Master of Health Services Administration

The Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA) degree prepares students for leadership roles in the health care sector, including positions in hospitals, health care systems, long-term care facilities, clinics, insurance firms, health departments, and government agencies. The MHSA offers a systematic examination of the health care system, exposure to the impact of health policy and the policy process, a mastery of analytic methods, and a broad exposure to the practice of health care management. Classes are taught on the KUMC campus and offered in the late afternoon and evening.

The mission of the MHSA Program is to improve lives and communities in Kansas and beyond by preparing students to be outstanding health administration professionals and future leaders in the health care sector. To accomplish this mission, the program:

- Recruits students with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, along with the ability to succeed;
- Hires, values and respects faculty with varied backgrounds, who are committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship and service;
- Designs and develops a competency-based curriculum that stresses lifelong learning;
- Emphasizes interprofessional education through collaboration with learners and practitioners from multiple disciplines;
- Stresses the practical application of knowledge;
- Enables graduates to be competitive in the marketplace.

The application is an on-line process. Detailed instructions on how to apply and application deadlines are posted on the Health Policy and Management website (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/hpm/master-of-health-services-administration.html). Students are admitted for the fall semester only.

Admission requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution, documented by submission of official transcript(s). The bachelor's degree must be attained prior to entering the program. Official transcripts from institutions attended post-baccalaureate are also required. Students with degrees from outside the U.S. may be subject to transcript evaluation indicating the degree is equivalent to a U.S. degree and meets the minimum cumulative GPA requirements.
- A cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the bachelor’s degree.
- Applicants who are not native speakers of English, whether domestic or international, must demonstrate they meet the Minimum English Proficiency Requirement (http://www.kumc.edu/Documents/graduate%20studies/Min%20Eng%20Prof%202016-Oct.pdf).
- A background check (http://www.kumc.edu/Documents/graduate %20studies/Background%20Check%202016-Oct.pdf) is required during the admission process; it may affect the student’s eligibility to enter the program.
- An official copy of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score not more than approximately five (5) years old sent from Educational Testing Service (ETS) to University of Kansas Medical Center - ETS institutional 6895. An alternative graduate level examination score may be substituted on a case-by-case basis.
- A statement of goals/purpose. This brief essay should outline the applicant’s reasons for wanting to pursue graduate education in health administration and career objectives.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Applicants must also have completed a prerequisite three (3) credit hour course in statistics.
- A personal interview is also required of all applicants who meet the minimum admissions standards. If travel to the area is impossible, a telephone or on-line interview may be substituted.

Applicants will be assessed based on these requirements. After an applicant has been admitted, the program may defer an applicant's admission for one year after which time the applicant must submit a new application.

Admission requirements are subject to change. To verify admissions requirements for past years, use the catalog of the year student entered the program. Other years' catalogs (http://catalog.ku.edu/archives)

The MHSA program is a 56 credit-hour graduate professional degree program and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME): (http://www.cahme.org)

Degree requirements:

- Degree requirements are normally completed within two (2) years of admission to the program although a maximum of seven (7) years is allowed. Part-time students normally complete requirements within four to five (4-5) years of admission to the program.
- Cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least a 3.0 for all program coursework.
- Completion of a minimum of 56 credit hours.
- Enrollment in a minimum of one (1) credit hour the semester the student will graduate.
- Successful completion of the following required courses (or equivalents):
  - HP&M 810 The Health Care System 3
  - HP&M 819 Research for Health Care Leaders 3
  - HP&M 822 Health Care Economics 3
  - HP&M 825 Financial Concepts in Healthcare Management 3
  - HP&M 827 Financial Applications in Healthcare Management 3
  - HP&M 830 Health Care Management 3
  - HP&M 832 Governance and Health Law 2
  - HP&M 833 Ethics 2
  - HP&M 837 Health Policy 3
  - HP&M 846 Health Information Technology Management 3
  - HP&M 848 Designing Health Care Organizations 2
  - HP&M 850 Introduction to Operations 3
  - HP&M 852 Strategic Marketing 2
  - HP&M 853 Strategic Management 2
  - HP&M 854 Human Resources and Workforce Development 3
  - HP&M 858 Health and Social Behavior 3
  - HP&M 859 Professional Development 2
  - HP&M 860 Graduate Internship in Healthcare Services Administration 1
Typical Plan of Study

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Total Hours: 56

Joint Degree Programs

The Department of Health Policy and Management offers 4 joint programs in conjunction with the MD program and the Schools of Law, Nursing, and Health Professions. Please contact the Department of Health Policy & Management or the respective schools for complete information.

MD/MHSA

The joint MD/MHSA degree program prepares students to enter careers as physician executives or to provide administrative support for their medical practice. As the health care environment becomes more complex and competitive, administrative skills can be extremely important to individuals starting careers in medicine or those seeking to enhance their current careers. The MSHA portion of the curriculum combines social science and business content in the context of health care and prepares students for management and executive positions in health care organizations. Students complete requirements for the MD degree as specified by the School of Medicine. MD programs are described in the School of Medicine Catalog (http://catalog.ku.edu/medicine-doctorate). Both programs can be completed in 5 years. Students must be admitted to each program to pursue the joint degree.

JD/MHSA

The JD/MHSA joint degree program combines into 4 years of full-time study the Juris Doctor (http://catalog.ku.edu/law/jd) (JD) program offered by the School of Law (http://www.law.ku.edu) and the Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA) program offered by the Department of Health Policy and Management. The program offers students who plan to practice health law or health services management a thorough academic grounding in both disciplines. Students must be admitted to each program to pursue the joint degree.

MS in Nursing (Organizational Leadership)/MHSA

The joint Master of Science in Nursing (Organizational Leadership)/MHSA degree program combines the MSHA degree offered by the Department of Health Policy and Management and the School of Nursing’s Master of Science (http://catalog.ku.edu/nursing/ms-nursing) degree with the specialization in Organizational Leadership. This program gives students the opportunity to acquire training in the convergent fields of nursing and health services administration. The program combines course work, allowing the two degrees to be completed in 8 semesters. Students must be admitted to each program to pursue the joint degree.

BSHIM/MHSA

The joint Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management (http://catalog.ku.edu/health-professions/health-information-management/b) and Master of Health Services Administration program is offered through the Department of Health Policy and Management in association with the Department of Health Information Management. By participating in this intensive, full-time bridge program, students can achieve both degrees in five years. Students pursuing the BSHIM/MHSA will be prepared to assume management and executive positions in health-related organizations and to bring their expertise in health information management to these positions.

Because the MSHA degree signifies that the holder is prepared for entry into the practice of health services administration, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a broad range of management and leadership situations. Therefore, the following abilities and expectations must be met by all students with or without accommodations admitted to the MSHA program.

1. Observation: A student must be able to observe class demonstrations and field experiences relevant to the field of health services administration. Observation necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing.

2. Communication: A student must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written form with other students, faculty, staff and
preceptors. Effective communication includes the ability to understand assigned readings and lectures, the ability to analyze information, and the ability to present results of such analyses verbally and in writing.

3. **Motor:** A student must have sufficient motor function to attend classes, prepare assignments, and make public presentations. Class requirements may also include field work in a variety of health services organizations.

4. **Intellectual, conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities:** A student must possess the ability to understand and work with measurements, carry out calculations, and engage in reasoning, analysis and synthesis. A student must be able to draw on all these abilities to be an effective problem solver.

5. **Behavioral and social attributes:** A student must have the emotional health required for the full use of his or her intellectual ability, exercise of sound judgment, and timely completion of a manager’s responsibilities. Integrity, reliability, self-direction, motivation, and ability to work with diverse groups are qualities necessary for effective practice in this field.