

Professional Paper

Spring 2024



HUMPHREY SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Timeline

- Before October 6, develop the paper topic and confirm your paper supervisor and committee member(s).
- October 6, 2023: Paper topic approval form is due
 - [MPP/MHR/MS-STEP Professional Paper Topic Approval Form](#)
- November 14, 2023: Spring semester registration begins.
 - Register for the PA 8082 Professional Paper Writing Seminar.
 - Scheduled on Wednesdays from 8:15-11:00 am (spring 2024).



Finding a Supervisor and Committee

One of the two must be a member of the [Graduate Faculty](#) for your degree. The other could be a community member or faculty member with expertise in your topic area.

- Talk to multiple potential supervisors/committee members to seek advice about your topic.
- You are looking for people who know at least some of the literature you will be reading.
- If you are doing analysis, it's helpful if your supervisor is an expert in that kind of analysis (quant / qual).
- When you find that someone is especially helpful, ask if they would be open to being on the committee or supervising you.
- Give possible supervisors/committee members [Information on serving on a Paper Committee](#). They can also talk to Deborah.



PA 8082 Professional Paper Writing Seminar

- Most students completing Professional Paper in Spring 2024 should enroll in the PA 8082 seminar.
- Students who do not take PA 8082 must submit a waiver request to their DGS for approval **before** October 6, 2023.
- The Professional Paper Writing Seminar supports students in finishing high-quality, well-written papers by the end of the semester.
- This seminar provides a supportive environment in which students can make regular progress on papers.
- A paper supervisor and committee are still needed.



Alumni Panel

Tess Korbesmeyer Holman (MPP)

- Collective Care: Rethinking Societal Values and Envisioning Care as a Public Good

Antara Mandal (MS-STEP)

- River, Race, and Redlining: Racialized Wealth & Environmental Injustices Along the Mississippi River

Kyla Rathjen (MHR)

- Elites' Influence on Global Progressive Change: An Analysis of U.S. Private Foundations and Social Movement Organizations

Rachel Wittkopp (MPP)

- Student Agency and Institutional Power: Creating Actionable Change at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs



Questions?

The information covered today and additional details are available on the Humphrey [Individual Professional Paper Options](#) web page.

