



# School of Public Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

## State Legislator

### MPA- related certificates and concentrations:

- Public Policy Analysis

### MPA- related courses:

- PUAD 5004: Economics and Public Finance
- PUAD 5130: Collaboration Across Sectors
- PUAD 5250: Intergovernmental Management
- PUAD 5271: Managing Conflict and Change
- PUAD 5310: Principles of Policy Design
- PUAD 5350: Program Evaluation
- PUAD 5370: Public Discourse and Policy
- PUAD 5380: Public Participation, Political Equity, & Government
- PUAD 5410: Administrative Law
- PUAD 5420: Law and Public Policy
- PUAD 5440: Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
- PUAD 5460: Political Advocacy
- PUAD 5503: Public Budgeting and Finance
- PUAD 5628: Social Problems and Policies in the Urban Environment
- PUAD 5630: Economic Development
- PUAD 5638: Colorado Politics, Policy, and Administration

### Internship:

- Legislative Intern at the Capitol
- Colorado General Assembly Internship
- Internship with The National Conference of State Legislatures

**Duties and Responsibilities:** State legislators have a range of duties and responsibilities, which can vary somewhat depending on the specific state and its legislative structure. However, some common duties and responsibilities include:

- Creating Laws
- Representing Constituents
- Oversight of State Agencies

- Constituent Services.
- Budgeting and Appropriations
- Constituent Communication
- Participating in Committees
- Conflict Resolution.

**Work Environment:** State legislators typically work in the state capitol building, where legislative sessions take place and legislative offices are located. State legislators often participate in committee meetings, where proposed legislation is reviewed, debated, and voted on. Depending on the size and geographic distribution of their legislative district, state legislators may travel frequently between their district and the state capitol.

**Work Schedule:** Overall, the work environment of state legislators is characterized by a mix of formal legislative proceedings, constituent engagement, collaborative efforts, and technological tools aimed at fulfilling their responsibilities as elected representatives.

**Career Path/Promotion:** As legislators gain experience and build relationships with colleagues, they may seek opportunities for advancement within the legislature, such as committee chairmanships, leadership positions within their political party, or positions in legislative leadership. Some state legislators choose to pursue careers outside of elected office after completing their terms or retiring from politics. This may include returning to a previous profession, working in government relations, consulting, advocacy, academia, or nonprofit work.

**Education, Training and Certification:** While formal education and training can be beneficial for aspiring state legislators, ultimately, success in elected office depends on a combination of knowledge, skills, experience, and dedication to public service.

**Skills and Competencies:** Communication skills, critical thinking and analytical skills, negotiation and compromise, leadership abilities, understanding of policy processes, ethical conduct and integrity, problem-solving skills, adaptability and resilience, and time management and prioritization.

**Colorado Salary Averages:**

Median: \$40,242

**Median Salary in U.S.:** \$20,000 to \$50,000