This survey was sent out by mail to 43 recent MPA graduates on April 6, 2015. The survey was sent to those who had graduated within the past two years since the last survey was sent out. Four surveys were returned as non-deliverable. The surveys were returned over a period of several weeks. The last survey was returned on May 15, 2015. 11 surveys were returned, and 11 were usable (28% response rate), although not all questions were answered on all survey forms. Further, 11 alumni directory sheets were returned. Alumni directory sheets and identifying information were removed before the data was entered and analyzed. Data was entered during the month of May and double-checked for accuracy. Several open-ended questions were included on the survey.

This survey was designed with several purposes in mind. The primary purposes were as follows:

1. To gather input on the revised Mission Statement of the MPA program;
2. To gather input on the learning outcomes for students based on the graduates professional experience;
3. To understand what sector our graduates are employed in and if they are gainfully employed;
4. To understand if our graduates are satisfied with the MPA program as it was delivered to them, and to gather ideas for improvement to the program, courses, internship, networking and mentoring opportunities, etc. for our current and future students.

The survey results were disseminated to faculty, MPA advisory committee, students, and alumni. Results were posted on the WKU MPA Program website, and selected results were included in the Summer 2015 newsletter which was distributed to current students and alumni. All written responses to open-ended questions are available in a separate document.

The MPA and Employment History

What was your primary student status while completing the MPA degree?

5 full-time 6 part-time

What was your primary objective when you entered the MPA program?

6 job advancement 1 career change 4 personal goal 1 other

(note one person selected two responses on this question so total n=12)

Please explain. __________________________________________________________
What type of position did you hold immediately prior to entering the MPA program?

If employed while a student, which of the following best describes your employment sector?

Federal ___ 2_ (18%)  
State or regional ___ 5_ (45%)  
City, County or other Local ___ 2_ (18%)  
Nonprofit ___ 1_ (.09%)  
Private sector ___ 1_ (.09%)  

Please list your current job title and how long you have been in this position.

Title ___________  Length of time in this position  5 yrs avg (min. 7 mo. & max. 18 yrs)

Which of the following best describes your current employment sector?

Federal ___ 2_ (18%)  
State or regional ___ 5_ (45%)  
City, County or other Local ___ 2_ (18%)  
Nonprofit ___ 1_ (9%)  
Private sector ___ 1_ (9%)  

What is your current annual salary?

Less than $20,000 ____  
$20,000 to 29,999 ____  
$30,000 to 39,999 ____  
$40,000 to 49,999 ____  
$50,000 to 59,999 ____  
$60,000 to 69,999 ____  
$70,000 to 79,999 ____  
$80,000 to 89,999 ____  
$90,000 to 99,999 ____  
Over $100,000 ____

Overall, how important was your MPA degree in obtaining your current position?

___ 2_ Very important  
___ Important  
___ 7_ Not too important  
___ 2_ Not important at all

Comments? ________________________________________________________

If you are not employed, which best describes your current situation?

In transition and looking for a position ____ 1_  
Obtaining further education ____  
Unemployed and not currently job hunting ____  

Comments? ____________________________________________________
Overall, how satisfied are you with the education you received in the MPA program?

__8__ Very satisfied (73%)
__3__ Satisfied (27%)

Dissatisfied

Very dissatisfied

Comments? ________________________________________________________

Overall, would you recommend the WKU MPA program to a colleague or friend?
Yes  __11__

No  

Comments? ________________________________________________________

At the time you attended the WKU MPA program, what were the Program’s strengths?

At the time you attended the WKU MPA program, what were the Program’s weaknesses?

**Demographic Information**

In what subject area was your undergraduate degree? ______________________

When did you start your MPA degree (month and year)?  _Earliest August 2009__

When did you finish your MPA degree (month and year)?  _Most recent December 2014__

At which campus did you primarily attend classes?
Bowling Green  ____3____ (27%)
Owensboro  ____4____ (36%)
Ft. Knox/Elizabethtown  ____3____ (27%)
Glasgow  ____1____ (9%)

What is your gender?
Male  ____6____ (55%)
Female  ____5____ (45%)

What category best describes your ethnic background?
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  ______
Native American or Alaskan Native  ______
Asian  ______
African-American  ______
Hispanic  ______
Caucasian/White  ____11____
Two or more races  ______
Other  ______
During the time you were an MPA student, were you considered to be an international student?
Yes _____ If yes, country of origin? _____________________
No  ____11___

Are you currently active military? Are you currently a military veteran?
Yes  ____2____ Yes  ____1____
No  ____9____ No  ____10___

Please indicate your current age category:

20-25 ______
26-30  ____3____
31-35  ____2____
36-40  ____2____
41-45  ____1____
46-50 ____
51-55  ____1____
56-60  ____1____
Over age 60 _____

Current home zip code: ___________ Only 1 outside of KY

The WKU MPA Program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration

NASPAA is the Global Standard in Public Service Education

The MPA program mission statement currently reads as follows:

The MPA program prepares graduate students from diverse backgrounds to be productive leaders and managers in public service by sharing knowledge, encouraging excellence in research and practice, and fostering an environment of professionalism within the communities we serve.

Do you think the above MPA program mission statement adequately describes the mission of the MPA program as you experienced it?
Yes  ____10____
No  _____ 1 did not respond
What changes would you make to this mission statement? Please explain.
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
As part of the mission statement review and revision process the following questions and concerns came up with regard to learning outcomes for MPA students. Please answer the following questions based on your professional experience.

To what extent in your current position do you prepare, administer and/or monitor budgets?
__4__ Very Often   __3__ Often   __2__ Occasionally   __1__ Never

To what extent in your current position do you conduct financial analyses?
__3__ Very Often   __2__ Often   __1__ Occasionally   __0__ Never

To what extent in your current position do you conduct surveys?
__1__ Very Often   __2__ Often   __4__ Occasionally   __6__ Never

To what extent in your current position do you interpret and apply statistical concepts?
__1__ Very Often   __2__ Often   __4__ Occasionally   __2__ Never

To what extent in your current position do you conduct data analyses that require the use of statistical software packages, such as SPSS?
__1__ Very Often   __2__ Often   __2__ Occasionally   __6__ Never

To what extent in your current position do you access, apply and evaluate large data sets, such as U.S. Census data?
__7__ Very Often   __1__ Often   __3__ Occasionally   __5__ Never

To what extent in your current position do you prepare grant applications?
__7__ Very Often   __1__ Often   __2__ Occasionally   __6__ Never

To what extent in your current position do you administer grants?
__7__ Very Often   __4__ Often   __4__ Occasionally   __6__ Never

To what extent in your current position are you required to communicate in a technical, clear and concise manner?
__7__ Very Often   __2__ Often   __0__ Occasionally   __0__ Never

To what extent in your current position are you required to communicate with the media?
__2__ Very Often   __1__ Often   __4__ Occasionally   __2__ Never

Reflecting on each of these questions above as they apply to your specific job, are there particular areas in which you wish the MPA program had better prepared you? Please describe what training might have helped you be better prepared.
To what extent do you believe that the MPA program prepared you to the following based on your professional experience?

Lead and manage in public governance

6 Very Prepared  4 Prepared  Unprepared

Participate in and contribute to the policy process

6 Very Prepared  4 Prepared  Unprepared

Analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, make decisions

7 Very Prepared  3 Prepared  Unprepared

Articulate and apply a public service perspective

7 Very Prepared  3 Prepared  Unprepared

Communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry

7 Very Prepared  3 Prepared  Unprepared

If you could name one area of focus that was not offered as a part of the MPA program that would assist in preparing students for future employment in the public sector, what would it be?

In what specific ways do you think the MPA program could and/or should better utilize its alumni?

Please feel free to make any additional comments or suggestions about the MPA program here. We want and value your input!
Alumni Directory and Helping the MPA Program

Please provide complete contact info here.
Name _______________________________
Address _______________________________
____________________________________
Best Email _______________________________
Best phone number _______________________
Current job title: _________________________
Current employer: _________________________
Year you graduated from MPA program: ______________

May we include this info in a MPA alumni directory?
Yes ___10___
No _____

Would you be interested in participating in networking opportunities with former and current MPA students?
Yes ___8___
No ___1___

Would you be interested in providing an internship for a MPA student?
Yes ___3___
No ___6___

Would you be interested in serving as a mentor for a MPA student?
Yes ___4___
No ___5___

Would you be interested in serving on the MPA Advisory Committee?
Yes ___6___
No ___3___

If you do not want to return this page with the survey, you may return this page to the following address:
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