

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

DPA · Doctoral Program

AFU Education Group

Curriculum Plan · Code L99

6	18	120	3,000
Semesters	Courses	Total ECTS	Contact Hrs

Credit Distribution by Semester

Semester	Theme	Courses	ECTS	Hrs
Sem. 1	Theoretical Foundations of Public Administration	3	20	500
Sem. 2	Quantitative Methods & Public Finance	3	20	500
Sem. 3	Governance, Law & Ethics	3	20	500
Sem. 4	Digital Government & Strategic Management	3	20	500
Sem. 5	International Dimensions & Doctoral Seminar	3	20	500
Sem. 6	Doctoral Dissertation	3	20	500
TOTAL		18	120	3,000

**SEMESTE
R 1****Theoretical Foundations of Public Administration**20 ECTS · 500
hrs

Code	Course Title & Description	ECTS	Contact Hours
L99-101	L99-101 — Theories of Public Administration Examines classical and contemporary paradigms shaping the discipline: Weberian bureaucracy, New Public Management, New Public Governance, and post-NPM frameworks. Students analyze the evolution of the state and its administrative apparatus, engaging with seminal texts from Wilson, Simon, Ostrom, and Hood.	8 ECTS	200 hrs
L99-102	L99-102 — Qualitative Research Methods Epistemological and methodological foundations of qualitative inquiry in the social sciences. Covers case study design, ethnography, grounded theory, document analysis, elite interviews, and interpretive approaches applied to public sector settings.	6 ECTS	150 hrs
L99-103	L99-103 — Comparative Public Policy Systematic comparison of policy systems, institutions, and outputs across political regimes and welfare states. Theoretical frameworks include Varieties of Capitalism, policy diffusion models, Advocacy Coalition Framework, and Multiple Streams Approach.	6 ECTS	150 hrs

**SEMESTE
R 2****Quantitative Methods & Public Finance**20 ECTS · 500
hrs

Code	Course Title & Description	ECTS	Contact Hours
L99-201	L99-201 — Advanced Statistics & Econometrics Multivariate regression, panel data models, difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, and maximum likelihood estimation. Emphasis on application to administrative records, survey data, and longitudinal government datasets using Stata and R.	8 ECTS	200 hrs
L99-202	L99-202 — Public Financial Management Government budgeting cycles, fiscal federalism, performance budgeting, accrual accounting in the public sector, public debt sustainability, and financial accountability frameworks at national and subnational levels. Case studies drawn from OECD and emerging-economy contexts.	6 ECTS	150 hrs

Code	Course Title & Description	ECTS	Contact Hours
L99-203	<p>L99-203 — Organizational Behavior & Leadership in Government</p> <p>Leadership theory and practice in public bureaucracies: transformational, servant, and adaptive leadership models. Topics include motivation, organizational culture, change management, diversity and inclusion, and team dynamics in inter-agency environments.</p>	6 ECTS	150 hrs

SEMESTER 3 **Governance, Law & Ethics** 20 ECTS · 500 hrs

Code	Course Title & Description	ECTS	Contact Hours
L99-301	<p>L99-301 — Collaborative Governance & Interorganizational Networks</p> <p>Theory and practice of inter-organizational networks, public-private partnerships, co-production of public services, and multi-level governance. Integrates social network analysis tools with case studies from health, environment, and urban planning policy domains.</p>	8 ECTS	200 hrs
L99-302	<p>L99-302 — Administrative Law & Regulatory Policy</p> <p>Legal foundations of public action: administrative procedures, regulatory state theory, independent agencies and regulatory capture, judicial review of administrative decisions, and the liability of public authorities. Comparative analysis of civil-law and common-law systems.</p>	6 ECTS	150 hrs
L99-303	<p>L99-303 — Public Ethics, Integrity & Accountability</p> <p>Integrity frameworks and anti-corruption policy, whistleblower protection, transparency and open-government legislation, and mechanisms of democratic accountability including parliamentary, horizontal, and societal controls. Applied ethics exercises using real-world dilemmas.</p>	6 ECTS	150 hrs

SEMESTER 4**Digital Government & Strategic Management**

20 ECTS · 500 hrs

Code	Course Title & Description	ECTS	Contact Hours
L99-401	L99-401 — Digital Government & E-Administration Digital transformation of the state: open government data, platform governance, algorithmic decision-making in public services, AI ethics for government, cybersecurity policy, and interoperability standards. Students develop a digital transformation roadmap for a real public agency.	8 ECTS	200 hrs
L99-402	L99-402 — Public Policy Evaluation & Impact Assessment Experimental and quasi-experimental evaluation designs including RCTs, regression discontinuity, and propensity score matching. Cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis, theory of change, evidence-based policymaking, and monitoring and evaluation system design.	6 ECTS	150 hrs
L99-403	L99-403 — Strategic Management in the Public Sector Strategic planning methodologies adapted to government: balanced scorecard, results-based management, performance measurement systems, and public value creation frameworks. Includes stakeholder mapping, scenario planning, and strategic communication for public leaders.	6 ECTS	150 hrs

SEMESTER 5**International Dimensions & Doctoral Seminar**

20 ECTS · 500 hrs

Code	Course Title & Description	ECTS	Contact Hours
L99-501	L99-501 — International & Comparative Public Administration Role of multilateral institutions (UN, World Bank, IMF, OECD) in shaping domestic administrative reform. Global public goods, international development administration, aid coordination, and the diffusion of governance innovations across national administrative traditions.	8 ECTS	200 hrs
L99-502	L99-502 — Doctoral Research Seminar Intensive workshop for dissertation proposal development. Covers systematic and scoping literature reviews, theory-building and gap identification, research design defense, IRB/research ethics approval, and academic writing for peer-reviewed journals. Students present proposals to faculty panels.	6 ECTS	150 hrs

Code	Course Title & Description	ECTS	Contact Hours
L99-503	<p>L99-503 — Advanced Policy Design & Public Sector Innovation</p> <p>Futures thinking, design thinking applied to policy, systems mapping, behavioral insights (nudge theory), and public sector innovation laboratories as tools for transformative governance. Students prototype and test policy interventions using human-centered design methods.</p>	6 ECTS	150 hrs

SEMESTER 6 **Doctoral Dissertation** 20 ECTS · 500 hrs

Code	Course Title & Description	ECTS	Contact Hours
L99-601	<p>L99-601 — Dissertation — Research & Writing</p> <p>Independent original research conducted under the supervision of a faculty committee. Students conduct empirical analysis, draft dissertation chapters, and present work-in-progress at the doctoral colloquium. Emphasis on methodological rigor and scholarly contribution.</p>	8 ECTS	200 hrs
L99-602	<p>L99-602 — Dissertation — Review & Oral Defense</p> <p>Peer review process with external examiners, preparation of the public oral defense, committee feedback integration, final manuscript revisions, submission to the institutional repository, and completion of all graduation requirements.</p>	6 ECTS	150 hrs
L99-603	<p>L99-603 — Knowledge Dissemination & Academic Publishing</p> <p>Strategies for publishing in peer-reviewed journals (manuscript structure, review response, journal selection), conference presentation, policy briefs for practitioner audiences, open-access mandates, research impact measurement, and post-doctoral career planning in academia and government.</p>	6 ECTS	150 hrs

Credits are assigned in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS): 1 ECTS = 25 contact hours. All course codes carry the institutional prefix L99. This plan is subject to approval by the Academic Senate.