

# Health Administration, M.H.A.

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## 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.

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## FACULTY

### PROFESSORS

- Nicholas Castle - PhD (Pennsylvania State University)
- Jeffrey Coben - MD (University of Pittsburgh)
- Darren Liu - DPH (University of Pittsburgh)

### 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)
- France Weaver - PhD (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill)  
Director, MHA Program

### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Sarah Woodrum - DrPH (University of Illinois - Chicago)
- Heather Henderson - EdD (West Virginia University)
- W. Constina Charbonnette - EdD (West Virginia University)
- Michael Fisher - PhD (University of California - San Francisco)

## 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
- International students must meet WVU's minimum score requirements for English language proficiency. (<https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/information-for/international-students/#:-:text=WVUs%20minimum%20score%20requirements%20for,TOEFL%20Essentials%3A%2090>)
- 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, 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 on 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.

## Admission Requirements 2024-2025

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

Major Code: 8415

## Master of Health Administration

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.</b>		
PUBH 540	Health Systems Leadership	3
HPML 502	U.S. Healthcare Organization and Delivery	3
HPML 510	Health Economics	3
HPML 520	Health Administration and Operations Management	3
HPML 622	Analytic Methods for Health Policy, Management, and Leadership	3
HPML 523	Healthcare Finance	3
HPML 626	Internship	3
HPML 650	Professional Issues in Health Administration: Health Policy	1
HPML 652	Professional Issues in Health Administration: Law and Ethics	1
HPML 653	Professional Issues in Health Administration: Talent and Culture	1
HPML 654	Professional Issues in Health Administration: Health Information and Management Systems	1
HPML 555	Health Services Project Management	3
HPML 556	Managerial Epidemiology & Strategy	3
HPML 659	Comprehensive Experience in Healthcare Management	3
HPML 582	Managing Quality Improvement in Healthcare	3
Seminar		4

HPML 696	Graduate Seminar	
Electives		4-6
Foundational Public Health Knowledge		
Total Hours		45-47

## Suggested Plan of Study

### First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
HPML 502		3 PUBH 540		3 HPML 626	3
HPML 520		3 HPML 510		3	
HPML 523		3 HPML 555		3	
HPML 582		3 HPML 556		3	
HPML 696		1 HPML 696		1	
		13		13	3

### Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
HPML 622		3 HPML 653	1
HPML 650		1 HPML 654	1
HPML 652		1 HPML 659	3
HPML 696		1 HPML 696	1
Elective		2-3 Elective	2-3
		8-9	8-9

Total credit hours: 45-47

## Accelerated Program

In order to be admitted to this ABM program, applicants must:

- be enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management and Leadership (BS-HSML) program.
- have a minimum GPA of 3.5.
- complete a minimum of 60 credit-hours, but not more than 92 credit-hours, as prescribed in the BS-HSML Plan of Study.
  - Transfer students (internal or external) are not eligible for the ABM program at this time.
- earn a minimum grade of "B+" in PUBH 205: Writing for Public Health Audiences.
- schedule one meeting with their WVU School of Public Health undergraduate advisor to ensure they are eligible to apply for the program.
- not be enrolled in a dual degree or certificate program.
- not have any documented infractions with the WVU Office of Student Conduct or any external law enforcement agencies.
- transfer students must complete at least 24 credit hours as degree-seeking students at WVU before applying.

## Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required for the degree.		
University Requirements		46
College Core Requirements		25
Health Services Management and Leadership Major Requirements		30
MHA Health Administration Program Requirements		44
Total Hours		145

## University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7		25
PUBH 191	First-Year Seminar	1

General Electives	20
Total Hours	46

## College Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
PUBH 101	Introduction to Public and Community Health	3
PUBH 200	Introduction to Public Health Careers and Information	1
PUBH 201	Global Perspectives of Public Health	3
PUBH 202	Social Determinants of Health	3
PUBH 205	Writing for Public Health Audiences	3
PUBH 211	Biostatistics for Population Health	3
PUBH 222	Epidemiology for Public Health	3
PUBH 233	The US Healthcare System: Structures and Incentives	3
PUBH 241	Biological Basis of Public Health	3
Total Hours		25

## Health Services Management and Leadership Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required in Health Services Management and Leadership Major Requirements.		
PUBH 230	Introduction to Health Administration	3
PUBH 258	Terminology and Communication for Health Professionals	3
PUBH 311	Health Research Data Management and Reporting	3
PUBH 331	Introduction to Health Policy	3
PUBH 439	Financials Tools for Health Administration	3
PUBH 464	Ethical, Legal and Financial Issues in Healthcare	3
Select one of the following:		3
PUBH 260	Principles of Patient Navigation	
PUBH 325	Introduction to Injury Prevention	
PUBH 334	Emergency Preparedness for Public Health	
PUBH 337	Climate Change and Public Health	
PUBH 427	Introduction to Outbreak Investigation	
Required Field Experience and Capstone Courses		
Minimum grade of C- is required.		
PUBH 400	Field Placement Preparation Seminar	1
PUBH 482	Health Management Internship	6
PUBH 489	School of Public Health Undergraduate Capstone	2
Total Hours		30

## MHA Health Administration Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.		
PUBH 540	Health Systems Leadership	3
HPML 502	U.S. Healthcare Organization and Delivery	3
HPML 510	Health Economics	3
HPML 520	Health Administration and Operations Management	3
HPML 622	Analytic Methods for Health Policy, Management, and Leadership	3
HPML 523	Healthcare Finance	3
HPML 626	Internship	3
HPML 650	Professional Issues in Health Administration: Health Policy	1
HPML 652	Professional Issues in Health Administration: Law and Ethics	1
HPML 653	Professional Issues in Health Administration: Talent and Culture	1

HPML 654	Professional Issues in Health Administration: Health Information and Management Systems	1
HPML 555	Health Services Project Management	3
HPML 556	Managerial Epidemiology & Strategy	3
HPML 659	Comprehensive Experience in Healthcare Management	3
HPML 582	Managing Quality Improvement in Healthcare	3
Seminar		4
HPML 596	Graduate Seminar	
Elective		3
Foundational Public Health Knowledge		
Total Hours		44

## Suggested Plan of Study

### First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 191		1 PUBH 201	3
PUBH 101		3 PUBH 202	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 GEF 3	3
General Education/ Minor/General Electives		9 General Education/ Minor/General Electives	6
		16	15

### Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 200		1 PUBH 205	3
PUBH 211		3 PUBH 222	3
PUBH 233		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
General Education/ Minor/General Electives		9 General Education/ Minor/General Electives	6
		16	15

### Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 230		3 PUBH 258	3
PUBH 241		3 PUBH 311	3
PUBH 331		3 PUBH 400	1
PUBH 464		3 PUBH 439	3
General Education/ Minor/General Electives		3 PUBH Elective	3
		General Education/ Minor/General Electives	3
		15	16

### Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
HPML 582		3 PUBH 540		3 HPML 626	3
HPML 510		3 HPML 556			3
HPML 520		3 HPML 523			3
HPML 596		1 HPML 596			1
PUBH 482		6 HPML 555			3
		PUBH 489			2
		16			15
					3

### Fifth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
HPML 622		3 HPML 653	1
HPML 650		1 HPML 654	1

HPML 652	1 HPML 659	3
Elective	3 HPML 596	1
HPML 596	1 Elective	3
		<hr/>
		9
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Total credit hours: 145

## 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.
3. Honest Self-Assessment: Students will exhibit self-awareness through active reflection and self-assessment.
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.