HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, MHA

Banner Code: HH-MHA-HSMG

Academic Advising
Website: https://chhs.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/graduate-advising#hap

The master of health administration (MHA), health systems management program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (http://cahme.org/) (CAHME). The United States Department of Education and Council on Higher Education Accreditation have granted formal recognition to CAHME as the only organization to accredit master’s level health care management programs in the United States and Canada. This master’s program prepares future executives to assume leadership positions in health care organizations. We prepare health care professionals with strategic, business, analytic, and decision-making skills needed to successfully navigate the evolving health care industry.

This program prepares students to work as leaders and executive-level managers in evolving health systems, or as consultants and managers of health-related organizations. The curriculum was developed in response to the demand for advanced health management preparation for a variety of health care and allied health professionals to be employed in both the public and private sectors of health care.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions
Requirements
Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA to be considered. Admission to the program is competitive, and a variety of criteria are evaluated in the admission decision. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, refer to the CHHS Admissions website (https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines/). Applicants are evaluated based on past academic performance (including prior academic degrees and courses taken), letters of recommendation, personal professional goal statement and professional experience. Work experience in the healthcare industry is preferred, but not required for admission. The application materials are used to determine the applicant’s "match" with the program and potential for success in graduate studies. Applicants who are deemed to meet the above criteria are required to have a brief personal interview with faculty. Applicants who are unable to attend a personal interview will be interviewed through video conferencing technology.

Policies
For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 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/#requirementspolicies) 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 MHA program in their first semester of study.

Program Format
The MHA in Health Systems Management is offered in both on-campus and online delivery formats. The curriculum is the same whether you are studying online or on campus, but students must apply to and matriculate through only one pathway.

Most courses in the on-campus program are taught in the evening at Mason’s Fairfax Campus. Additionally, some courses are offered on Saturdays, a few are offered at the Arlington Campus, and a small percentage can be taken online. Students can complete their degree at their own pace provided that they do so within six years of starting the program.

The online premium priced program is offered in a flexible, online format, which mirrors the CAHME-accredited on-campus program. Courses are taken one at a time in an accelerated 8 week format.

English Language Test Score Thresholds
International students whose scores on the English Language Tests are below the thresholds required by the program must take EAP 508 Graduate Communication in the Disciplines III (Credits: 4) in their first semester of study and earn a grade of B (3.0) or higher. This will add 4 credits to the 47 credit hour program for a total of 51 credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Listening</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Speaking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL IBT</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>TOEFL CBT</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTE</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td>Subsections 68+</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirements

Degree Requirements
Total credits: 47-51

The program of study comprises 47-51 credits grouped into two phases of study. International students whose scores on the English Language Tests are below the thresholds required by the program are required to take EAP 508 - Graduate Communication in the Disciplines III (http://catalog.gmu.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=29&coid=308575) (Credits: 4) in their first semester of study and earn a grade of B (3.0) or higher. This will increase the degree requirements for these students from 47 to 51 credits.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAP 678</td>
<td>Introduction to the U.S. Health System</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HAP 621  Organization Behavior and Healthcare Leadership  3
HAP 715  Health Economics  3
HAP 670  Introduction to Health Informatics  3
HAP 652  Essentials of Health Insurance and Managed Care  3
or HAP 764  Health Policy and Government Payment Systems for Health Care Services  3
HAP 750  Legal Issues in Health Administration  3
HAP 707  Human Resource Management in Healthcare  3

Phase II - Problem Resolution and Decision Making
HAP 602  Statistics in Health Services Management  3
HAP 708  Quantitative Methods in Health Care Management  3
HAP 711  Quality Improvement in Health Services  2
HAP 703  Financial Management in Health Systems  3
HAP 702  Managerial Accounting in Health Care  3
HAP 746  Health Policy Leadership  3
or HAP 742  Health Policy Development and Analysis  3
HAP 705  Strategic Management and Marketing in Health Care  3
HAP 704  Contemporary Issues in Health Systems Management  3
HAP 790  Capstone Practicum in Health Systems Management  3

Total Credits  47

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<tr>
<td>HAP 702</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 703</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 707</td>
<td>Human Resource Management in Healthcare</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 715</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
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Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master’s degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies.

**BAM Pathway Admission Requirements**
Applications to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions Policies and Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degree policies. For information specific to this accelerated master’s program, see department website (https://hap.gmu.edu/program/view/19950/).

Students must submit two professional letters of recommendation and a personal statement, have a 3.25 GPA, and a 3.50 GPA in all major coursework.

Students who are accepted into the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 15 HAP undergraduate credits and course-specific prerequisites.

**Accelerated Master’s Admission Requirements**
Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MA/MS program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition form:

- 3.25 overall GPA
- 3.50 GPA in major coursework
- Successfully meeting Mason’s requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

**Accelerated Pathway Requirements**
To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses may choose from the following:

**Advanced Standing Courses:** (substitutes for these major-specific BS degree required courses, or as a required CHHS elective)

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<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
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1. Can count as CHHS elective in BS Health Administration degree.

Please consult the undergraduate program coordinator and graduate program director regarding further questions about course substitutions.

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**Health Administration, BS/Health Systems Management, Accelerated MHA**

**Overview**

Highly-qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor’s/accelerated master’s program and obtain a BS in Health Administration (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/health-human-services/health-administration-policy/health-administration-bs/) (Health System’s Management Concentration and Assisted Living/Seniors Housing Concentration) and an MHA in Health Systems Management in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 155 credits.

See AP6.7 Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degree (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7) for policies related to this program.
Reserve Credit Courses: (Graduate courses that undergraduate students can take, up to 6 credits, that will only count for the graduate degree requirements).
For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements, see AP6.7 Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7) policies.