

# HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, MHA

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## Mission

The mission of the Health Care Management program is to prepare ethical and socially responsible students from a variety of backgrounds for entry and mid-level management and leadership positions in a variety of health service organizations in the changing health service system, and to strive for excellence in professional education, scholarly research and community service in health care management.

## Vision

To be a premier, high value provider of health administration education at the regional, state and national level to all types of clinical and non-clinical individuals.

## Goals

Programmatic goals include obtaining a selection of both diverse student and faculty educational and experiential backgrounds to foster increased interdisciplinary understanding of health care. Because a health administrator supports those who provide care, it is incumbent to include both clinicians and non-clinicians in the student body to refine their analytical, verbal and quantitative skills for resolving complex health care issues. Individuals learn both cognitive and affective educational domains at the highest levels.

The MHA program will provide students with tools for successful careers and personal growth through:

- Preparation for leadership in private, public, profit or non-profit health service organizations;
- Instruction of theoretical and conceptual frameworks for programmatic solutions in actual practice settings;
- Instruction in the domains and competencies required by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME);
- Internships that add value to patients' care (required);
- A unique professional based project focused on improving care or resource use in healthcare; and,
- The use of both on-campus and off-campus media to enhance their skills, knowledge and abilities in health administration at a reasonable expense;

## Objectives

The MHA has four primary objectives. They are to prepare students:

- For positions of increased responsibility within healthcare,
- For further career choices beyond the entry level,
- With clinical, business or other backgrounds, who want to expand their careers into health administration, and
- To improve the quality of care and resource use in health organizations

Additional MHA educational objectives include, but are not limited to:

## Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Development of independent thinking in a complex world,
- Development of superior health administration skills,
- Promotion of pragmatic application from internship (or project) experiences,

## Academic Policies

Students admitted to the MHA program will follow the academic policies contained in this catalog.

## Advising

In order to keep students on track for completing the degree, the Graduate Program Director will be the initial student advisor. The student will be required to communicate with his or her advisor before registering for courses each semester.

## Requirements

### Prerequisite Courses and Degree Progression

The MHA program accepts students from a variety of backgrounds, but not all are ready to enter several advanced health care management courses without prerequisite preparation or coursework. Students with business and health care management backgrounds are usually prepared for advanced work; however, individuals with clinical and science backgrounds may not be. For applicants to be successful, they should have a previous course or preparation in basic accounting, economics and statistics (i.e., MATH 1401-Elementary Statistics or equivalent, HCMG 5020 - Health Econometrics or equivalent, and/or HCMG 5030 Healthcare Accounting or equivalent). If these prerequisite courses are taken after admission, they do not count toward the required 45 semester hours for the degree and may not be eligible for financial aid. For further information regarding the prerequisite requirement, please contact the MHA Program Director.

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Foundation Core Required Courses</b>		<b>12</b>
HCMG 5100	Health Systems Administration	3
HCMG 5200	Healthcare Law and Ethics	3
HCMG 5300	Human Resource Mgmt-Hlth. Care	3
HCMG 5400	Organ. Behavior in Health Care	3
<b>Advanced Core Required Courses</b>		<b>27</b>
HCMG 5950	Healthcare Economics	3
HCMG 6100	Information Mgmt.-Health Care	3
HCMG 6150	Healthcare Reimb & Fin Mgt	3
HCMG 6301	Health Care Marketing <sup>1</sup>	3
HCMG 6500	Managerial Epidemiology	3
HCMG 6650	Research Statistics and Method	3
HCMG 6700	Health Care Policy	3
HCMG 6850	Adv Qlty Sys for Hlth Leaders	3
HCMG 6900	Strategic Mgmt of HC Orgs <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Electives</b>		<b>3</b>

Choose a minimum of one (1) elective course)

HCMG 5501	International Healthcare Issue	
HCMG 5650	Public Health Organizations	
HCMG 5701	Long Term Care Administration	
HCMG 5750	Hlthcare Regulatory Compliance	
HCMG 6950	Independent Research in Health	
HCMG 6999	Project/Thesis in Hlth Adm.	
<b>Integrative Experiences</b>		<b>3</b>
HCMG 6990	Health Admin. Internship (up to 6 credits)	3
Comprehensive Examination (two chances to pass)		0
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>45</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students must take HCMG 5100 Health Systems Administration-HCMG 5400 Organ. Behavior in Health Care Before HCMG 6301 Health Care Marketing-HCMG 6900 Stratetic Mgmt of HC Orgs.

## MHA Management Project

Each student is required to complete a management project and present it as part of the comprehensive examination process.

## MHA Comprehensive Examination

*Will be Conducted in Conjunction with the Project Presentation or optional Thesis during the student's final semester.*

The comprehensive examination is a means of demonstrating the degree of knowledge, skills and abilities from the culmination of cognitive and effective education provided in the MHA. All students must pass the comprehensive examination within **two** tries. Failure to pass the comprehensive examination indicates failure in the MHA program. No credit is provided for the comprehensive examination.

## MHA Thesis (Optional)

If chosen as an option, the thesis offers the opportunity to

- access and critically review current and relevant literature regarding a specific research question through the lens of a theoretical framework,
- design and complete a research project at the master's level, and
- determine how the findings from the study will improve health organization practice.

The master's thesis does not have to be independent or original research, but should involve the new application of ideas. The thesis and the related defense, Oral Thesis Examination, (that will be the Comprehensive Examination) offer the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to write about and to communicate orally the work done in the MHA. The thesis must be article ready, but it is not required to be accepted for publication. See the MHA Program Director for specific thesis requirements.

## Faculty

Marcia Butler  
 Joey Helton  
 Margaret McAlister  
 Thomas McIlwain  
 M. Scott Stegall  
 MeriBeth Stegall