



School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

Public Finance Officer / Budget Analyst

MPA- related certificates and concentrations:

- Local Government
- Public Policy Analysis

MPA- related courses:

- PUAD 5004: Economics and Public Finance
- PUAD 5115: Effective Grant Writing for Nonprofit & Public Sector Managers
- PUAD 5150: Fundraising & Financial Resource Development
- PUAD 5170: Strategic Management for Nonprofit & Public Managers
- PUAD 5350: Program Evaluation
- PUAD 5503: Public Budgeting and Finance
- PUAD 5625: Local Government Management
- PUAD 5630: Economic Development

Internship:

- Federal Government Agencies: Department of the Treasury, GAO
- State and Local Governments: Division of Financial Services, Department of Revenue
- Non-Profit or International Organizations
- Think tanks or consulting Firms
- Research institutes

Duties and Responsibilities: Public finance officer and budget analyst are critical figures in government and public sector organizations. These roles involves overseeing financial planning, budget management, and fiscal policy analysis to ensure the efficient use of public funds and resources. These professionals provide valuable insights and recommendations to support decision-making and promote financial stability and accountability within governmental entities. The duties and responsibilities generally include the following:

- Budget Preparation and Management
- Financial and Budget Analysis
- Debt Management and Capital Planning

- Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting
- Compliance and Oversight

Work Environment: Public Finance Officers and Budget Analysts typically work in an office environment located within government buildings.

Work Schedule: Public Finance Officers and Budget Analysts often maintain standard office hours during weekdays, typically from Monday to Friday.

Career Path/Promotion: Public Finance Officers and Budget Analysts can advance to senior roles such as Finance Director, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), or Budget Director within government agencies. They may also transition to related fields in public policy, economic development, or financial consulting.

Education, Training and Certification: A career as a Budget Analyst or Public Finance Officer requires a bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, economics, public administration, or a related field, with a master's degree in public administration, business, or finance being advantageous. Practical experience is gained through internships, entry-level positions, and on-the-job training, while professional certifications such as CGFM, CPFO, CMA, CFA, or CPA enhance career prospects.

Skills and Competencies: Problem Solving, Analytical Skills, Financial Management, Written and Communication Skills, Technical Proficiency

Colorado Salary Averages:

Bottom 10%: \$37,855

Top 10%: \$122,501

Median: \$78,514

Median Salary in U.S.: \$81,698