Master Competency List
Wayne State University
Master of Public Administration Program
Last Updated: June 18, 2019
The Domains and their Competencies

Students who graduate from an accredited MPA program have the ability to perform effectively in the following “domains.” Our specific competencies for each domain are in italics below each bullet point. These competencies were defined and refined beginning with the 2011 – 2012 academic year. (Numbers in parentheses refer to competency number for “Comprehensive Exam Domain and Competency Cycle” document.

- **to lead and manage in public governance;**
  - A graduate of our program will be able to understand how both structure and culture of public service organizations affect organizational effectiveness (1A)
  - A graduate of our program will know how to effectively manage human resources and provide leadership in this regard (1B)

- **to participate in and contribute to the policy process;**
  - A graduate of our program must be able to identify key stakeholders, their positions, coalitions, and the political context (2A)
  - A graduate of our program must be able to understand and apply the different aspects of the policy making cycle (2B)

- **to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions;**
  - A graduate of our program will be able to utilize data and analytic techniques, scholarly research, and best professional practices in systematically analyzing and making policy and administrative decisions in public service organizations (3A)
  - A graduate of our program must be able to apply these concepts to a real world (substantive) case (3B)

- **to articulate and apply a public service perspective;**
  - A graduate of our program will be able to make informed decisions and manage public service organizations in the public interest by effectively utilizing and balancing key public service values (4A)
  - A graduate of our program will understand the value of fair and transparent administration and will be able to effectively and ethically engage citizens in public service organizations (4B)

- **to communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.**
  - A graduate of our program will have the ability to develop and exercise intercultural sensitivity with employees and other stakeholders (5A)
  - A graduate of our program will be able to communicate and engage appropriately, effectively and respectfully with multiple audiences (5B)