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

- Identify appropriate sources and gather information, effectively and efficiently.
- Appraise literature and data critically.
- Develop, understand and use data from performance, surveillance or monitoring systems.
- Understand and explain financial and statement; prepare and manage budgets; and make sound long-term investment decisions.
- Understand and apply basic statistical methods relevant to public health practice.
- Understand the policy-making process and the role of politics; assess a problem and identify and compare potential policy solutions; and understand and critically assess methods to evaluate policy impact.
- Use basic microeconomic theory to understand how the incentives of consumers, providers, and payers affect behaviors, costs, and other outcomes; understand and apply basic econometric tools for the empirical study of issues in health economics.
- Analyze, design, or improve an organizational process, including the use of quality management, process improvement, marketing and information technology principles and tools.
- Understand and apply basic epidemiologic principles, measures, and methods to assess the health status of a population; identify risk factors in individuals and communities; evaluate the impact of population-based interventions and initiatives.
- Implement a decision-making process that incorporates evidence from a broad analysis that includes uncertainty, risk, stakeholders, and organizational values.
- Speak and write in a clear, logical, and grammatical manner in formal and informal situations; prepare cogent business presentations; facilitate an effective group process.
- Receive, process, and respond appropriately to information conveyed by others.
- Perceive and respond appropriately to the spoken, unspoken, or partly expressed thoughts, feelings, and concerns of others.
- Through effective governance, establish an organization’s values, vision, and mission; systematically enhance performance and human material and knowledge resources.
- Analyze the business, demographic, ethno-cultural, political, and regulatory implications of decisions and develop strategies that continually improve the long-term success and viability of the organization.
- Hold self and others accountable to standards of performance; encourage commitment to the long-term good of the organization.
- Energize stakeholders and sustain their commitment to the organization while adapting to changes in the environment.
- Work collaboratively with others as part of a team or group, demonstrating commitment to the team’s goal and encouraging individuals to put forth their best effort.
- Understand and learn from governance structures, formal and informal decision making structures, and power relationships in an organization, industry, or community.
- Use legal reasoning as a tool for analysis, communication, strategy and planning.
- Behave ethically and promote standards of ethical behavior throughout organizations and professional communities.
- Develop an understanding of healthcare state and federal legislation as it affects healthcare organizations.
- Actively seek feedback from others, reflecting and learning from successes and failures.
- Develop an accurate view of own strengths and developmental needs, including the impact one has on others.
- Continuously push self to raise personal standards of performance and exceed expectations.
- Address knowledge, skills, and other developmental gaps through reflective, self-directed learning, and by trying new approaches.
- Establish, build, and sustain a career plan for professional development.

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 3.0/4.0 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 credit 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.