

# GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

## M.P.A. WITH A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SPORT MANAGEMENT AND ATHLETICS

### THE DEGREE

The master of public administration with a graduate certificate in sport management and athletics is a professional degree that focuses on the comprehensive career preparation of practicing athletic and sport managers. It is designed for individuals aspiring to leadership and management roles in the complex world of interscholastic, intercollegiate, recreational, and professional sports, as well as corporate fitness.

The program is built on acquiring an experiential understanding of administrative and management practices in athletic settings. It will prepare candidates with the knowledge and skills necessary to apply theory, research, and experience to solve academic, athletic, sport, and event management challenges. Students will be encouraged to make an ongoing commitment to professional development, and they will likely encounter connecting values between personal and professional experiences.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Candidates may find sport management career opportunities on several levels: interscholastic (middle and high school), intercollegiate (NCAA Division I, II, or III), professional (major and minor league), club/recreational (YMCA and other youth sport organizations), and corporate fitness. Course work is designed to meet students' individual interests. Consequently, candidates will be prepared to work on the level that meets their personal target.

### INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Internship field experiences are offered in a variety of institutional settings, including secondary and higher education,

professional, recreational, and corporate fitness levels. The internship experience will give students an opportunity to gain expertise from professional mentors in a setting that is consistent with their career goals. During the internship, students will have the chance to learn from professionals currently working in the field, experience the responsibilities required in their chosen area, and make many important contacts that may help further their career. Candidates are required to discuss their career goals with their adviser early in the program to facilitate appropriate internship placement.

### FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

The program is designed for individuals wanting to earn a master's degree part time while working full time. Students who want to pursue the degree on a full-time basis may complete the program on a faster track. Most courses are held in the late afternoon or early evening. Courses are typically offered during four semesters throughout the calendar year – spring, first and second summer sessions, and fall.

### THE CURRICULUM

The M.P.A. with a graduate certificate in sport management and athletics requires a total of 39 semester hours.

#### I. Public Administrative Core and Capstone Requirement (21 semester hours)

PPA 500 Foundations of Public Service

PPA 501 Research Methods in Public Administration

PPA 502 Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation

PPA 503 Public Budgeting and Finance

PPA 504 Public Human Resources Management

PPA 505 Public Sector Organization Theory and Behavior

PPA 600 Capstone Seminar in Public Administration

#### II. Certificate Requirements - Sport and Athletic Core (18 semester hours)

KIN 513 Theories and Principles of Sport Management

KIN 514 Problems and Issues in Sport Management

KIN 553 Facility, Event, and Risk Management

KIN 554 Gender Equity and Sport Law

KIN 611–612 Intern Study (must complete both)

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including goals statement outlining career objectives (apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad))
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended at both the undergraduate and graduate levels
- Two letters of reference, at least one of which must be from a present or former supervisor. At least one letter should address management potential.
- Resume

### CERTIFICATE-ONLY PROGRAM

Students who do not want to enroll in a degree program can apply for the certificate-only program in sport management and athletics, which includes the 18 semester hours listed above.

Contact the sport management and athletic coordinator for more information.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and  
Extended Education  
McKelvie Hall  
102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcugrad)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Dr. Jeffery L. Osgood, Jr., Director  
M.P.A. Program  
1160 McDermott Drive  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2438

E-mail: [mpa@wcupa.edu](mailto:mpa@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/mpa](http://www.wcupa.edu/mpa)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Dr. Eve Atkinson, Graduate  
Coordinator  
Graduate Certificate in Sport  
Management and Athletics  
316 Sturzebecker Health Sciences  
Center  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2314

E-mail: [eatkinson@wcupa.edu](mailto:eatkinson@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/healthsciences/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/healthsciences/)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/).

## ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational

experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

