New Changes Coming to the Local Government Program on May 1, 2026

What's Changing?

1. New MPA Course Added: PA 9918 Digital Era Communications
- This new required MPA course will focus on digital era communication tools and strategies and their use by local governments
- It will be offered in the fall of 2026 for the first time

2. Two Courses Merged into Renamed Course
- Space for the new Digital Era Communications course has been created by merging PA 9916 Theories of Public Administration with PA 9903 Organizational Behaviour in a Local Government Environment
- **New Title: PA 9903 Theories of Organizations**

3. Program Delivery Format (Full-Time MPA Only)
- The full-time MPA program is moving to a hybrid model (a mix of in-person and online courses)
- PA 9901, 9902, 9903, and 9904 will be fully online
- These online courses will run on a weekly basis in the fall and winter semesters and will include both asynchronous and synchronous components
- *Note: This change does not apply to the part-time MPA program*

Why These Changes?
- To reflect emerging trends in public administration, including digital transformation and the use of AI
- To make the full-time MPA program more flexible and accessible, especially for those who want to continue working while doing the program on a full-time basis
- To respond to student and faculty feedback and recommendations from the 2023 external review

Who Do These Changes Affect?
- New part-time MPA students (starting May 2026) will take PA 9918 Digital Era Communications and the updated version of PA 9903 Theories of Organizations
- New full-time MPA students (starting September 2026) will take PA 9918 Digital Era Communications and the updated version of PA 9903 Theories of Organizations. Their program delivery model will be hybrid, with PA 9901, 9902, 9903, and 9904 being fully online
- New GDPA students (starting May 2026) will take the updated version of PA 9903 Theories of Organizations