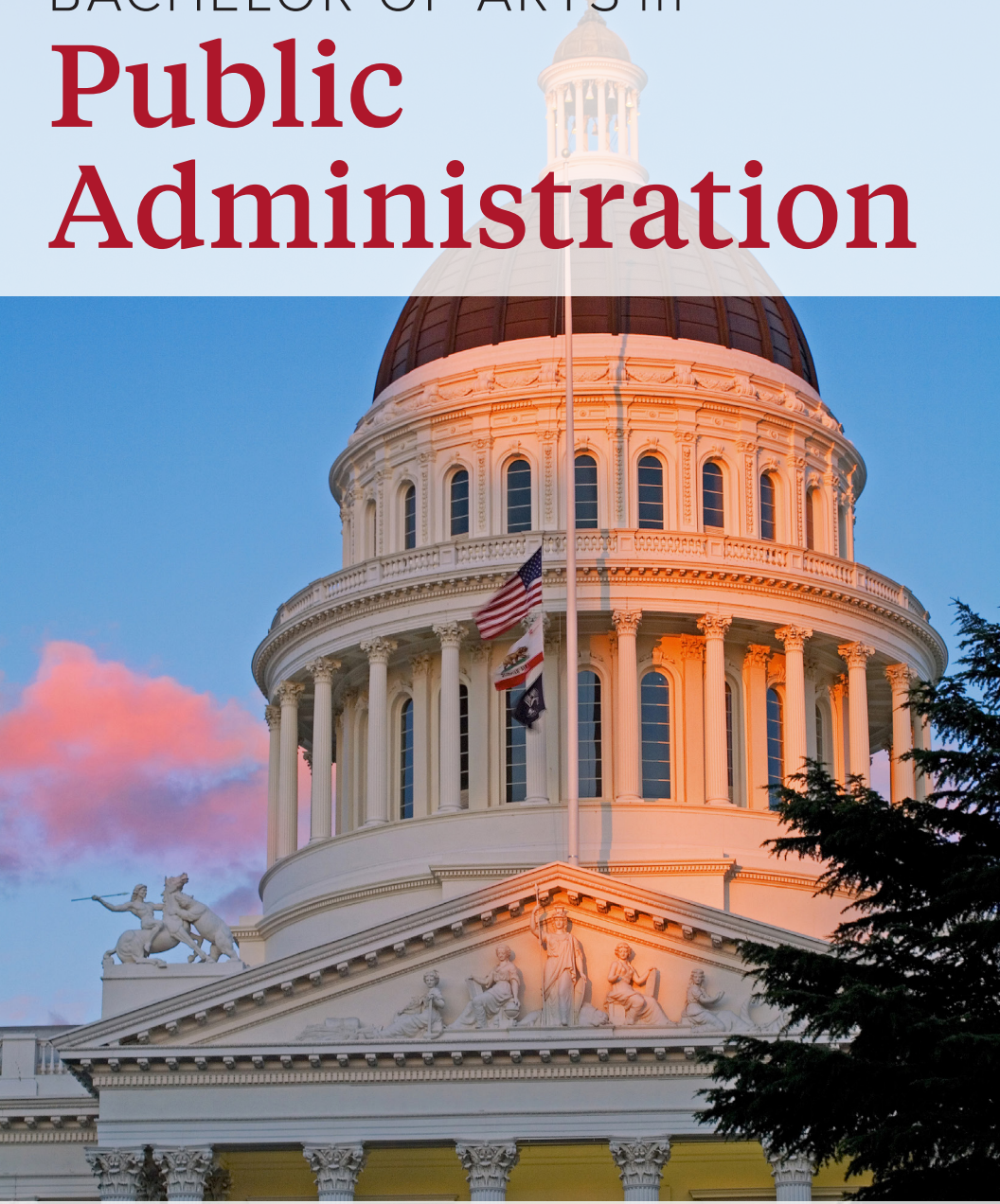
BACHELOR OF ARTS in

Public Administration



SDSU | Imperial Valley

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Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration

The primary purpose of the public administration major is to provide knowledge, skills, and connections for students who wish to prepare themselves for management careers in government, business, and nonprofit organizations. Our faculty is a mix of internationally published scholars and prominent local government leaders. In addition to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration degree, SDSU Imperial Valley also offers a Minor in Public Administration.

The structures of government and the private sector continue to evolve and intersect, increasing the need for competent public administration scholars and practitioners. This is especially true in Imperial County, where the percentage of workers in the public sector is twice the national average. A degree in public administration can lead to a long-term career in one of the many local public sector organizations or private businesses. Beyond networking with local leaders, SDSU-IV students have the opportunity to meet with dignitaries at the state and national levels. SDSU Imperial Valley graduates hold prominent positions in major organizations throughout Imperial County and beyond. Once you complete your degree, you have many options (listed below).

Opportunities Upon Graduation

Public Sector Employment

- City or County administration careers
- Economic development careers
- Public health careers
- Public safety careers
- Social services careers
- State or Federal administration careers
- And More!

Private Sector Employment

- Business management careers
- Consulting careers
- Planning careers
- Policy analyst careers
- Retail management careers
- Tourism careers
- And More!

Graduate School (MBA, MPA, MPH, MSW, JD, and More)

- Master of Business Administration (MBA, available at SDSU)
- Master of Science in Homeland Security (Available at SDSU-IV)
- Master of Social Work (MSW, available at SDSU-IV)[1]
- Master of Public Administration (MPA, available at SDSU)
- Master of Public Health (MPH, available at SDSU)[2]
- Law Degree, JD (Juris Doctorate, several options in California)
- And More!

1 Prefer a Public Administration major with a Social Work minor
2 Prefer a Public Administration major with a Public Health minor

SDSU Imperial Valley Regional Resilience (R^2) Center

The R^2 Center at SDSU Imperial Valley serves as a research hub and regional policy center in Imperial County, designed to develop partnerships between community agencies and SDSU. The R^2 Center contributes to expanded research opportunities for SDSU-IV students and affiliated faculty members. The mission is to conduct transdisciplinary research that elevates the scholarship conducted on campus and improves the quality of life for Imperial Valley residents. Current members include faculty in the Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, Mathematics, Public Administration, and Public Health fields. Examples of projects underway are the following: *National Science Foundation* (NSF) funded STEM education workshops; *Bureau of Justice Administration* funded crime prevention research projects with the City of Brawley Police Department; a *Collaborative Environmental Health Research Plan* for Imperial Valley; reducing vaping and secondhand exposure in Imperial Valley High Schools; and finally, studying rural heat islands and farmworker exposure to heat stress.

SDSU Imperial Valley

R² CENTER REGIONAL RESILIENCE

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. David Kanaan



"For in a democracy, every citizen, regardless of their interest in politics, 'holds office'; every one of us is in a position of responsibility; and, in the final analysis, the kind of government we get depends upon how we fulfill those responsibilities."

—John F. Kennedy

Dr. David Kanaan is Chair of the Division of Professional Studies at SDSU Imperial Valley and an Associate Professor of Public Administration with the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University. His research focuses on government performance and the effectiveness of public policy. Dr. Kanaan served as Managing Editor of the internationally renowned journal *Public Administration Review* (PAR) from 2017 to 2021 and has presented his research at numerous conferences, including the *American Society for Public Administration* (ASPA), the *Urban Affairs Association* (UAA), and the *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management* (APPAM). Before entering academia, he worked as a marketing executive, entertainment agent, and business owner. Dr. Kanaan is a graduate of the *University of Central Florida* (UCF) Doctoral Program in Public Affairs (Ph.D.) and has published articles in the peer-reviewed journals *Public Administration Review, Public Performance & Management Review, Public Integrity, Public Administration Quarterly, Journal of Public & Nonprofit Affairs, Journal of Urban Affairs, Education and Urban Society,* and others.

FOUR-YEAR PATHWAYS

Imperial Valley College to ▸ SDSU Imperial Valley

OPTION 1

Associate of Science for Transfer in Business Administration, CalGETC
Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration, SDSU

Year 1 — Imperial Valley College

Fall Semester[1]

- Any Area 1A course *(see IVC counselor)*
- Any Area 3A course *(see IVC counselor)*
- Any Area 5A or 5C course *(see IVC counselor)*
- Any Area 6 course *(see IVC counselor)*
- BUS 126

Spring Semester[1]

- Any Area 2A course *(see IVC counselor)*
- Any Area 5B course *(see IVC counselor)*
- ACCT 220
- POLS C1000
- STAT C1000

Year 2 — Imperial Valley College

Fall Semester[1]

- Any Area 3A Course *(see IVC counselor)*
- BUS 124 or BUS 260
- COMM 100
- ECON C2001
- Optional Elective *(see IVC counselor)*

Spring Semester[1]

- Any Area 3B Course *(see IVC counselor)*
- ECON C2002
- MATH 170[2]
- HIST C1001
- Optional Elective *(see IVC counselor)*

Year 3 — SDSU Imperial Valley

Fall Semester[3]

- CHEM 300, ENS 331, FN 313, or GEN S 340
- P A 200 The Urban Scene
- P A 301 Concepts & Issues in Public Admin
- P A 310 Mgmt of Urban Government
- Elective *(see SDSU-IV advisor)*

Spring Semester[3]

- CCS 375, HIST 421 or 440, PHIL 330, or WGSS 336
- RWS 305W or JMS 310W
- P A 330 Public Personnel Administration
- P A 350 Contemporary Urban Issues
- Elective *(see SDSU-IV advisor)*

Year 4 — SDSU Imperial Valley

Fall Semester[3]

- GEOG 321, P H 362, POL S 321, PSY 344, SOC 355 or WGSS 310 or 325
- P A 340 Administrative Behavior
- P A 485 Planning & Public Policy
- P A 497 or P A 498[5]
- Elective *(if necessary, see SDSU-IV advisor)*

Spring Semester[3]

- P A 312 or P A 324
- P A 450 Fiscal and Budgetary Policy
- P A 460 Administration & Public Policy
- P A 497 or P A 498 or Elective[5]
- Elective *(if necessary, see SDSU-IV advisor)*

1 For the IVC pathway, there may be some flexibility with the sequence of courses; please see your IVC advisor. All course schedules are subject to change.

2 See IVC counselor for multiple measure placement eligibility.

3 For the SDSU Imperial Valley pathway, there may be flexibility with the sequence of courses, and other course options may be available. Students must complete a total of 120 credits to earn a degree. Please see your SDSU Imperial Valley advisor. All course schedules are subject to change.

Start at Imperial Valley College to complete your Associate's Degree, then transfer to SDSU Imperial Valley to complete your Bachelor's Degree.

OPTION 2

Associate of Science for Transfer in Business Administration, CalGETC
Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration with Public Health Minor, SDSU

Year 1 — Imperial Valley College

Fall Semester[1]

- Any Area 1A course *(see IVC counselor)*
- Any Area 3A course *(see IVC counselor)*
- Any Area 5A or 5C course *(see IVC counselor)*
- Any Area 6 course *(see IVC counselor)*
- BUS 126

Spring Semester[1]

- Any Area 2A course *(see IVC counselor)*
- Any Area 5B course *(see IVC counselor)*
- ACCT 220
- POLS C1000
- STAT C1000

Year 2 — Imperial Valley College

Fall Semester[1]

- Any Area 3A Course *(see IVC counselor)*
- BUS 124 or BUS 260
- COMM 100
- ECON C2001
- *HE 103*

Spring Semester[1]

- Any Area 3B Course *(see IVC counselor)*
- ECON C2002
- MATH 170[2]
- HIST C1001
- *HE 200*

Year 3 — SDSU Imperial Valley

Fall Semester[3]

- CHEM 300, ENS 331, FN 313, or GEN S 340
- P A 200 The Urban Scene
- P A 301 Concepts & Issues in Public Admin
- P A 310 Mgmt of Urban Government
- *P H 302 Epidemiology*

Spring Semester[3]

- CCS 375, HIST 421 or 440, PHIL 330, or WGSS 336
- RWS 305W or JMS 310W
- P A 330 Public Personnel Administration
- P A 350 Contemporary Urban Issues
- *P H 304 or P H 305 or P H 452*

Year 4 — SDSU Imperial Valley

Fall Semester[3]

- GEOG 321, P H 362, POL S 321, PSY 344, SOC 355 or WGSS 310 or 325
- P A 340 Administrative Behavior
- P A 485 Planning & Public Policy
- P A 497 or P A 498[5]
- *P H 362 Global Health*

Spring Semester[3]

- P A 312 or P A 324
- P A 450 Fiscal and Budgetary Policy
- P A 460 Administration & Public Policy
- P A 497 or P A 498 or Elective[5]
- *P H 304 or P H 305 or P H 452*

4 Must cross-enroll in an online San Diego course.

5 Choose one course for one semester only to satisfy the practicum requirement. P A 497 is a hybrid research course. P A 498 is an internship course requiring students to complete a 135-hour internship.

SDSU Imperial Valley Public Administration Students in Sacramento and Washington, DC

Every year, SDSU Imperial Valley students travel with faculty and fellow San Diego students to either Sacramento, California, or Washington, DC. These trips are organized by the SDSU School of Public Affairs and the SDSU Imperial Valley Division of Professional Studies to build networks for students with state and federal leaders, including elected officials.

Students meet with U.S. congress members or state legislators, as well as prominent SDSU alumni and government officials. During the trip, students may have the opportunity to attend a public administration conference and establish relationships with colleagues from around the world. In addition, students and faculty visit historic buildings and museums while exploring either Washington, DC, the epicenter of national policy, or Sacramento, the policy center for the State of California, the fifth-largest economy in the world.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Sungjin Lee



"We are more fulfilled when we are involved in something bigger than ourselves." **—John Glenn**

Dr. Sungjin Lee is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration at San Diego State University for both the School of Public Affairs and SDSU Imperial Valley. His research focuses on policy analysis and evaluation to support more informed policymaking, particularly in the areas of criminal justice, welfare programs, and workforce development. His work explores the impact of welfare policies on economic self-sufficiency and poverty reduction. Dr. Lee's research also examines the effectiveness of workforce development programs in enhancing local economic outcomes and expanding employment opportunities for marginalized populations in the face of emerging technologies. Before joining SDSU Imperial Valley, Dr. Lee was a Postdoctoral Researcher at The Ohio State University, where he conducted data analysis for several state- and federally funded projects, including projects related to the 5G and broadband workforce, AI and electric vehicle industries in Ohio, and the Ohio Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program. He earned his Ph.D. in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri in 2023. Prior to his doctoral studies, he worked for the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), where he analyzed the effectiveness of South Korea's grant aid programs for developing countries.



SDSU Imperial Valley students with Dr. Kanaan in front of the White House while visiting Washington, DC, in 2019, and attending the *American Society for Public Administration* (ASPA) conference.



SDSU Imperial Valley students and Dr. Kanaan with Congressman Raul Ruiz of California while visiting Washington, DC, in 2025, and attending the *American Society for Public Administration* (ASPA) conference.

SDSU

School of
Public Affairs

SDSU

Imperial Valley

For information about the SDSU Imperial Valley Public Administration program, please contact Academic Advisor Roxanne Vega:

rvega4@sdsu.edu

For application questions, please contact SDSU Imperial Valley Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator Francisco Peraza:

fperaza@sdsu.edu

For financial aid questions, please contact SDSU Imperial Valley Financial Aid Analyst Georgette Astorga:

gastorga@sdsu.edu



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