

2.8 OTHER GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEGREES. IF THE SCHOOL OFFERS CURRICULA FOR GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEGREES OTHER THAN THE MPH OR EQUIVALENT PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREES, STUDENTS PURSUING THEM MUST BE GROUNDED IN BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH KNOWLEDGE.

2.8.a. Identification of professional degree curricula offered by the school, other than those preparing primarily for public health careers, and a description of the requirements for each.

The Masters of Health Administration

The MHA Program has been in continuous accreditation since 1968 (ACEHSA/CAHME) and is housed in the Department of Health Policy and Management (HPM). The Program enrolls full- and part-time students and prepares them for the challenges of delivering quality health services: dealing with trends in service delivery, managing financial resources, focusing on patient safety and quality and improving performance to ensure timely delivery of efficacious health services to individuals and communities.

The program was founded in 1959 as the Program in Hospital Administration in the School of Business. Since then the program has undergone a number of major transformations, most recently, as an MHA with a curriculum responsive to the fast-paced and dynamic changes in health care and the health services field. Over several years the program was enhanced by adding emphases on management of long-term and post-acute care management and ambulatory care, in addition to traditional hospital care. Most recently, we further improved the program by adding: a semester-long elective in emergency and disaster management; several short (three-day long) electives taught by either program alumni or seasoned healthcare executives; a semi-annual program newsletter; a number of new residency sites; and several new faculty, including, regular, full-time faculty, several full-time visiting faculty and a number of new professorial lecturers. This fall we are conducting a nationwide search for two additional special service faculty, who will be committed to significant teaching and mentoring.

The program is distinguished by: 1) a required one-year, full-time administrative Residency for the Program's management areas of focus, for nine-semester hours; 2) voluntary community service activities in conjunction with medical, nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy, and public health students; 3) affiliation with The George Washington University Hospital and the George Washington Medical Faculty Associates, a large physician group practice; 4) alumni mentoring and alumni assistance in career development and placement through the Student Alumni Mentoring Program (SAMP); 5) executives-in-residence (EIR) who we bring to campus to teach, mentor, and counsel students; and 6) faculty support to an active student association offering a wide variety of professional development, social activities and affiliations with local and national professional associations.

CAHME reaccredited the MHA program in 2013 for 7 years. It is also accredited by the National Association of Board of Long Term Care (NAB). NAB accredits program for long-term care administrators; with that accreditation, GW MHA graduates are permitted to apply for a license in twenty eight states.

The MHA is a 50-credit program. The curricular requirements are shown in the table below. Students also enroll in between 10 and 16 credits of pre-approved electives, depending on if they choose the Internship or Residency option for field experience.

Table 2.8.a.: MHA Required Curriculum

Required Courses (31 credits)		
Course	Credits	Title
HSML 6202	2	Introduction to the US Health Care System
HSML 6203	2	Introduction to Health Management
HSML 6204	2	Quality and Performance Improvement
HSML 6206	3	Quantitative Methods and Epidemiology in Health Services
HSML 6207	2	Health Services Information Applications
HSML 6208	2	Medical Informatics
HSML 6209	2	Health Services Finance
HSML 6210	2	Health Services Financial Applications
HSML 6211	2	Health Economics
HSML 6212	2	Community Health Management Advocacy
HSML 6213	2	Health Services Marketing and Planning
HSML 6215	2	Health Law for Managers
HSML 6216	2	Human Resources Management and Organizational Behavior
HSML 6218	2	Seminar in Health Services Management and Leadership
PubH 6004	2	Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World
Field Experience (3 or 9 Credits)		
HSML 6273-6275	9	Residency Focus Area Options: Acute and Ambulatory Care Management; Post-acute Care Management (including Long Term Care)
HSML 6271	3	Internship Focus Area Options: Information Systems and Financial Management; Operations management; Strategic Management and Policy

2.8.b. Identification of the manner in which these curricula assure that students acquire a public health orientation. If this means is common across these other professional degree programs, it need be described only once. If it varies by program, sufficient information must be provided to assess compliance by each program.

In response to the CEPH site visit in 2007, the MHA requirements relative to the public health core were revised and strengthened. Within the 50-credit graduation requirement, we have three additional requirements:

- A two-credit environmental health course – PUBH 6004, Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World. This core course is taught by our EOH faculty for all of our master’s students.
- Quantitative Methods and Epidemiology in Health Services, HSML 6206. The course content was reviewed with and approved by faculty from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.
- Community Health Management and Advocacy, HSML 6212. This course was developed collaboratively with the Department of Prevention and Community Health.
- The two new courses that we added (HSML 6206 and 6212) were approved by the School’s Curriculum Committee as meeting identified competencies in the core areas.

2.8.c. Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met and an analysis of the school's strengths, weaknesses and plans relating to this criterion.

This criterion is met.

Strengths:

- Addition of three required courses to provide a sounder foundation in public health.

Challenges:

- None

Future Plans:

- While MHA students receive adequate introduction to core public health knowledge, they might be better served by taking these core courses outside the department, so as to broaden their perspectives about other disciplines. We will evaluate this option.
- The Department of Health Policy and Management Curriculum Committee is evaluating ways to better integrate the MPH and MHA curricula.