

Milken Institute School of Public Health THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY	Milken Institute School of Public Health Department of Health Policy and Management Online Master of Health Administration MHA@GW 2026-2027 http://publichealth.gwu.edu
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Program Director

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Mission

The mission of the MHA@GW is to prepare experienced learners who are currently working full-time in the health sector to assume roles in healthcare leadership. We prepare our students for these roles through didactic knowledge transfer, building skills via the online and in-person classroom education along with wide-ranging experiential learning opportunities to assure their success in the healthcare field. Our curriculum is centered on the application of reflective learning in the practice of healthcare management and leadership.

We emphasize career planning, professional development, and experiential models driven by adult learning methods to prepare our graduates to effectively transition into mid-level and senior management and leadership positions. Our focus is on our core competencies, and we continue to maintain close contact with alumni so that they may provide meaningful input to the Program.

To assure the highest quality of instruction, we invest in all our faculty to help them be the best they can be, focusing on strengths and pursuing opportunities for improvement and collaboration amongst leadership and faculty in order to build a well-functioning collegial group, and create an environment and culture where all faculty feel free and safe each day and to lift up the very best in all of us.

Overview

Since its founding in 1959, the Master of Health Administration Program offers training in health services administration to help meet the growing need for skilled leaders to manage health-related organizations and programs. Because it recognizes and responds to the fast-paced, dynamic changes occurring in the industry today, the Program is well-positioned to prepare not only health care managers, but the health care leaders of tomorrow. An MHA degree from the Department of Health Policy and Management incorporates business and medical informatics training, knowledge of health care systems, law and policy, critical values in decision making, and much more. The Department's special strengths include an emphasis on experiential learning and community service, distinguished faculty, research collaborations and relationships with policymaking and health care organizations in Washington, DC. Active alumni and student associations foster mentoring, networking and other professional development opportunities. Building on our 60 years of experience preparing health care leaders and our recent success in e-learning, the online MHA degree (MHA@GW) is designed for adult learners who possess either clinical or

administrative experience in healthcare delivery. The MHA@GW is designed to be completed in two years but can be completed in five years. Classes are taught in a hybrid model combining online modules (ten weeks in length) and face-to face intensive classes. The MHA@GW curriculum focuses on developing the skills and values needed for persons who seek to create highly effective healthcare organizations. Leadership and ethics is taught during a four day long on-campus session and is integrated into the various online modules. Ten weeklong online modules concentrate on the eight core content areas required by healthcare leaders. These include management and strategy, finance and quantitative methods, quality improvement, informatics and decision science, community health and quantitative methods, law and policy and systems thinking and learning. The culminating activities for MHA@GW students include a major field-based research project and a portfolio that demonstrates the achievement of program competencies and presentation of a leadership portfolio.

Goals

Graduates of the program will be expected to:

- Manage organizational change and promote organizational and clinical excellence.
- Manage health services organizations under alternative financing mechanisms.
- Lead and manage human resources in diverse organizational environments.
- Manage information resources to assist in effective decision-making and clinical management.
- Use statistical, quantitative, and economic analyses in decision-making.
- Identify ways to improve both business and clinical outcomes of health services organizations.
- Implement and enforce ethical decision-making practices.

Course Requirements

All MHA@GW students enroll in 45 total credits. MHA@GW students must complete all eight online modules, two face-to-face immersions along with two organizational research project classes. Prerequisites for admission into the MHA@GW include an undergraduate course in introductory financial accounting and an introductory course in statistics with grades of B or higher. All MHA@GW students must have a minimum of two years of full-time clinical or administrative experience and be currently employed fulltime by a healthcare related organization.

Program-Specific Competencies

The goal of the Master of Health Administration is to provide health care delivery organizations with talented graduates who possess the knowledge, skills and attitude to deliver health services in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The online Master of Health Administration degree is designed to provide students with the ability to develop and demonstrate leadership, communication and relationship management, business skills and knowledge, professionalism and healthcare knowledge applied across the widest possible spectrum of healthcare delivery organizations. Upon completion of the MHA@GW, students will demonstrate competence to:

1. Demonstrate leadership by leading and managing others, planning and implementing change and engaging in honest self-assessment. Related courses: HSML 6264 and 6281
2. Enhance and improve communication and relationship management within interpersonal communication, verbal and written communication, and team-based processes. Related courses: All online modules, immersions, organizational research project and final portfolio
3. Demonstrate the breadth of core business skills and knowledge in the following areas:
 - a. Solving business problems and decision making, and project management. Related

- courses: HSML 6255, 6264, 6269 and 6281.
- b. Quantitative skills, financial management, economic analysis and information and technology management. Related courses: HSML6265, 6266 and 6268.
 - c. Legal principles, marketing, quality improvement, organizational dynamics and governance. Related courses: HSML 6258, 6264, 6269, 6280 and 6281
4. Apply the core elements of ethics and professionalism to improve management practice within health care delivery organizations. Related courses: All online modules and immersions
 5. Apply appropriate knowledge of healthcare policy issues and trends, healthcare personnel, standards and regulations and population health and assessment to optimize the delivery of services. Related courses: HSML 6258 and 6268.

A complete list of program competencies is appended.

Graduation Requirements for MHA

All students accepted to this MHA program must follow the policies and regulations outlined in the [GW Bulletin](#) and the [GWSPH Student Handbook](#). This includes, but is not limited to:

- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Minimum Course Grades
- Continuous Enrollment
- Maximum Time to Degree
- Required Minimum Degree Credits
- Transfer Credit Policy
- CITI Training
- Integrity Quiz and Plagiarism
- Professional Enhancement (PE) Hours
- PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health
- Applied Practice Experience (e.g., residency)

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PREREQUISITES

Must earn a grade of B or better in these undergraduate courses

Title

Introductory Accounting (undergraduate)

Introductory Statistics (undergraduate)

CORE COURSES

All 40 credits are required

<i>Course #</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
HSML 6264-DE	Healthcare Management and Strategy	5
HSML 6265-DE	Medical Informatics and Decision Management	5
HSML 6266-DE	Healthcare Financial Management	5
HSML 6268-DE	Economics and Quantitative Methods	5
HSML 6267-DE	Community Engagement	4
HSML 6269-DE	Quality and Performance Improvement	5
HSML 6282-DE	Research Project 1 (<i>concurrent with HSML 6267</i>)	1
HSML 6280-DE	Healthcare Law and Policy	4
HSML 6283-DE	Research Project 2 (<i>concurrent with HSML 6280</i>)	1
HSML 6281-DE	Capstone – Systems Thinking and Learning	5
PUBH 6080	Pathways to Public Health	0
Core Credits		40

IMMERSIONS

All 5 credits required. These immersions are held on campus.

<i>Course #</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credit</i>
HSML 6255	Leadership and Ethics	2
HSML 6258	Health System Analysis	3
Immersion Credits		5

SUMMARY OF TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED BY CATEGORY

<i>Category</i>	<i>Credits</i>
Core Required Course Credits	40
Immersion Credits	5
Total Credits	45

PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health must be completed prior to starting HSML 6267. Students who have previously earned a degree from a CEPH-accredited school or program of public health are exempt from this requirement.

Program Competencies

Communications and Interpersonal Effectiveness

- Interpersonal Communication
- Presentation Skills
- Working in Teams
- Writing Skills

Critical Thinking, Analysis, and Problem Solving

- Economic Analysis
- Financial Management
- Health Policy Formulation, Implementation, and Evaluation
- Information and Technology Management
- Legal Principles
- Marketing
- Planning & Managing Projects
- Population Health
- Quality and Performance Improvement
- Quantitative Skills
- Risk Management
- Solving Business Problems and Making Decisions
- Standards and Regulations
- Strategic Planning
- Systems Thinking

Management and Leadership

- Ability for Honest Self-Assessment
- Healthcare Issues and Trends
- Healthcare Personnel
- Human Resource Management
- Leading and Managing Others
- Organization Behavior and Governance
- Planning and Implementing Change

Professionalism and Ethics

- Continuing Education and Life-Long Learning
- Professional and Community Contribution
- Professional and Managerial Ethics