

Ashima Chandan, MPP 2017

Current position: Alberta Public Research Intern, Strategic Alignment, Public Service Commission

Prior education: Bachelor of Commerce, University of Alberta

Current role and description of a typical work week: After completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta, I was fortunate to hold various professional roles with the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta. While my undergraduate degree equipped me with a wide set of professional skill sets, I was able to further develop my policy-focused research and writing skills at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy (SPP).

The Masters of Public Policy (MPP) program has helped shape my professional career in the public sector by allowing me to engage in current affairs from diverse viewpoints. I not only learned economic principles to help me better evaluate policies, but am able to confidently explore health and social policy perspectives to address similar issues.

How the MPP program has furthered my career: I was able to further develop my policy-focused research and writing skills at The SPP beyond what I obtained in my undergraduate degree. I learned economic principles to help me better evaluate policies and am able to explore health and social policy viewpoints to address similar issues. I can truly say MPP courses have allowed me to prepare for a strong future in public service.

The MPP was a natural choice for me as the one year program allowed me to pursue further education without taking away too much time from professional work experience. Furthermore, the small class sizes and cohort model appealed to my learning style

Advice I would give a new MPP student: Since my health policy course had assignments based on the writing style used by the provincial government, I was able to use the knowledge gained in class to help strengthen my application to the GOA. Furthermore, the research and writing skills developed across my classes are used daily in my role as a policy intern. The professors in the program are crucial to the success of the students, and I now see how valuable the coursework is in preparing students for work in the field of public policy.