<u>**Department of Politics and Public Administration**</u>
<u>**Master of Public Administration**</u>

<u>**Credit Unit statement**</u>

The MPA programme requires students to take 8 regular course and either one dissertation or capstone project. The 8 regular courses are selected from three areas: (a) core competences (2 courses); (b) specific competences (4 courses), and (c) professional competences (2 courses). Regular courses are 6-credit courses, but the dissertation and capstone course each carries 12 credits. Learning activities are usually about 150 hours, including both contact hours and other student learning activities. The usual contact hours for a 6-credit course are about 33 to 36 hours. The total study load is around 1,500 hours.

A. Core Competences : (2 compulsory courses; 6 credits each)

The Programme provides rigorous training in both theory and professional skills in Public Administration and Public Policy. The first semester study aims to provide a solid foundation for students in developing their core competence in the field before they begin to select other courses. Two compulsory courses are designed for such a purpose. **POLI7002 Public administration: scope and issues** introduces students to the main issues and approaches in the field. **POLI8027 Public administration in Hong Kong** provides a systematic introduction to key issues and challenges facing the public sector and the socio-political context of public administration in Hong Kong. Assessment takes diverse forms (40-50% course work, including discussion, presentation and project; 40-50% examination).
Total written output: not less than 5,000 words per course.

B. Specific competences: (4 elective courses; 6 credits each)

Students can choose two out of three to four courses offered in each semester in the following areas: (a) management (e.g. public management reform, human resources management), (b) policy (e.g. public policy, policy design and analysis), (c) ethics, and (d) governance issues (e.g. NGOs and governance, collaborative governance). These four elective courses allow students to select their own specialized areas that fit their interests and career objectives. Teaching usually takes the form of 3-hour class meeting (which includes lecture, class discussion, presentation, debates, case analysis etc.)   Assessment can take a variety of forms

ranging from 100% coursework to 40% exam and 60% coursework. The live-in course offered by the Chinese Academy of Governance comprises 2 weeks of intensive study in Beijing. Learning activities include lectures and discussion, and visits and exchanges with Mainland officials. Assessment is by 100% coursework (research paper).

Total written output: not less than 5,000 words per course.

C. Professional competences: (2 compulsory courses: 6 credits each)

In the final semester, students will attend two intensive workshop courses: **POLI8017 Workshop in public affairs**, and **POLI8026 Workshop in managerial skills**. POLI8026 enables students to develop practical managerial skills essential for public management in the context of Hong Kong, and learning activities include lectures by guest speakers, role play exercises, reflective essay, simulations, and presentations. POLI8017 is usually taught by renowned scholars from overseas, especially from North America and Europe, to offer two independent yet related workshops on a particular theme in the field of public administration. Assessment of these two courses usually takes the form of 100% coursework (e.g. presentation, papers).

Total written output: not less than 5,000 words per course.

D. Capstone or Dissertation (12 credits)

The compulsory POLI8028 Capstone project is a group-based learning-in-action project that addresses and proposes possible solutions to a contemporary issue in public administration in Hong Kong. It aims to help students grasp the essentials of applied research and analysis in a selected area of public affairs. Supervised by an experienced faculty, this course spans the two semesters of the final year of the MPA programme. Assessment is entirely by research and a capstone project report (100% coursework). Students who opt for the dissertation will be supervised by a faculty member to research on a topic. The dissertation should reflect a sound understanding of the field of study and proper research methods, and it also spans both semesters in the final year (100% coursework).

Total written output: not less than 16,000 words per course.