Health Administration, M.H.A.

Degrees Offered

• Master of Healthcare Administration

Nature of the Program

A Master of Health Administration (MHA) is a professional degree focused on the organization, delivery and management of healthcare and public health systems and services. It is the premier professional program for those seeking to lead the healthcare organizations and health systems of the future.

The WVU MHA program prepares students for promising careers leading innovative, population health-oriented organizations and health systems. Graduates leave our program with the skills necessary to work in a variety of healthcare and public health settings such as hospitals, medical group practices, long-term and rehabilitation care, behavioral health systems, healthcare consulting firms, and health departments. Students will also be excellently prepared for post-graduate administrative fellowships.

The MHA program at WVU focuses on providing students with both a breadth and depth of knowledge in areas critical to success as an administrative leader in the health sector, including:

• Health Services & Operations Management
• Leadership & Organizational Behavior
• Health Finance & Economics
• Health Policy, Law & Ethics
• Strategic Planning & Managerial Decision Making
• Project Management
• Healthcare Quality & Outcomes Management

The program requires courses across these disciplines. Additionally, elective courses allow students to specialize in a variety of areas. Importantly, a robust practice-based internship requirement assures students experiential application of the competencies and skills learned in the classroom.

FACULTY

PROFESSORS

• Nicholas Castle - PhD (Pennsylvania State University)
• Jeffrey Coben - MD (University of Pittsburgh)
• Garrett Moran - PhD (American University)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

• Thomas Bias - PhD (West Virginia University)
• Erik Carlton - DrPH (University of Kentucky)
• Stephen Davis - PhD (West Virginia University)
• Robert Duval - PhD (Florida State University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

• Lindsay Allen - PhD (Emory University)
• Lauri Andress - PhD/JD (University of Texas/South Texas College of Law)
• Sarah Woodrum - DrPH (University of Illinois - Chicago)

Admissions

If you are ready to apply to West Virginia University School of Public Health, the admissions team is here to assist you.

MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (MHA)

ADMISSION GUIDELINES

• Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a preferred overall GPA of 3.5, minimum 3.0
• GRE exam, with preference given to those in the 25th percentiles or above for quantitative, verbal, and analytic writing
• GRE waived with previous terminal degree (MD, JD, etc.) or 5+ years of directly-related (healthcare or public health administration) work experience. Waiver request submitted to the program director.
• GMAT may be substituted for the GRE
• TOEFL scores (minimum 550 paper-based) (minimum 213 computer-based) (minimum of 80 internet-based), IELTS (minimum 6.5), or PTE score of 53-55.
• Other requirements:
  • Resume
  • Letter(s) of recommendation (2-3)
  • Personal statement

APPLICATION PROCESS

Our Master of Health Administration program participates in the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS), http://www.sophas.org/. The MHA Admissions process has two steps. (1) All MHA applications must be submitted through the national SOPHAS service and (2) applicants must also submit a WVU Graduate application, https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/.

In addition to the application, applicants must submit to SOPHAS a personal statement, official GRE test scores, two or three letters of reference, a current resume/curriculum vitae, and all university transcripts. SOPHAS requires original transcripts from ALL U.S. and International institutions attended (even Study Abroad).

There is a SOPHAS application fee.

• E-submit your application as soon as the applicant entered information is complete. Do NOT wait for SOPHAS to receive transcripts, recommendations or test scores.
• Plan Ahead! Allow up to 4 weeks for SOPHAS to verify grades, process, and mail your application to your designated institutions after your documents have been received.
• SOPHAS grants fee waivers based upon financial need for Peace Corps Volunteers, McNair Scholars, Gates Millennium Scholars Program, AmeriCorps, U.S., and International applicants.

Once the department has reviewed the SOPHAS application, students will receive a communication from the WVU School of Public Health regarding their recommendation for acceptance and instructions to complete the WVU graduate application and pay the application fee.

Please Note: There are both SOPHAS and WVU application fees.

Important: When sending GRE scores for consideration for admission to WVU, please use the WVU School of Public Health College GRE code: 0157. This code MUST be used, otherwise, your GRE score will not be reported to SOPHAS and your application will be incomplete. Incomplete applications cannot be reviewed for an admissions decision. [Each program at West Virginia University has a specific code.]

Major Code: 8415

Master of Health Administration

Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.

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<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>Health Systems Leadership</td>
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<td>PUBH 659</td>
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<td>HPML 610</td>
<td>Health Economics for Population Health</td>
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<td>HPML 620</td>
<td>Health Administration and Operations Management</td>
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<td>HPML 622</td>
<td>Analytic Methods for Health Policy, Management, and Leadership</td>
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<td>HPML 650</td>
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<td>HPML 652</td>
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<td>HPML 696</td>
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Major Learning Outcomes

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT
1. Interpersonal Communication: Students will build collaborative and productive relationships.
2. Relationship Management: Students will demonstrate negotiation and conflict resolution skills.
3. Writing Skills: Students will prepare effective business communications.
4. Presentation Skills: Students will demonstrate professional oral communication and presentation skills.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS
1. Leading & Managing Others: Students will hold self and others accountable for team and/or organizational goal attainment.
2. Change Management: Students will show the ability to promote and manage change.
4. Systems Thinking: Students can assess the potential impacts and consequences of decisions in a broad variety of situations.
5. Problem-Solving & Decision-Making: Students are able to apply evidence-based techniques to health services decisions.

PROFESSIONALISM
1. Personal & Professional Ethics: Students will exhibit honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior.
2. Personal Responsibility: Students will fulfill their commitments and demonstrate accountability.
3. Professional & Community Contribution: Students demonstrate a commitment to community engagement and service.
4. Working in Teams: Students will demonstrate the capacity to work in and lead teams.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT
1. Health Services Issues & Trends: Students can examine important issues in health services, including circumstances causing major changes and reform in U.S. health systems and services
2. Health Services Legal Principles: Students are able to discuss and analyze health-related legal principles, including compliance standards, regulations, and risk management.
3. Health Policy: Students are able to articulate the impact of health policies on the delivery of health services.
4. Public & Population Health: Students understand and explain the major factors in population health status.

BUSINESS AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS
1. Financial Management: Students are able to compile, analyze, and interpret financial information for health services decision making.
2. Human Resources: Students will apply methods and techniques related to the management of health services organizations, employees and professional staff.
3. Organizational Dynamics & Governance: Students can articulate the roles, responsibilities, structures, and influence of governing bodies in health services organizations.
4. Strategic Planning: Based on environmental analysis, development of strategic alternatives, and discernment of a competitive strategy, students will formulate an evidence-based business strategy appropriate for health services and systems.
5. Marketing: Students will analyze and assess markets, market segmentation, strategy, change, and innovation related to health systems and services.
6. Information Management: Students will demonstrate proficient technology skills and understanding of information technology in health services environments.
7. Quality/Performance Improvement: Students will discern relevant problems and apply principles and concepts of quality/performance improvement of health services and systems.
8. Data Analytics: Students can analyze and interpret quantitative information.
9. Planning and Managing Projects: Students will design, plan, implement and assess health services projects, including developing appropriate timelines related to performance, structure and outcomes.
10. Health Economic Analysis and Application: Students will analyze and apply health economics theories and concepts to decision making.