

MHA in Health Administration

About the MHA

The Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree is designed for students from diverse academic backgrounds and prepares them to succeed as healthcare executives. The curriculum provides a comprehensive foundation in key competency areas, including: health systems operations, organization theory, information management, financial management, strategic planning and marketing, human resource management, health economics, managerial epidemiology, leadership, and ethics.

The program integrates foundational and advanced coursework with practical experiences, including an internship and an Executive Management Study (a hands-on applied project that takes the place of a traditional thesis). These experiences allow students to develop specialized expertise in areas aligned with their career goals.

Professional electives are selected collaboratively by the student and their advisor to personalize the program and support each student's individual interests.

The overarching goal of the MHA program is to prepare graduates for leadership roles in healthcare organizations. Students gain strong applied knowledge in areas such as: clinical decision support systems, risk assessment and management, clinical outcomes assessment, managing interdisciplinary teams, and integrated health systems management.

Degree Requirements

The residential MHA degree requires a total of 54 credit hours, which includes 39 hours of core coursework, three credit hours earned for a required 12-week summer internship, a three-credit hour capstone group management project, and nine credit hours of professional electives. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative MU graduate grade point average to earn the Master's degree.

The professional elective requirement, which comprises three courses, allows MHA students the opportunity to concentrate in a particular area of study if they choose. MHA students may pursue graduate certificates, or complement their MHA coursework with classes in areas such as business administration, public administration, industrial engineering and public health.

MHA students must complete a 12-week administrative internship at an approved integrated managed care system, group practice, hospital or other healthcare organization under the guidance of a qualified preceptor (often a Health Administration alumnus/a). The internship is designed to incorporate the academic training students receive in their first year of the master's degree with practical applications within the host site. The students receive hands-on exposure to health care management in a real-world environment and experience first-hand the dynamics of a career in health care. The intern should have the opportunity to observe their mentor and other professionals in the work environment, as well as opportunities to discuss their experiences.

Specific general skills to be developed include:

- Leadership
- Strategic decision making
- Project management

- Teamwork

The Health Administration executive-in-residence works individually with students to place them at internship sites.

Required Courses

HLTH_ADM 7410	Introduction to the US Health Care System	3
HLTH_ADM 7430	Health Informatics for Leaders	3
HLTH_ADM 7471	Introduction to Accounting and Finance in Health Care	3
HLTH_ADM 7544	Managerial Epidemiology: Population Health Management	3
HLTH_ADM 8453	Executive Management Studies	3
HLTH_ADM 8460	Administration of Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8461	Managing Human Resources in Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8470	Strategic Planning and Marketing for Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8472	Financial Management for Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8524	Health Economics	3
HLTH_ADM 8571	Decision Support Systems for Health Administration	3
HLTH_ADM 8573	Decision Making for Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8574	Health Care Law	3
HLTH_ADM 8575	Health Policy and Politics	3
HLTH_ADM 8689	Field Experience in Health Administration	3
Students must complete nine credit hours of professional electives		9
Students must satisfy a pre-requisites in microeconomics		

Executive MHA Degree

Dual Degree MHA in Health Administration and MBA in Business Administration

A joint degree program administered through The Department of Health Sciences in The College of Health Sciences and Trulaske College of Business allows students to earn an MBA in Business Administration degree and an MHA in Health Administration degree simultaneously. Individuals interested in pursuing a managerial career in the medical services field will find that this program provides a deeper knowledge of finance, management, and marketing compared to their peers. If earned separately, each degree would take two years. The dual program is 70.5 total credit hours and allows students to graduate with both degrees in a total of three years. For program requirements see the MBA in Business Administration (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofbusiness/businessadministration/mba-business-administration/>).

Dual Degree MHA in Health Administration and MPA in Public Affairs

A joint degree program offered through The Department of Health Sciences in The College of Health Sciences and The Truman School of Government and Public Affairs allows students to concurrently earn a Master of Health Administration (MHA) and the Master of Public Affairs (MPA). This dual degree is designed for individuals pursuing leadership and policy-making roles within the healthcare sector. The curriculum

integrates key aspects of public affairs and health administration, equipping graduates with comprehensive skills in policy analysis, healthcare finance and organizational management. The integrated dual program is structured to be completed in just three years, comprising a total of 69 credit hours. For specific program requirements and detailed curriculum information, see below course list.

Required Courses		45
HLTH_ADM 7410	Introduction to the US Health Care System	3
HLTH_ADM 7430	Health Informatics for Leaders	3
HLTH_ADM 7544	Managerial Epidemiology: Population Health Management	3
HLTH_ADM 8460	Administration of Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8470	Strategic Planning and Marketing for Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8524	Health Economics	3
HLTH_ADM 8571	Decision Support Systems for Health Administration	3
HLTH_ADM 8573	Decision Making for Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8574	Health Care Law	3
PUB_AF 8110	Introduction to Public and Nonprofit Management	3
PUB_AF 8170	Public Policy Processes and Strategies	3
PUB_AF 8180	Research Methods and Inquiry in Public Affairs I	3
PUB_AF 8181	Research Methods and Inquiry in Public Affairs II	3
PUB_AF 8210	Public Service and Democracy	3
MPA elective		3
Shared Courses		24
PUB_AF 7430	Public Policy Analysis	3
PUB_AF 8420	Public Program Evaluation	3
HLTH_ADM 7471	Introduction to Accounting and Finance in Health Care	3
HLTH_ADM 8453 or PUB_AF 8211	Executive Management Studies MPA Capstone (Applied Project)	3
HLTH_ADM 8461	Managing Human Resources in Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8472	Financial Management for Health Care Organizations	3
HLTH_ADM 8575	Health Policy and Politics	3
HLTH_ADM 8689	Field Experience in Health Administration	3

Accelerated BHS in Health Science to MHA

An accelerated option is available for the BHS in Health Science to MHA in Health Administration (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofhealthsciences/healthscience/bhs-health-science/>). Refer to the Graduate School's webpage on Accelerated Programs (<https://gradschool.missouri.edu/admissions/eligibility-process/accelerated-masters-applicants/>) for more information. For general information on how accelerated options work at MU, and for guidance on participation, refer to Accelerated Options (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicpolicies/acceleratedoptions/>) in the catalog.

Sample Plan of Study

Health Administration Residential Plan of Study

First Year					
Fall	CR	Spring	CR	Summer	CR
HLTH_ADM 7410	3	HLTH_ADM 8461	3	HLTH_ADM 8689	3
HLTH_ADM 7471	3	HLTH_ADM 8524	3		
HLTH_ADM 7544	3	HLTH_ADM 8573	3		
HLTH_ADM 8460	3	Electives	6		
12		15		3	

Second Year					
Fall	CR	Spring	CR	Summer	CR
HLTH_ADM 7430	3	HLTH_ADM 8453	3		
HLTH_ADM 8470	3	HLTH_ADM 8571	3		
HLTH_ADM 8472	3	HLTH_ADM 8574	3		
Elective	3	HLTH_ADM 8575	3		
12		12			

Total Credits: 54

Executive Health Administration Plan of Study

Executive students begin in the Spring semesters

First Year					
Fall	CR	Spring	CR	Summer	CR
Executive students begin Spring semester, and program runs on calendar year.		HLTH_ADM 7410	3	HLTH_ADM 8450	3
		HLTH_ADM 7430	3		
		HLTH_ADM 8460	3		
0		9		3	

Second Year					
Fall	CR	Spring	CR	Summer	CR
HLTH_ADM 8461	3	HLTH_ADM 7544	3	HLTH_ADM 8451	3
HLTH_ADM 8524	3	HLTH_ADM 8470	3		
HLTH_ADM 8573	3	HLTH_ADM 8472	3		
9		9		3	

Third Year					
Fall	CR	Spring	CR	Summer	CR
HLTH_ADM 8571	3				
HLTH_ADM 8574	3				
HLTH_ADM 8575	3				
9					

Total Credits: 42

Thesis/Non-Thesis Requirement

- improvement of patient experience of wait times in the Orthopaedic Clinic at the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute
- surgical site infection reduction informed by NSQIP resources for UMHC
- system-wide urinary catheter reduction for UMHC

- improving screening and follow-up for students with substance use and/or mood disorders at MU Student Health

Financial Aid

Further information about costs, financial aid, and external scholarship opportunities is available on the Cashiers Office website (<https://cashiers.missouri.edu/cost/>), and Student Financial Aid website (<https://financialaid.missouri.edu/types-of-aid/>).

Admissions Requirements

Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the MHA program and the minimum requirements of the Graduate School (<https://gradschool.missouri.edu/admissions/eligibility-process/>). Because requirements vary, you *must* refer to a degree program's graduate admission page to learn about specific admission criteria, application deadlines, eligibility and application process. Before official admission to the University of Missouri, your application materials will be reviewed by both the degree program to which you've applied and the Graduate School.

Health Administration Admissions Information

Deadline for Fall entrance: Rolling; priority deadline is March 1

A minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution

Undergraduate GPA: 3.0 during the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work and any subsequent graduate course work

Minimum TOEFL scores:

Internet-based test (iBT)	Paper-based test (PBT)
100	600

Minimum Academics IELTS scores:

Item	Score
OVERALL	7.0

Minimum Duolingo score: 120

Required Application Materials

Master's program applicants should apply online through the **Graduate School application system**. When completing the online application, you will have an opportunity to upload/attach additional documents. Please include the following documents:

- an updated **résumé** or **curriculum vitae**;
- a **personal essay** that:
 - outlines your professional plans and career objectives;
 - explains how you became interested in health services management/health informatics and how your prior training and experience would help your career;
 - includes specific issues and problems in health care you consider challenging and why;
 - indicates if you intend to apply to the traditional (residential) on-campus degree program or the distance education (executive) format

Other required documents:

- **Official transcripts** of all coursework from all colleges, technical schools and/or universities attended

- **Three letters of recommendation** (submitted through the Graduate School application system (<https://applygrad.missouri.edu/apply/>))

You may also be required to submit other documentation and in some cases complete prerequisite courses. Below is a checklist to help make sure your application is complete:

- **Request to re-enroll form** (for previously admitted students only)
- **Application for Change of Degree form** (for students already enrolled in a Master's degree or Graduate Certificate program)
- **Letter of support** from your employer (Executive Students only)
- **Official TOEFL report** (for international applicants only - have official results sent to us: institution code is 6875, our department code is 25 - minimum score of 100 on the Internet-based exam required)

Admissions Contact

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