

Virginia Commonwealth University Graduate Program in Health Administration



The Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree prepares management leaders for the health care industry. Ranked fourth among health administration programs by *U.S. News & World Report*, the VCU Graduate Program in Health Administration program is an “industry specific” master’s program — with means you will have rigorous business and management training while learning about the uniqueness of the health care industry.

Learn more about our MHA Program

Web site:
www.had.vcu.edu/programs/mha

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Ms. Logan Vetovec
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Program Director
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Traditional MHA Program

Program Structure

The full-time MHA degree takes 3 years to complete. Students enroll for two years (4 semesters) of on-campus, didactic coursework followed by a 12-month, paid administrative residency. No summer classes are held between the first and second year of on-campus coursework. Students are admitted for the fall semester only and proceed through the program in a cohort model.

Curriculum

The program curriculum emphasizes strategic and operational management of complex, health care delivery organizations. Students are required to complete 60 credits of coursework. All courses are 3 credits unless otherwise noted.

First Year, Fall Semester

Health System Organization, Financing & Performance (HADM 602)
Health Care Managerial Accounting (HADM 606)
Managerial Epidemiology (HADM 609, 2 credits)
Org. Behavior & Design in Health Care Management (HADM 646)
Clinical Concepts and Relationships (HADM 681, 2 credits)

First Year, Spring Semester

Financial Management in Health Care Organizations (HADM 607)
Health Care Management Decision Support Systems (HADM 610)
Health Economics (HADM 624)
Management of Health Care Organizations (HADM 647)
Executive Skills I (HADM 682, 1 credit)

Second Year, Fall Semester

Seminar in Health Care Finance (HADM 608)
Health Information Systems and Performance (HADM 612)
Health Policy and the Legislative Process (EPID 603)
Executive Skills II (HADM 683, 1 credit)
Elective Course

Second Year, Spring Semester

Health Care Law and Bioethics (HADM 611)
Health Care Marketing (HADM 614)
Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations (HADM 648)
Human Resources Management in Health Care (HADM 649)
Leadership and Change Management (HADM 684, 1 credit)

Third Year, Fall Semester

Practicum in Health Administration I (HADM 694, 4 credits)

Third Year, Spring Semester

Practicum in Health Administration II (HADM 695, 4 credits)

Administrative Residency

Students are required to complete a 12-month, paid administrative residency during the third year of the MHA program. Through a facilitated match process, students are placed in residency positions under a senior level executive who serves as a preceptor throughout the year. The residency effectively transitions students between the didactic and applied aspects of health administration.

MHA/JD Dual Degree Program

Established in 1986, the MHA/JD option allows students to gain extensive knowledge on the legal issues that affect the organization, financing and delivery of health services. Both degrees are obtained in 4 years through the completion of 45 credits in health administration and 70-75 in law. A 10-week administrative internship is substituted for the 12-month residency. Students may choose to complete the MHA portion then the JD portion, or vice versa. The law school partners are the University of Richmond School of Law and the Washington and Lee School of Law.

MHA/MD Dual Degree Program

Established in 2001, the MHA/MD option allows medical students to integrate administrative knowledge and skills with clinical domains. Both degrees are obtained concurrently over 5 years. Students typically take a year off between the third and fourth years of medical school to complete the bulk of the required 44 credits of health administration curriculum. A 10-week administrative internship is substituted for the 12-month residency. The medical school partner is the VCU School of Medicine. Students must be accepted to the VCU School of Medicine before applying the MHA/MD dual degree program.

Accreditation

Our MHA program was one of the first of its kind to receive national accreditation, and it has maintained full national accreditation status with the Commission on Accreditation for Health Services Administration Management Education (CAHME) since that time. Presently, the program has been awarded the maximum seven years of accreditation.

Other Academic Programs

The Department of Health Administration also offers a PhD Program in Health Services Organization and Research as well as an on-line MSHA Program for professionals with at least 5 years of health care experience.

Admissions Process

To be considered for admission, applicants must submit a completed application and must also attend an on-campus interview. Interviews are held by invitation only based on an initial review of the application.

Admissions are rolling. Beginning in December, on-campus interview days are held monthly until the incoming class is full. To be considered for the December interview day, your application must be submitted by November 15.

The final application deadline is **February 1**.

Application Components

The application consists of 6 components:

1. VCU Graduate School Online Application: The online application can be accessed at www.graduate.vcu.edu/admission/prospective/domestic/
2. Official Transcript: Your official transcript must show a conferred or in-progress baccalaureate degree from a fully accredited college or university. An official transcript is also required for any school where undergraduate or graduate coursework has been completed, even if a degree was not conferred. The transcript request form can be accessed at www.graduate.vcu.edu/pdfs/transcript.pdf
3. GRE or GMAT score: There is no preference for one test over the other. The GRE code for VCU is 5570. The GMAT code for VCU is LP8-QF-23.
4. Resume: Your resume should demonstrate evidence of personal achievement, scholarship, intellectual ability and professional promise for a career in health administration. Evidence of exposure to health care through full or part-time work experience or volunteering is preferred.
5. Personal Statement: Your personal statement is your opportunity to highlight your background, interests, plans, and decision to pursue a MHA degree. Most importantly, this is your opportunity to communicate your passion for the field of health administration and demonstrate your uniqueness. Applicants can also use the personal statement to explain any inconsistencies in other components of the application. There are no specific guidelines or length for the personal statement.
6. Three Letters of Reference: You must submit three letters of reference, preferably from academic and/or work supervisors. Each letter must be accompanied by a reference form which can be accessed at www.graduate.vcu.edu/pdfs/reference.pdf.

Your resume, personal statement, and letters of reference must be submitted directly to the MHA Program at the following address:

VCU Graduate Program in Health Administration
ATTN: Suzanne Havasy, MHA Program Coordinator
1008 East Clay Street
PO Box 980203
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0203

International Applicants

International applicants must apply directly through the VCU Office of International education at www.had.vcu.edu/oie/

Preferred Performance Levels

- A GRE or GMAT score of at least 50th percentile. MHA/MD program applicants may substitute their MCAT scores.
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4-point scale and/or evidence of achievement in a substantial amount of graduate-level work.

Admissions Decisions

Within 4 weeks of submitting a completed application, each applicant will be notified whether or not an invitation to interview will be extended. Each applicant who is invited and attends an on-campus interview will be given an admission decision on the day of the interview.

Prerequisites

Admitted students must complete the following prerequisite courses at an accredited college or university prior to matriculation to the program: Microeconomics, Statistics, and Financial Accounting. Students must earn a grade of "C" or better in each course, and must have taken the courses within 5 years of entering the program. "Survey" courses do not meet the prerequisite requirements.

Financing Graduate School

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees for the 2008—2009 academic year are \$9,478 for in-state students and \$18,211 for out-of-state students. This is significantly lower than the average \$31,785 out-of-state tuition and fees for other top-ranked programs.

Financial Aid

The VCU Office of Financial Aid offers many services including grants, scholarships, work-study employment opportunities, installment payment plans, and loans. Learn more at www.vcu.edu/enroll/finaid.

Scholarships

Each year, the Graduate Program in Health Administration disperses endowed scholarships based on need, merit, and leadership. Students also seek scholarships from health administration professional organizations such as ACHE, MGMA, and AUPHA.

Student Profiles

MHA Class of 2011

- 26 students including 1 MHA/JD and 2 MHA/MD;
- 46% female;
- 28% minority students;
- 33% out-of-state;
- Avg. incoming age 24;
- 7 students with ≥ 1 year: of full-time work experience;
- Avg. incoming GPA 3.3;
- Avg. GRE/GMAT percentile: 59th verbal, 51st quantitative

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