MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION - ONLINE/EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Program Director L. Friedman

Mission
The Executive Master of Health Administration (MHA@GW) degree program will develop leaders who possess the values, knowledge, and skills to achieve optimal delivery of healthcare.

Overview
Since its founding in 1959, the Master of Health Administration program offers training in health services administration to help meet the growing need for skilled executives to manage health-related organizations and programs. Because it recognizes and responds to the fast-paced, dynamic changes occurring in the industry today, the program is well-positioned to prepare not only health care managers, but the health care leaders of tomorrow. An MHA@GW degree from the Department of Health Policy and Management incorporates business and medical informatics training, knowledge of health care systems, law, and policy, critical values in decision making, and much more.

The Department’s special strengths include an emphasis on experiential learning and community service, distinguished faculty, research collaborations, and relationships with policy making and health care organizations in Washington, DC. Active alumni (http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/alumni/hsmlaa) and student (http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/hsml/hsmlsa) associations foster mentoring, networking, and other professional development opportunities.

Building on our 55 years of experience preparing health care leaders and our recent success in e-learning, the MHA@GW degree is designed for adult learners who possess either clinical or administrative experience in healthcare delivery. The MHA@GW is designed to be completed in two years but can be completed in five years. Classes are taught in a hybrid model combining online classes (ten weeks in length) and executive format intensive classes.

The MHA@GW curriculum focuses on two main themes. The first is developing the leadership and ethical skills needed for persons who seek to create highly effective healthcare organizations. Leadership and ethics will be taught throughout the curriculum. Eight online, integrated learning modules include: management and strategy; informatics and decision-science; finance; community and public health; economics and quantitative methods; quality improvement; law and policy; and a capstone seminar. The culminating activities for the MHA@GW are a field-based research project and completion of a leadership portfolio.

Goals
Graduates of the program will be expected to:

- Effectively manage organizational change and promote organizational and clinical excellence;
- Manage health services organizations under alternative financing mechanisms;
- Lead and manage human resources in diverse organizational environments;
- Manage information resources to assist in effective decision making and clinical management;
- Use statistical, quantitative, and economic analyses in decision making;
- Have the skills to improve both business and clinical outcomes of health services organizations; and
- Develop the skills to consistently use ethical decision making practices

COMPETENCIES

The goal of health services management and leadership is to provide health care delivery organizations with talented graduates who possess the knowledge, skills and attitude to deliver health services in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The Executive Master of Health Administration (MHA@GW) degree is designed to provide students with the ability to develop and demonstrate leadership, communication and relationship management, business skills and knowledge, professionalism and healthcare knowledge applied across the widest possible spectrum of healthcare delivery organizations. Upon completion of the MHA@GW in Health Services Management and Leadership, students will demonstrate competence to:

1. Demonstrate leadership by leading and managing others, planning and implementing change and engaging in honest self-assessment. Related courses: Modules 1 and 8 and immersions 1, 2 and 4
2. Enhance and improve communication and relationship management within interpersonal communication, verbal and written communication, and team based processes. Related courses: All modules, immersions, organizational research project and final portfolio
3. Demonstrate the breadth of core business skills and knowledge in the following areas:
4. Solving business problems and decision making, and project management. Related courses: Modules 1, 6 and 8 and immersion 2
5. Quantitative skills, financial management, economic analysis and information and technology management. Related courses: Modules 2, 3 and 5.
6. Legal principles, marketing, quality improvement, organizational dynamics and governance. Related courses: Modules 1, 6, 7, 8 and immersion 3
7. Apply the core elements of ethics and professionalism to improve management practice within health care delivery organizations. Related courses: All modules and immersions

8. Apply appropriate knowledge of healthcare policy issues and trends, healthcare personnel, standards and regulations and population health and assessment to optimize the delivery of services. Related courses: Module 4 and immersion 3.

REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements
All Department of Health Services Management and Leadership MHA@GW students enroll in 50 total credits. MHA@GW students must complete all eight online modules along with four on-campus immersion classes. In addition, students complete an applied organizational research project and leadership portfolio.

Prerequisites for admission into the MHA@GW include an undergraduate course in introductory financial accounting and an introductory course in statistics. All MHA@GW students must have a minimum of three years of professional experience in the healthcare sector and be currently employed by a healthcare related organization.

Please refer to the MHA@GW website (http://mha.gwu.edu) for further information.