

Health Administration

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Graduate Faculty:

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The **Master of Health Administration (MHA)** program is a comprehensive program that prepares students for administration roles in healthcare organizations. Courses are accelerated and offered in eight week formats to expedite completion. To earn the MHA, students must successfully complete:

1. 39 credit hours of the core MHA courses including:
MHA 510, MHA 511, MHA 520, MHA 531, MHA 536, MHA 551, MHA 555, MHA 556, MHA 566, MHA 575, MHA 580, MHA 582, and MHA 585
2. MHA 593- Individual Research/Residency- 6 credit hours. Culminates in either a final scholarly work outlined by the SIUC Graduate School or a Residency in a health care setting approved by the University and Instructor.

To facilitate completion of the program, the course of instruction will consist of 45 semester hours. As part of the 45 semester hours, students will complete a graduate residency (also known as a graduate internship) or research paper. The graduate residency will focus on one of the areas of healthcare management whereas students can apply coursework to real-world settings. The graduate residency is a six credit hour experience where one credit hour is equivalent to 50 contact hours. A total of 300 contact hours is required for successful completion.

Course material covers topics specific to the healthcare field including, but not limited to, effective organizational operations, healthcare systems, health policy, healthcare supply chain and inventory management or controlled substances, strategic leadership for differing healthcare settings, health promotion, legal and ethical foundations, managerial epidemiology and evidence based management, and financial issues specific to the healthcare industry such as charge masters and relative value units, etc. Upon completion of the program, students are expected to be equipped to operate effectively in administrative roles in healthcare organizations. Special project assignments, case readings, presentations, and journal article reviews are an integral part of the curriculum. Delivery will be via synchronous and asynchronous methods.

All students graduating from the MHA program will be required to meet the qualifications of the Graduate School at SIUC. Students will be required to complete a culminating scholarly work which includes a research paper if not completing the graduate residency/internship option.

Students earning less than a B twice in any individual MHA courses are dropped from the MHA program due to poor academic performance. Students dropped due to poor academic performance will not be allowed re-entry into the MHA program at a later date.

Note: Not all healthcare organizations or facilities may act as residency sites due to the ability to meet achievable objectives of the program and/or residency course, state-to-state licensure/permissions, and/or upper SIUC administrative approvals.

A 2.7 GPA from the student's undergraduate program is required for admission to the MHA program. Students with a 2.5-2.7 undergraduate GPA may enter as a Non-Declared student, following Graduate School Policies, and will be allowed to take up to 9 credit hours of MHA courses. At the end of the 9 credit hours, the student must hold a 3.0 GPA to be then admitted to the MHA program. Students not meeting the 3.0 GPA at the end of the 9 credit hours will not be allowed to take any other MHA courses.

Students participating in a residency may be required to undergo a criminal background check and drug-screening. Students who do not satisfactorily pass the background check and/or drug screening may find it difficult to secure a residency in the field of health care and may be removed from the MHA program or administratively required to complete the individual research project included in MHA 593 instead.

Courses (MHA)

MHA 510-3 Effective Healthcare Operations. (Same as MHI 510) A course investigating why HCOs function differently than other businesses in terms of operating margins and how improvements can be addressed with properly executed logistics and supply chain control. Addresses the excessive amount of resources spent on the healthcare supply chain in relation to other related expenses, such as physician salaries, and focuses on support systems to modify ineffective operational issues within the constraints of the highly regulated healthcare sector. eCommerce, hospital materials supply, inventory control of medical supplies and controlled substances, vendor collaboration, purchasing, receiving, and total value analysis are explored using PERT/CPM, mathematical programming, and quality controls. Case studies are used to apply techniques to specific healthcare examples.

MHA 511-3 Fundamentals of Health Care Systems. (Same as MHI 511, RAD 511) This course provides a multi-disciplinary analysis and is designed to provide students with information pertaining to the issues surrounding access to care, medical technology, and the complex financial structures of the healthcare system. Students will extensively examine aspects

of the complex healthcare system such as managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, pharmaceuticals, health promotion and disease prevention, and the quality of care.

MHA 520-3 Healthcare Policy. Explores the public policy interventions within the varying healthcare domains and defines the theoretical reasons for pursuing policy development in the presence of intense political, bureaucratic, and social environments within the healthcare industry. The effects, consequences, and social implications of policy decisions are evaluated through real-world case analysis of actual public health policies. Focus is placed on how policies impact patients and medical providers.

MHA 531-3 Human Resources in Health Care. (Same as MHI 531, RAD 531) Describes the key human resource functions that play a significant role in the healthcare environment and focuses specifically on how those functions support management initiatives and Joint Commission accreditation and/or regulatory compliance. Extensive review of how the failure to systematically apply effective human resource strategies can result in organizational demise is conducted. Explores the dynamic legal and regulatory environment and carefully examines how legislative changes influence the healthcare organization overall focusing particularly on those functions that are linked to patient satisfaction and balanced scorecards and/or benchmarking of provider performance.

MHA 536-3 Strategic Leadership in Healthcare. (Same as MHI 536, RAD 536) This course provides students with an examination of nature, function, and techniques of administration and supervision in HCOs. Topics include the ever-changing healthcare environment and trends impacting leadership competencies. Specific healthcare factors that influence organizing managing of varying health systems such as hospitals vs. ambulatory care. Focus will be given on the professional bureaucracy that is complex given regulatory issues, political factors, and the era of the informed patient.

MHA 551-3 Legal & Ethical Fundamentals of Health Care. (Same as MHI 551, RAD 551) This course provides students with an analysis of the legal and ethical environment of the healthcare industry. Focused on the healthcare environment, the course closely examines the judicial process pertaining to torts, contracts, antitrust, corporate compliance, access to care, negligence, and professional liability. The nature of ethics in the multi-cultural healthcare environment is examined with analysis of the moral issues in healthcare.

MHA 555-3 Theories of Health Promotion and Evaluation. An exploration of the concepts, theories, and status of research in health promotion and disease prevention emphasizing varying methods used to modify the health-related behaviors of groups and individuals. This course examines methods of ascertaining health behaviors, the design and interpretation of behavioral intervention programs to modify behaviors, and current trends in the study of how lifestyle and preventive health practices the field of health care.

MHA 556-3 Individual Research in Healthcare. (Same as RAD 556) This course requires students to complete a research project in the field of healthcare based upon student interest and instructor approval. Each project will have a written paper as a final product and this paper will be submitted for publication, as approved by the instructor, in one of the professional journals within the field of healthcare.

MHA 566-3 Managing Health Information. (Same as MHI 566) A detailed review of the components of an information system as utilized for the capture of health information. Focus is on EHR, HIPAA, and implementation of information systems in healthcare organizations. Classification systems, clinical terminology, and use of health information in terms of operational management and decision making will be explored. Emerging technologies related to the security of health information management are explored.

MHA 575-3 Current Events Seminar in Healthcare. (Same as MHI 575) A seminar course designed to address current issues in the field of healthcare. Students will identify and analyze varying topical issues currently being addressed within the field of healthcare such as legislative changes/mandates, healthcare reform, governmental oversight, etc. Students will engage in presentations and may participate in discussions with healthcare professionals via a variety of potential classroom methods including, but not limited to, live video conferencing, podcasts, and/or discussion postings, etc. This course uses a synchronous delivery format.

MHA 580-3 Managerial Epidemiology and Evidence Based Management. (Same as MHI 580) Epidemiological principles pertinent to the delivery, management, and marketing of healthcare services. Examines evidence and population based decisions which are critical to effective delivery of patient care. Utilizes evidence based theories to prepare the students to identify management problems and develop related paths of focused inquiry.

MHA 582-3 Healthcare Economics. Covers micro-economic theory focusing on patient demand for services and supply of services based on the complex regulatory environment in healthcare organizations. Students will learn to analyze health policies, as well as, the behaviors of patients, insurers, and physicians in varying HCOs. Issues will be explored such as fee structuring; controversial policy issues, such as, access to care and/or the medically under-insured or uninsured; the demand and mandate of health insurance; and the increased presence of governmental control that impacts healthcare economics.

MHA 585-3 Financial Issues in Healthcare. (Same as MHI 585) A macro-examination of the role of finance in healthcare. Emphasis is not on financial formulas, but rather on the application of financial information within the healthcare sector. Discussion of charge-masters, healthcare payment systems and sources of revenue, profit vs. duty, regulatory issues and profit maximization, provider payments and pricing in capitated-managed care markets, and IDS, etc. Case principles specifically related to the healthcare field are completed. This course uses a synchronous delivery format.

MHA 593-6 Individual Research/Residency. (Same as MHI 593, RAD 593) Students have the option of choosing a research project OR a residency that meets University approval. With the research option, students will conduct a special project related to Healthcare Admin that meets guidelines established by the Graduate School. If choosing the residency, students must notify the Academic Advisor one week into the semester PRIOR to enrolling in this class to allow time for MOUs to be processed. The research option will be the only one available to students if the previously mentioned notification deadline is missed. Residency sites are in healthcare facilities only and subject to approval of the instructor and University. 1 credit

hour=50 contact hours; a minimum of 300 credit hours are required. Hours/credit are arranged individually. Restrictions may apply based on state-to-state regulations. Prerequisite: MHA or MHI 551 with a grade of B or better. Restricted to consent of SAH Academic Advisor.

MHA 601-1 Continuing Enrollment. This course is required to satisfy the Graduate School's requirement of continuous enrollment and is intended for those students who are enrolled in the program but cannot take a core academic course during a given semester. Consent of SAH Academic Advisor.