ECU MPA Enrollments, Time to Graduation, and Employment Statistics

November 2023

Number of Students Enrolled

Students	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022
New	11	2	21	5	12	8	9	3
Continuing	27	25	20	41	35	38	35	37
Total	38	27	41	46	47	46	44	40

Degrees Awarded

Term	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Summer	1	1	2	0	0
Fall	1	11	1	6	0
Spring	14	4	8	3	20
Total	16	16	11	9	20

Length of Degree / Time to Graduation

The ECU MPA program is designed so that full-time students taking nine semester credit hours (i.e., three graduate classes) for four regular fall/spring terms and six semester credit hours (i.e., two graduate classes) during the intervening summer term can complete the program in 21 months. Our program enrollment, however, has generally had an even balance of both full- and part-time students. Thus, our time to graduation rates vary substantially based on this mix.

The table below shows the mean number of years it took our students who graduated in that academic year to complete the MPA program. The average of mean annual times to graduation over the past five years is 2.12 academic years.

	Graduation Academic Year				
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Mean Years to Graduation	1.93	2.37	1.81	1.88	2.61

Completion Rate

Of the eight students who entered the MPA program in the 2017-2018 academic year, 25% graduated within two years, 50% graduated within three years, 50% graduated within four years, and 63% within five years. Two students in the 2017-2018 cohort withdrew from the University after their first semester.

Alumni Employment Statistics

For the 20 MPA students graduating in the 2021-2022 academic year, the following is a breakdown of employment placements following their completion of the program: nine students are working in local government; seven in state government; one in central government outside the U.S.; one in the nonprofit sector; and one in the private sector.

2021-2022 MPA Graduates' Employment by Category

Category of Employment	Number of Grads
National or central government in the same country as the program	0
State, provincial, or regional government in the same country as the program	7
City, county, or other local government in the same country as the program	9
Government not in the same country as the program (all levels) or international quasi-governmental	1
Nonprofit, domestic-oriented	1
Nonprofit, NGO/internationally-oriented	0
Private sector, research/consulting	0
Private sector, not research/consulting	1
Obtaining further education	0
Military service	0
Unemployed, not seeking employment	0
Unemployed, seeking employment	1
Status unknown	0
Total	20

For our MPA graduates completing the program prior to the 2021-2022 academic year, data from our Fall 2020 alumni survey indicate that state government is the most common employer among graduates following closely by local government (county or municipal).