2026-27 Academic Year

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Master of Science in Organizational Management (MSOM)

The online Master of Science in Organizational Management (MSOM) with a focus in Public Affairs prepares students for leadership and professional roles in government, nonprofit, and public service–oriented organizations. The program builds the skills needed to analyze public issues, develop and implement policy, and evaluate programs that impact communities and organizations. Graduates are prepared to help guide organizations through complex policy environments and contribute to effective public decision-making.

This fully online degree is offered through a cooperative program between Chadron State College, Peru State College, and Wayne State College, allowing students to complete core MSOM coursework through any of the three institutions and the public affairs focus area through Wayne State College.

fast facts

No entrance exams required

Credit hours: 36 (two years full time)

Cost per credit hour: $427.45 *($261.90 tuition + $165.55 fees)*

Degree offered: Master of Science in Organizational Management (MSOM)/Public Affairs

Delivery method: Online

Department: History, Politics, and Geography

School: Arts and Humanities

focus on results

Skills Learned

- Policy evaluation and analysis
- Policy development and policymaking processes
- Public program planning and management
- Program administration and organizational processes
- Leadership and strategic communication in public service
- Conflict management and stakeholder engagement

Possible Careers

- City director or manager
- Public policy analyst
- Government program manager
- Public affairs or government relations manager
- Public administration consultant
- Community development director
- Public administrator
- Legislative or policy advisor
- Non-profit executive director

Types of Employers

- Government agencies
- Non-profit and community organizations
- Public interest / advocacy groups
- Consulting firms
- Policy research institutes
- Public health organizations
- Educational institutions
- International and global organizations

recognized for excellence

Wayne State College's Public Affairs master's degree is offered fully online as part of its nationally recognized graduate programs, combining affordability, flexibility, and leadership-focused curriculum for public service professionals.

Best Online Master's in Organizational Management
WSC was recognized among the Best Online Master's in Organizational Management Programs for 2026 by My Degree Guide.

Most Affordable Online Master's Degrees in the U.S.
Wayne State College was ranked among the Top 10 most affordable online master's degree programs in the nation by *Intelligent.com* for 2025.

Program courses

2026-27 Academic Year

The following courses are required for the program of study described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for registering and taking these courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

MSOM core courses (18 hours)

PED 622 Stats Applications/Data Analysis 3

Select one of the following 3

- CNA 665 Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (3)
- EDU 603 Introduction to Educational Research and Design (3)
- PED 650 Research Design (3)

Leadership

Students who would like a leadership emphasis in their program of study may, with permission from their advisor, take two leadership courses as part of their 12 hours. The second course would be substituted for a course in one of the other three areas.

Select one of the following 3

- BUS 627 Ethics in Leadership (3)
- BUS 665 Leadership Seminar (3)
- CNA 661 Research in Leadership (3)

Communication

Select one of the following 3

- BUS 620 Managerial Communication (3)
- CNA 675 Legal Topics in Media and Communication (3)

Organizational behavior

Select one of the following 3

- BUS 690 Seminar in Organizational Behavior (3)
- CNA 648 Advanced Organizational Communication (3)

Conflict management and organizational psychology

Select one of the following 3

- BUS 628 Dispute Resolution Management (3)
- CNA 617 Topics in Argumentation and Persuasion (3)
- PSY 535 Industrial/Organizational Psychology (3)

Public Affairs focus area (18 hours)

WSC baccalaureate students who have already completed these courses as undergraduates will substitute other courses by advisement.

POS 502 State and Local Politics 3
POS 510 Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation 3
POS 530 Public Policy 3
POS 545 Public Administration and Management 3
Thesis, Scholarly Project, or Internship 6

questions? contact:

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