

## **JSGS Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program Application Questions**

The MPP is a research degree. Your personal statement offers you the opportunity to describe to the admissions committee your interests and fit with the MPP program. It also provides you with the opportunity to clearly detail your background and preparation, the ideas and methods that you bring to public policy and an indication of the particular areas of public policy that interest you. In your personal statement, ensure that you clearly address each of the following:

1. Why do you want to pursue a research degree focusing on public policy? What public policy challenge has personally motivated you to pursue a public policy degree?
2. What is your research background and preparation on policy-related research, including academic credentials and practical experience?
3. A master's thesis that examines a public policy problem is a requirement of this program. What research area are you interested in exploring? What type of theories and/or methods would you like to use in your research?
4. How would a master's in public policy at JSGS enable you to reach your career aspirations?
5. Have you approached any of the faculty at the school to be your supervisor? If so, please name them.

You do NOT need to have a well-developed research proposal. However, the committee would like to see that you can clearly articulate your interests and ideas. If you do have a specific project that you are committed to, please include that information in your statement. This statement is an opportunity to show your personality, critical thinking ability, and interest in public policy research. Please say something original and distinctive that sets you apart from other applicants.

Your personal statement should be a maximum of 700 words.