



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy *William P. Murphy*

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents Relating to the Authorization of Degrees: Adding the Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) Degree as a Registered Degree in New York State

DATE: August 28, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Don M. P. *Betty M.*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment of sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents relating to the authorization of degrees by adding the Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) degree as a registered degree in New York State?

Reason for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Full Board for adoption as a permanent rule at the September 2025 Regents meeting. A copy of the proposed rule (Attachment A) is attached.

Procedural History

The proposed amendment was presented to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at the May 2025 Regents meeting. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making was published in the State Register on May 21, 2025, for a 60-day public comment period. Following publication in the State Register, the Department received no comments on the proposed amendment. Therefore, an Assessment of Public Comment is not required, and no changes to the proposed amendment are needed.

If adopted at the September 2025 meeting, a Notice of Adoption will be published in the State Register on September 24, 2025. Supporting materials are available upon request to the Secretary of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The State University of New York at Binghamton has requested that the Board of Regents add the Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) degree to the list of recognized degrees in New York State. The institution also provided letters of support for the M.P.P. degree from two independent New York State degree-granting institutions.

According to the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)¹, the M.P.P. degree award is “the professional degree for analyzing, evaluating, and solving all aspects of policy.” It is recognized in neighboring states (Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New Jersey) and in several other states across the nation. Programmatic accreditation is available to M.P.P. programs via the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).

M.P.P. programs typically include coursework in quantitative and qualitative methods, including econometrics, public and/or administrative law, ethics, policy implementation, program evaluation, and policy analysis. M.P.P. programs may differ from Master of Arts (M.A.) and Master of Science (M.S.) programs by including intensive internships or professional experiences and capstone projects that are linked to the professional requirements of specific public service organizations or social problems, rather than research theses. Furthermore, M.P.P. programs may differ from Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) programs by focusing on analytic methods rather than administrative systems and management.

Graduates of M.P.P. programs work in a variety of organizations and agencies in positions such as policy analyst, community relations manager, economic development director, executive director, and public relations consultant. The skills acquired by M.P.P. graduates, including data analysis, policy analysis, and modeling, are valuable in and transferable to a variety of settings, including domestic government agencies, private firms, and nonprofit organizations. According to the labor market analytics tool Lightcast, for the five-year period ending in 2029, overall demand in target occupations for graduates of masters-level programs in public policy is projected to increase by approximately 5% statewide and 4% nationally.

In order to permit New York State degree-granting institutions to offer programs leading to the M.P.P., it is necessary to amend Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents relating to requirements for earned degrees and registered degrees.

¹ APPAM is a professional association dedicated to improving public policy and management by fostering excellence in research, analysis, and education.

Related Regents Items

[May 2025: Proposed Amendment of Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents Relating to the Authorization of Degrees: Adding the Master of Public Policy \(M.P.P.\) Degree as a Registered Degree in New York State](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/525hed1.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/525hed1.pdf>)

[February 2025: Proposed Amendment of Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents Relating to the Authorization of Degrees: Adding the Doctor of Acupuncture \(D.Ac.\) Degree as a Registered Degree in New York State](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/225brca7.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/225brca7.pdf>)

[September 2021: Proposed Amendment to Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents Relating to the Authorization of Degrees: Adding the Doctor of Business Administration \(D.B.A.\) Degree and Master of Theological Studies \(M.T.S.\) Degree in New York State](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/921brca2.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/921brca2.pdf>)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents be amended, as submitted, effective September 24, 2025.

Timetable for Implementation

If adopted at the September 2025 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on September 24, 2025.

AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Pursuant to sections 207, 210, 214, 215, 218, 224, 305 of the Education Law

1. Paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of section 3.47 of the Rules of the Board of Regents is amended to read as follows:

(2) Professional degrees. Graduate professional degree programs must consist of advanced studies in professional or vocational fields. While they may have strong theoretical underpinnings, they must have as their primary purpose knowledge for application in professional practice. Master's degree programs of this type are primarily terminal in nature. They may serve as preparation for advanced studies at the doctoral level, but they shall not be designed primarily for this purpose. The doctorate in such studies is likewise practical, insofar as it prepares the student to train or supervise others in the field, to discover new knowledge that has practical application in the field, or to prepare the student for a life of practice in the student's particular profession. Only the following degrees may be conferred upon the completion of a professionally oriented graduate program:

Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.)

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

----- Engineer (---- E.)

Master of Architecture (M.Arch.)

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Master of Comparative Jurisprudence (M.C.J.)

Master of Comparative Law (M.C.L.)

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Master of Education (Ed.M. or M.Ed.)

Master of Engineering (M.E.)

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)

Master of Food Science (M.F.S.)

Master of Forestry (M.F.)

Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.)

Master of Hebrew Literature (M.H.L.)

Master of Industrial and Labor Relations (M.I.L.R.)

Master of Industrial Design (M.I.D.)

Master of International Affairs (M.I.A.)

Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.)

Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Master of Library Science (M.L.S.)

Master of Management in Hospitality (M.M.H.)

Master of Music (Mus.M.)

Master of Nutritional Science (M.N.S.)

Master of Physical Therapy (M.P.T.)

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)

Master of Regional Planning (M.R.P.)

Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.)

Master of Sacred Music (S.M.M.)

Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.)

Master of Science for Teachers (M.S.T.)

Master of Science in Education (M.S. in Ed.)

Master of Science in Pharmacy (M.S. in Pharm.)

Master of Social Science (M.S.Sc.)

Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)

Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.)

Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.)

Master of Theology (Th.M.)

Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.)

Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (D.A.O.M)

Doctor of Arts (D.A.)

Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.)

Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.)

Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.)

Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.)

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.)

Doctor of Engineering Science (Eng.Sc.D.)

Doctor of Hebrew Literature (D.H.L.)

Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.)

Doctor of Law (J.D.)

Doctor of Library Science (L.S.D.)

Doctor of Medical Science (Med. Sc.D.)

Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.)
Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)
Doctor of Nursing Science (D.N.S.)
Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.)
Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)
Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.)
Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)
Doctor of Professional Studies (D.P.S.)
Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)
Doctor of Public Administration (D.P.A.)
Doctor of Public Health (D.P.H.)
Doctor of Religious Education (D.R.E.)
Doctor of Sacred Music (S.M.D.)
Doctor of Science in Veterinary Medicine (D.Sc. in V.M.)
Doctor of Social Science (D.S.Sc.)
Doctor of Social Welfare (D.S.W.)
Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.)
Doctor of Theology (Th.D.)
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.)

2. Paragraph (25) of subdivision (b) of section 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents are amended to read as follows:

(25) Public Administration:

Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)

Doctor of Public Administration (D.P.A.)