COURSE TITLE: State and Local Financial Management
COURSE NUMBER: MPA 7201

RATIONAL: Use description from WU website: Course Descriptions

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course concentrates on state and local government agencies’ approaches to gathering revenues and fees and allocating expenditures. The budget cycle of formulation, adoption, and execution is examined. Competing interest group pressure for scarce financial resources is analyzed.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:
Each student will:

1. Develop an understanding of the steps in setting budgetary goals and measuring performance against goals.
2. Gain knowledge of capital borrowing and annual taxation.
3. Develop an understanding of the process of setting tax levels commensurate with revenue needs.
4. Gain knowledge of the concept of balanced budgets in state and local government.
5. Develop an understanding of deficit funding as impermissible.
6. Develop an understanding of credit ratings assigned by such services as Moody’s and Dunn and Bradstreet.
7. Gain knowledge of cash flow management, investing, arbitrage practices, tax-free tax anticipation borrowing, sinking fund management and pension fund obligations.
8. Develop an understanding of sources of revenue including taxation, fees, investments, grants in aid, revenue sharing, personal property levies, community block grant receipts, endowments, and service income from municipal authorities as levies in lieu of taxation.

9. Develop an understanding of how governments generate funds during periods of crisis from non-funded sources in existing local budgets.

10. Develop an understanding of the theory of politics as it drives financial managerial policy and decisions at the state and local level of government.

11. Demonstrate the ability to assimilate and communicate knowledge, ideas, and innovations concerning significant aspects of state and local financial management through written and oral presentations.

PROGRAM COMPETENCIES: (Intended student learning outcomes)

- Develop an understanding of contemporary leadership and management models and theories.
- Develop an understanding and the ability to apply change frameworks and models.
- Articulate personal values and goals as guideposts to personal behavior.

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY GRADUATION COMPETENCIES: (Broad based goals)

Oral Communication

- Speak with confidence, clarity, and conciseness.
- Research, prepare, and deliver professional presentations.

Written Communication

- Write clearly, concisely and appropriately using correct English grammar, punctuation, usage, mechanics, sentence structure, and vocabulary.
- Use appropriate APA format for scholarly writing.

Disciplined Inquiry

- Use quantitative, qualitative, and scientific reasoning to solve problems.
- Exercise critical thinking strategies including reasoning, problem solving, analysis and evaluation.
- Define a problem or issue and develop questions and methods to address the problem or issue and/or create new knowledge.

Information Literacy

- Access and use information effectively, efficiently, and appropriately.
- Evaluate the quality of sources and content.
- Use technology to effectively locate and communicate information.

Ethics

- Demonstrate knowledge and application of prescribed ethical codes and/or behaviors promoted by professions.

METHODOLOGY:

A. Teaching Methods: Describe what methods will be used to convey information to students.

B. Evaluation Procedures: Describe specifically how course objectives/outcomes
will be evaluated (e.g. essays, projects, discussions, quizzes/exams, etc.)

C. Major Assignments used for Outcomes Assessments: Describe any Outcomes Assessments mandated in the course. For example, Peregrine testing. Any OA assessments required should be supplied by the Chair. This is a mandatory assessment used in all sections of all courses.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND CHECKLIST:
Provide a list of assignments by week, point values, and due dates (e.g. Sunday of Week 1). For online sections, Your instructional designer can help you build this table from the Grade Center in Blackboard.