The master’s program in health and medical policy prepares students to become analysts and informed decision-makers at the local, state, and national levels, to be policy consultants, to support the work of foundations, or to engage with public health and advocacy organizations in the U.S. and abroad. Students are expected to graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to analyze health policy issues; examine health system approaches; formulate new policies; and support policy development in health care financing, healthcare delivery system innovations, and the allocation of scarce resources.

Students will learn how health care services in the U.S. are delivered and paid for, how well the U.S. health care system performs from an individual and societal perspective, and how various key stakeholders influence the formation and development of health policy.

**Admissions & Policies**

**Admissions**

**Requirements**

Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Graduate Admissions (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/) and must apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/). The application process is competitive, and applications are considered for the fall and spring semesters. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, refer to the CHHS Admissions website (https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines/).

**Policies**

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/).

**Transfer of Credit**

Students may transfer a maximum of 12 credits from graduate courses taken at other institutions or taken at Mason in non-degree status. Transfer credit is subject to university (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/) and college (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/health-human-services/#requirementspoliciestext) policies and must be approved by the program director and the dean. Students who enroll initially through non-degree studies should seek course advising through the department and should submit their application to the MS program in their first semester of study.

**Electives**

Select three credits from the following:

Courses not listed below must be approved by the student’s advisor.

- HAP 621 Leadership and Organizational Behavior
- HAP 647 Regulatory Requirements for Health Care Systems
- HAP 661 Policy Development and Analysis for Community Health Programs
- HAP 703 Financial Management in Health Systems
- HAP 745 Health Care Security Policy
- HAP 746 Health Policy Leadership
- HAP 750 Legal Issues in Health Administration
- GCH 600 Health Promotion Methods
- GCH 610 Health Behavior Theory
- GCH 611 Health Program Planning and Evaluation
- GCH 651 Behavioral Research Methods
- GCH 712 Introduction to Epidemiology
- BIOD 609 Biodefense Strategy
- BIOD 620 Global Health Security Policy
- PUAD 630 Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- PUAD 633 Hazard Mitigation Policy
- PUAD 635 Emergency Preparedness: Interagency Communication and Coordination

**Core Courses**

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<tr>
<td>HAP 635</td>
<td>Role of Government in Health Care and Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 652</td>
<td>Essentials of Health Insurance and Managed Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 715</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP 742</td>
<td>Health Policy Development and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>HAP 764</td>
<td>Health Policy and Government Payment Systems for Health Care Services</td>
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**Public Policy Process**

- PUBP 730 US Institutions and the Policy Process 3
- PUAD 615 Administrative Law 3
- PUAD 750 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations 3

**Policy Analysis**

- HAP 602 Statistics in Health Services Management 3
- HAP 645 Introduction to Health Services Research 3
- HAP 719 Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research I 3
- POGO 646 Policy and Program Evaluation 3

**Capstone**

- HAP 793 Final Project in Applied Health Policy 3

**Total Credits**

- 39

**Requirements**

**Degree Requirements**

Total credits: 42
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUAD 645</td>
<td>Policy Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUAD 649</td>
<td>Advocacy and Lobbying</td>
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<td>PUAD 651</td>
<td>Virginia Politics, Policy, and Administration</td>
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<td>PUBP 744</td>
<td>Federal Institutions and Management</td>
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<td>PUBP 761</td>
<td>Social Entrepreneurship and Public Policy</td>
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Or advisor-approved elective course

Total Credits 3