

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

The Master of Science in Healthcare Administration (MHA) program provides students the knowledge and experience to pursue a wide range of healthcare-related careers. The versatile program complements various fields of study from nursing to science to business. As an interdisciplinary course of study, the program draws upon the expertise of full-time faculty members from the Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies and Charles F. Dolan School of Business. The MHA program allows students flexibility with a fully online format of course work and both full-time or part-time enrollment options. The fully online cohorts can start in the summer, fall, or spring semesters for full flexibility. Our example plan of study shows the summer start cohort option.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Healthcare Administration Courses		
HCAD 6100	Introduction to the United States Healthcare System	3
HCAD 6200	Healthcare Reimbursement and Organizational Performance	3
HCAD 6951	Healthcare Administration Practicum	3
HCAD 6999	Healthcare Administration Capstone	4
Nursing Courses		
NURS 6521	Healthcare Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement	3
NURS 7602	Healthcare Economics and Marketing	3
NURS 7605	Advanced Health Policy	3
NURS 7608	Research Methods for Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS 7614	Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement	3
Business Courses		
ACCT 5400	Introduction to Accounting	3
FNCE 5400	Principles of Finance	3
MGMT 6503	Legal and Ethical Environment of Business	3
OR take PUAD 5425 Administrative Leadership and Ethics		
MGMT 6504	Managing People for Competitive Advantage	3
MGMT 6525	Employee Performance Management and Rewards for Competitive Advantage	3
Total Credits		43

Plan of Study

Please note that the below plan of study is a sample of the Online summer semester cohort start. There are also plan of study grids available from the Program Director for the online program with Fall or Spring semester starts as well.

Full Time - Summer Start

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Summer		
ACCT 5400	Introduction to Accounting	3
HCAD 6100	Introduction to the United States Healthcare System	3
NURS 7605	Advanced Health Policy	3
Credits		9
Fall		
FNCE 5400	Principles of Finance	3
MGMT 6503	Legal and Ethical Environment of Business	3
OR take PUAD 5425 Administrative Leadership and Ethics		
MGMT 6504	Managing People for Competitive Advantage	3
MGMT 6525	Employee Performance Management and Rewards for Competitive Advantage	3
Credits		12
Spring		
HCAD 6200	Healthcare Reimbursement and Organizational Performance	3
HCAD 6951	Healthcare Administration Practicum	3
NURS 6521	Healthcare Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement	3
NURS 7608	Research Methods for Evidence-Based Practice	3
Credits		12
Second Year		
Summer		
HCAD 6999	Healthcare Administration Capstone	4
NURS 7602	Healthcare Economics and Marketing	3
NURS 7614	Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement	3
Credits		10
Total Credits		43

Part Time - Summer Start

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Summer		
HCAD 6100	Introduction to the United States Healthcare System	3
NURS 7614	Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement	3
Credits		6
Fall		
FNCE 5400	Principles of Finance	3
MGMT 6503	Legal and Ethical Environment of Business	3
OR take PUAD 5425 Administrative Leadership and Ethics		
Credits		6
Spring		
HCAD 6200	Healthcare Reimbursement and Organizational Performance	3

NURS 7608	Research Methods for Evidence-Based Practice	3
Credits		6
Second Year		
Summer		
ACCT 5400	Introduction to Accounting	3
NURS 7605	Advanced Health Policy	3
Credits		6
Fall		
MGMT 6504	Managing People for Competitive Advantage	3
MGMT 6525	Employee Performance Management and Rewards for Competitive Advantage	3
Credits		6
Spring		
HCAD 6951	Healthcare Administration Practicum	3
NURS 6521	Healthcare Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement	3
Credits		6
Third Year		
Summer		
HCAD 6999	Healthcare Administration Capstone	4
NURS 7602	Healthcare Economics and Marketing	3
Credits		7
Total Credits		43

HCAD 6951 Healthcare Administration Practicum 3 Credits
Prerequisite: HCAD 6100.

In the MHA Practicum, the student will identify a healthcare environment for a 150-hour immersion learning opportunity. Paired with community partners, students will observe and participate in learning how the theoretical concepts and skills of healthcare leadership are implemented in practice. The student will focus on the competencies of the program such as organizational behavior, management, human resources, project management, systems improvement, financial strategies, information technology and performance management as appropriate to the clinical site. Students will identify one practice partner or divide time in multiple areas to achieve the objectives of the practicum. The student will incorporate reflections about social justice, diversity and inclusion, and caring for communities and individuals into their overall reflections on the Practicum experience. Students with current or recent experience in healthcare leadership may apply to have this course waived in consultation with the Program Director and approval of the Associate Dean.

HCAD 6999 Healthcare Administration Capstone 4 Credits
Prerequisite: HCAD 6100 or Program Director Approval.

The Healthcare Administration Capstone is an integrative learning experience drawing on all the disciplines and subject matter presented in the MHA Program that results in a comprehensive and relevant plan to address a current health care problem impacting a specific health care organization, institution, provider group and directed toward an at-risk community or population. The Capstone Project is a representation of the student's theoretical and applied skills developed during their course of study in the program. The capstone will be customized to the student's experiences, goals and expertise. The course will consist of 200 hours of time dedicated to the various components of project development for a healthcare organization as well as clinical conference sessions with a faculty advisor.

Courses

HCAD 6100 Introduction to the United States Healthcare System 3 Credits

This course provides an overview of the evolving structure of the US healthcare delivery system. Since the US healthcare system has been periodically changed in diverse aspects over the decades, its dynamic mechanism should be understood. Particularly the healthcare system encompasses organizations, management, finance, policy, and technology. This course introduces students to the complexity of healthcare, challenges of leadership, the key stakeholders, and the current state of healthcare in the US. As the introductory course for the MHA program, this hybrid course will allow student to acclimate to the program through multiple learning modalities and activities. Collaboration and team building, critical success factors in healthcare, will be a focus of the on-site portion of the course. The cohort will be introduced to many key aspects of healthcare administration as well as acclimating to the rich learning environment of Fairfield University.

HCAD 6200 Healthcare Reimbursement and Organizational Performance 3 Credits

This course is focused on the complex topic of healthcare reimbursement as the primary income sources for healthcare organizations. Additionally, the course will explore the dynamic concepts of payer sources with the emphasis on reimbursement through government, commercial and private payers. Healthcare administrators and leaders in must possess a firm grasp of sources of revenue and the rapidly changing environment. Decision-making related to organizational goals will be explored in the context of revenue. The course supports students to understand how to apply financial decision-making, strategic, and operational decisions.