Eligibility

CPM participants are supervisors and managers whose wealth of experience, education, and training adds to the strength and success of the learning. Supervisory experience is required for admission to the program. Individuals who are identified as having managerial potential and who have the support of their immediate supervisor also may be admitted with approval of the CPM program director.

Since the program involves a significant commitment, candidates who are attending with agency funding must provide evidence of departmental or supervisory support for their participation.

Learn More

Visit our website at *continuingstudies.wisc.edu/certified-public-manager* for application, program planning forms, class descriptions, costs, and more.

Contact information

Wisconsin CPM Program, UW-Madison
21 N Park St, 7th Floor, Madison, WI 53715-1218
Phone: 608-262-4354
Fax: 608-265-2329
Email: cpm@dcs.wisc.edu

Program Administration

The CPM Program administrative office is located at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in the Division of Continuing Studies. Program administration reports to a policy board, whose members represent UW campuses and state and local governments.

What They're Saying About Us

"My participation in the program has expanded my knowledge in many disciplines… I have learned from the shared experiences brought to class discussions by students and instructors."

"CPM instructors are experienced and knowledgeable. They share real work-life examples and are willing to offer assistance after the classes are completed."

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Wisconsin Certified Public Manager® Program
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Wisconsin Certified Public Manager® Program

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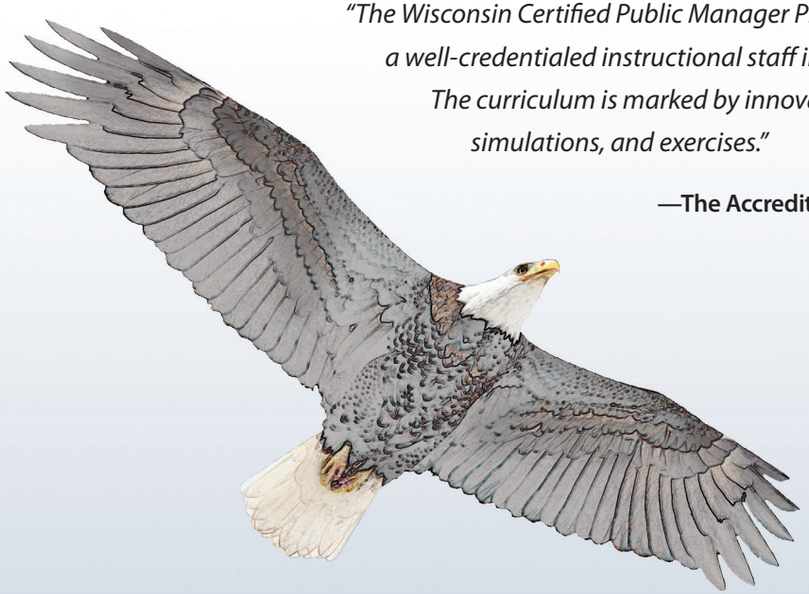

"The Wisconsin Certified Public Manager Program offers a rich array of courses taught by a well-credentialed instructional staff in multiple locations throughout Wisconsin… The curriculum is marked by innovative teaching strategies such as case studies, simulations, and exercises."

—The Accreditation Committee of the National CPM Consortium

Comprehensive, applied learning

The Wisconsin Certified Public Manager Program® (CPM) is a professional development program designed specifically for managers in federal, state, tribal, and local government. The program is administered by the University of Wisconsin–Madison and accredited by the National Certified Public Manager® Consortium. The CPM program consists of three phases, totaling 300 hours. Currently, there are more than 500 Wisconsin CPM graduates who are part of a national cadre of professional public managers.

The Wisconsin Certified Public Manager program provides the education and training needed to better meet the unique demands and challenges of public management. It provides managers with the opportunity to strengthen administrative, technical, and interpersonal skills through classes, activities, and written and applied projects. Through its training program WCPM supports managers and their agencies in meeting high standards in service delivery.

Tailored to your educational needs

The CPM certification is offered in two formats—self-directed or cohort group. The *self-directed* option offers the most flexibility; participants take classes as their work and personal schedules permit. Some students finish in as little as 18 months; others take several years. The program requires that you make progress every year and you must complete the certificate within seven years.

Others prefer to enroll in a cohort group. Participants in a cohort—sometimes called a colleague group—enroll at the same time and attend classes collectively, one to two days per month, becoming Certified Public Managers together over the course of two to three years. Cohort groups can be managers from various agencies, managers from one geographic area, or managers from a specific profession such as law enforcement or public works.

The CPM advantage

- Enhance your administrative, technical, analytical, management, and communication skills.
- Network with statewide and national cadres of professional public managers, learning from and with representatives of other governmental units.
- Gain cutting-edge knowledge and learn evidence-based skills from experienced content experts.
- Have flexibility to participate in a programming format that best fits your needs and schedule.
- Be part of a public management training program with the highest standards, with quality control and a record of continuity.
- Linked to the resources and faculty of UW-Madison.

CPM curriculum and classes

The Certified Public Manager Program is a 300-hour program; 84 of these can be gained in professional courses or conferences attended prior to or during participation in the program. Candidates are evaluated with written projects and class reviews. CPM classes are offered in classrooms around the state and online. Whether in person or online, CPM classes provide comprehensive management training in the areas of:

Supervisory skills

Supervisory emphasis includes the class *Management Assessment for Personal Planning and Development*, assessment of prior supervisory training, a professional development plan, and a supervisory practices essay.

Core management skills

The curriculum includes nine required and 14 elective classes. Required classes address the topics of ethics, leadership, the public management profession and environment, presentation skills, strategic planning, productivity and quality, problem solving, and written communications. Elective classes are offered in the areas of quantitative methods, public policy, organizational management, resource management, and personnel management.

Advanced management skills

The final phase of the program includes case studies, team activities or a simulation, an applied project, and a leadership seminar.