MPA Program – Learning Competencies
(Adopted June 22, 2011)

To lead and manage in public governance by:

- Demonstrating an ability to lead, motivate, and manage a diverse workplace-within and across organizations.
- Demonstrating an understanding the impact of changing market and political conditions on organizational practice and resource streams.

To participate in and contribute to the policy process by:

- Demonstrating an ability to analyze policy alternatives and use policy instruments and management tools to address social problems
- Demonstrating an ability to participate in the policy process, communicate policy alternatives, and work effectively with government and nonprofit institutions, and community stakeholders.

To analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions by:

- Demonstrating an ability to define, frame, think critically about and analyze important problems.
- Demonstrating an ability to utilize analytical tools to analyze, present, and interpret data, including appropriate design, statistical, and evaluative techniques for both organizational decision making and policy decisions.
- Demonstrating an ability to apply management theories and tools for organizational decision-making including but not limited to strategic planning, performance measurement, group decision making, forecasting, program evaluation, and cost-benefit analysis.

To articulate and apply a public values perspective by:

- Demonstrating an ability to identify ethical dilemmas and to then systematically apply ethical principles to identify appropriate courses of action

To communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry by:

- Demonstrating an ability to communicate effectively and professionally to diverse audiences.
- Demonstrating an understanding of how to work effectively in diverse groups.