’s Approach to Online Programs.
Master’s Degrees

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
CSUN is one of the nation’s leading providers of MPA degrees. This program is designed for professionals employed in all areas of the public sector who wish to improve their management skills and knowledge. The program is offered online, on campus, and at various Southern California locations. CSUN’s MPA options:

• Public Sector Management and Leadership
• Health Administration
• Nonprofit Sector Management

SOCIAL WORK
In this program, you’ll learn how to improve social services and urban conditions for people and communities in Southern California and across the nation. Delivered fully online, the program provides the skills and knowledge to thrive at all levels of the field – individual, group, and societal – and arranges fieldwork placements for you.

DIVERSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP
This online master’s program prepares you for a career leading diverse organizations and communities. With an emphasis on social justice and theory, you’ll know, upon graduating, how to develop and implement fair and equitable practices in cities across the nation.

PUBLIC HEALTH: COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION
Never has good public health been a more urgent need. Cities, counties and federal agencies are aggressively recruiting graduates of MPH programs, who can provide timely and credible health information to the public – about everything from pandemics to food programs. This master’s degree is ideal if you’re interested in a career with the World Health Organization, which requires a postgraduate specialization in a health- or management-related field for its higher-grade positions.

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT
This program provides engineers in the public sector with the leadership training and technical expertise to manage high-level engineering projects, teams and resources at the city and county level. In addition to robust technical and management training, the program also includes a certificate that helps you integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into your work – a skill desired by many local agencies.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
In this program, you’ll develop the advanced conceptual skills to manage the knowledge-based assets of various organizations in the sector. In great need by cities and nonprofits, this degree – and the abilities it provides – will help you manage data, foster innovation, and improve organizational performance.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN
Like the corporate sector, public and nonprofit agencies require sophisticated training for their personnel and the communities they serve. With this degree, you can design, implement and assess educational programs, such as online courses, professional development seminars and how-to modules for public sector goods and services. You can also, thanks to an embedded certificate, develop instructional games and simulations, allowing you to teach your community through “play.”

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN SERVICES
In cities around the country, persons with disabilities rely on assistive technology devices to pursue active, healthy lives. By earning this degree, you can begin a career focused on helping assistive technology users: ensuring compliance with regulations; and creating a more equitable environment for all.

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
As a behavior analyst, you can help improve the lives of clients and caregivers through effective behavioral inventions. In large cities, many with booming populations, the demand for these experts is high. A degree in the field not only prepares you for the important work of client recovery and improvement, but it also, if you choose CSUN, qualifies you to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) examination. Many, upon finishing this degree, continue on to doctoral work in related fields.
Bachelor's Degrees

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT
This multidisciplinary program covers both business and public sector areas, including budgeting, management, team building, problem solving and other courses vital for managers working in the government or nonprofit sectors.

LIBERAL STUDIES
In a more complex world, professionals in the public sector will need an increasingly diverse set of skills to prosper. With this degree, you can apply a range of perspectives – from business to philosophy – to the difficult problems of the 21st century. Upon graduating, in addition to a grounding in many academic subjects, you'll have an increased understanding of global dynamics, multicultural relations, innovative thinking, leadership and more.

Certificates

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
With a focus on health administration, this certificate provides valuable public sector knowledge – such as management, budgeting and community outreach – all in a short-term format.

NONPROFIT SECTOR MANAGEMENT
With a focus on the nonprofit sector, this certificate provides valuable public sector knowledge – such as management, budgeting and community outreach – all in a short-term format.

LEADERSHIP IN THE AGE OF DISRUPTION
This program helps senior public sector professionals view emerging issues through a new lens. As growing and changing populations disrupt business as usual, a new, more adaptive leadership must arise to address urgent public needs. By taking this certificate, you'll know how to implement innovation, respond to disruptions and lead in uncertain times.

Access to University Courses

OPEN UNIVERSITY
Interested in a single course? With Open University, you can take CSUN courses without enrolling in a program – the perfect way to explore your passion.

WINTER TERM AND SUMMER SESSION
These accelerated-format university courses can help you learn a new topic, build professional skills, or prepare for future study.

Contracted Programs

CSUN develops a wide range of educational and professional development programs at the undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels. Often shorter in duration, these programs include everything from business, communications and the public sector, to engineering, humanities and the arts. If you have a program in mind, we're prepared to help you build it, no matter how technical or specific the content.

LEARN MORE
go.csun.edu/PathForPublicGood