

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ADMINISTRATION

Acquisition and Contract Administration Specialization

Mission Statement

The Departments participating in the MSA program ensure that graduates, in their full diversity, achieve mastery of the skill sets that will enable them not only to perform the professional work tasks in their respective fields competently but also to assume roles as strategic team members who can apply innovative planning and problem solving to further the goals of their organizations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students with a MSA in Acquisition and Contract Administration should be able to do the following:

Content

- Use federal government cost and pricing policies and procedures to prepare or evaluate and analyze cost proposed and cost incurred in the area of Federal Government Contracts.
- Apply components and methodologies of Defense Acquisition to planning and evaluating Department of Defense contracts.
- Integrate intermediate level aspects of the federal acquisition process ranging from initiating the acquisition process through protests and claims.
- Describe history of the federal acquisition system and changes in this system over the past 50 years.
- Describe current structure of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS).
- Apply public and not-for-profit budgeting processes found in existing public and not-for-profit organizations to generate improvements to these budgeting processes, employing appropriate performance measures for these organizational processes.
- Create linkages between performance measures and the budgeting decision-making process.
- Describe alternative governance structures in the politico-economic system in the United States including market processes, polyarchy and the regulatory process.
- Describe and compare neoclassical market structure approaches and institutional economics approaches to the analysis of the privatization and contracting-out movement in the United States.

Critical Thinking

- Prepare or evaluate and analyze cost proposals and costs incurred in Federal Government Contracts using government cost and pricing policies and procedures.
- Apply technical meanings and usages ascribed to components of governmental cost and price analysis in federal contracting as defined by the Defense Contract Auditing Agency (DCAA) to projects.
- Analyze contract agreements and related pricing arrangements to mitigate and apportion risk, and analysis of factors for contract award based on acquisition history, market data, purchase requests, requirement documents, statement of work, and non-cost factors, including review of non-cost factors used in prior or comparable acquisitions.
- Develop appropriate performance measures for organizational processes and the linkage between performance measures and the budgeting decision-making process.
- Apply neoclassical market structure models and institutional economics models in the analysis of the current privatization and contracting out movement in the United States and compare the differing outcomes of the two analyses.
- Evaluate contracting actions from the original identification of need to the final contract close out procedures.

Communication

- Communicate effectively with citizens, organizational peers, subordinates, superordinates and, service providers and service consumers.
- Develop contract provisions providing for effective federal government oversight of private sector contractors.
- Use emerging technology effectively.

Integrity/Values/Ethics

- Apply the minimalist and maximalist approaches to administrative ethics.
- Identify ethical requirements embedded in federal government contract arrangements.
- Evaluate DoD senior leadership vision for the acquisition community.
- Determine the function of values in administrative institutions.
- Define the roles of the administrative contracting officer, the DCMA and the Defense Contracting Audit Agency (DCAA).
- Evaluate the Disclosure Statement and its applicability in federal contracting.

Project Management

- Apply planning, adoption, implementation and evaluation techniques for public and not-for-profit contracting policies and projects.
- Develop effective budgeting systems, processes and techniques.
- Develop effective financial management structures and processes for organizational and project success.
- Identify criteria in developing an acquisition strategy and identification of all issues related to developing the applicable requirements documents for an acquisition.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Students demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities throughout their academic preparation, culminating in a variety of capstone experiences where they synthesize program learning outcomes to showcase their experiences and knowledge. Students plan capstone experiences with advice, support and direction from their academic advisor. Each specialization includes a capstone experience that might include a showcase, research project, policy review, field experience, internship, or other like experience.

Job Prospects for MSA in Acquisition and Contract Administration Graduates

Contract Specialist
Contracting Officer
Industrial Property Specialist
Program Management Intern

Cost Analyst
Financial Management Analyst
Budget Analyst

Find out more about MSA in Acquisition and Contract Administration at UWF:

<http://uwf.edu/ceps/academic-programs/graduate-degrees/>