UH MPA Specialization (Three electives)

Three courses are required and chosen in consultation with Dr. Toshiyuki Yuasa. Electives will be tailored to the students’ specialty needs and career goals using an interdisciplinary approach across UH departments as well as UT Health Science Center and Rice University through inter-institutional arrangements.

The elective curriculum is complemented by nine hours (three courses) in the students’ area of specialization. The specialization courses are chosen by the student and must be approved by the program director.

Early in the second year of the program, before you take an elective course, students are required to submit a formal statement of specialization (a letter of specialization) to the MPA Director for approval. The letter of specialization should include the field of specialization and the three courses, which will be used to fulfill the requirements. Provide the course description for each course and its justification. Electives will be tailored to the students’ career goals.

There are varieties of MPA specialization fields. For examples, many of our students specialized in Non-Profits, Organizational Management, Local Government Management, Public Management, Urban, Human Resource Management, Social Policy, Environmental Policy, Healthcare Policy, Education, Decision and Policy Science, Analysis and Evaluation, Budgeting and Finance, Child and Family Policy, etc. Within each specialization field, there are also wide-ranges of sub-specialization fields. Thus, instead of having students to take a set of predetermined courses for a specific specialization, we let students tailor his or her specialization field and specialization courses that are best for his or her career goal.