Master of Healthcare Administration

Purpose
The purpose of the Master of Healthcare Administration (M.H.A.) degree is to develop leaders who possess the values, knowledge, and skills to manage optimal delivery of healthcare.

M.H.A. Competencies
In addition to the M.P.H. core competencies, all students will be able to:

- Analyze the structuring, marketing, positions, and governing health organization in order to achieve optimum performance.
- Evaluate the financial management of health organizations and implications.
- Compare the leadership, interpersonal relations, conflict and change management, and written and oral communications skills needed by health organizations.
- Analyze managing human resources and health professionals in diverse organizational environments (e.g., hospitals, clinics, home health agencies, insurers, pharmaceutical firms).
- Analyze managing information including the collection, the statistical and non-statistical analysis, and summarizing management and health data for decision-making.
- Evaluate economic analysis to support decision-making.
- Apply legal and ethical analysis to business and clinical decision-making.
- Analyze government health policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation.
- Compare assessment and understanding of the health status of populations, determinants of health and illness, and health risks and behaviors in diverse populations.
- Evaluate the management of change in health care organizations in diverse communities drawing broadly on the social and behavioral sciences.
- Compare quality assessment of both business practices and health care delivery focusing on outcomes measurements, process/outcome relationships, and methods for process improvement.

The Curriculum
All Georgia Southern University Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health students who select to study the M.H.A. degree program will complete a minimum of 45 credits in this discipline. Students pursuing this degree will take Public Health Core Courses (5 credits), Healthcare Administration Courses (33 credits), and Health Policy and Management Courses (6 credits). In addition, students will participate in an Administrative Internship where they will apply, in practical hands on fashion, the skills learned throughout their education. Upon completion of the M.H.A., the student will be trained to function effectively as administrators of healthcare services.

Admission Requirements
Admission into the graduate programs within the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health is competitive and based upon academic background, performance on the GRE will not be used as a main indicator of a student's propensity to succeed academically within the MHA program. Rather a combination of professional experience, interest in the field, a history of service, a personal statement, and letters of recommendation will be assessed for the totality of a student's admission. All applicants must apply through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS).

Degree Admission Requirements

Regular
- Completion of an application in SOPHAS.
- Completion of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75/4.0 scale.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is no longer required for admission to the MHA program.
- TOEFL scores are required for international applicants.
- A resume that includes the following:
  a. educational experiences,
  b. professional goals and objectives,
  c. work history,
  d. professional experiences, memberships and/or participation in professional organizations,
  e. experiences in public health programs.
- Three letters of reference.
- Statement of Purpose (500-1000 words) that conveys the applicant's reasons for pursuing graduate study in healthcare administration and how admission into the program relates to the applicant's professional aspirations.

Provisional
Applicants may be admitted provisionally, based upon an evaluation of their application materials. Provisional admission is for applicants who do not satisfy requirements for regular admission, or those who require prerequisite coursework prior to entering a particular program of study.

Non-Degree Admission Requirements
An applicant may be admitted to the COGS as a non-degree student to earn credit hour in Public Health graduate courses without working toward the M.H.A. Interested applicants should consult the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies for the types of Non-Degree admission as well as the requirements for admission in this category.

Advisement: M.H.A.
Graduate students are advised by the Coordinator of Student Services and mentored by a faculty member from the Student's concentration areas.

Grades
M.H.A. level degree seeking students are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 to remain in good academic standing and to be eligible to graduate. In the event the cumulative GPA falls below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation. Students have nine (9) credits to elevate the cumulative GPA to at least 3.0 or will be excluded from the program. Students earning grades of "D" or below will be excluded from the program.

Transfer Credit
Students may request that up to, but no more than, six (6) graduate credits be applied toward the 45 credits required for the M.H.A. Transfer credits must also satisfy the same requirements as courses taught for masters training within the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (e.g., minimum grade of "B"), be consonant with the student's approved program of study, and have been received from a regionally accredited college or university. Thesis and dissertation credit cannot be transferred. The student must provide documentation in support of equivalence, such as a course syllabus, transcript, term paper, and/or instructor testimony. Equivalence is
determined by the M.H.A. Program Director. Credit hour reductions do not influence the residency and enrollment requirements or comprehensive examination procedures.

**Course Time Limit**

All requirements for the M.H.A. must be completed within seven academic years from the date of the first enrollment for study following admission to the master’s program. For transfer students, the seven-year time limit commences with the semester during which transfer credit was earned.

**Experiential Learning Opportunities**

All M.H.A. students are required to complete an Administrative Internship. The internship permits the student to receive practical experience in a selected administrative healthcare-related setting. The internship requires 300 hours of service. As a requirement of the Administrative Internship, each student completes an electronic portfolio. This portfolio documents all activities of the Administrative Internship and demonstrates how the student progressed in the experience. The student orally “presents” this portfolio to the faculty as a final requirement for graduation.