The mission of the Department of Health Administration and Policy (HAP) is to provide innovative education, service and research that contribute to improving the quality of care and delivery of healthcare services. The department accomplishes this mission by preparing professionals for careers as executives and managers in acute and ambulatory care and senior housing/assisted living organizations, as well as specialists in health informatics, healthcare risk management, and health policy.

The research and scholarly activities of the department contribute to basic and applied knowledge about the organization, management, financing, and performance of U.S. health systems and public health services; the development and management of health information systems; and the development and analysis of evidence-based U.S. health policy to foster innovation and public accountability and contribute to ensuring access to cost-effective, high-quality health services. The Department works with consumers, stakeholders, students, faculty, alumni, and research funders to ensure rigorous, relevant educational programs, service activities, and the development and timely dissemination of research.

**Graduate Degrees**

The department offers four graduate degrees: a PhD in Health Services Research, a Master of Health Administration (MHA) in Health Systems Management, a Master of Science in Health Informatics, and a Master of Science in Health and Medical Policy.

The **PhD in Health Services Research** contains two concentrations: *health systems and policy* and *knowledge discovery and health informatics*. The program will educate the next generation of health services researchers and scholars, preparing them for a variety of roles in health care organizations, higher education, health care consulting firms, government and nonprofit organizations, and private businesses that support or regulate public and private health service entities. Graduates will be able to work with extant and diverse data systems and will have an in-depth understanding of health system functioning, state and federal health policy, and the factors affecting healthcare service delivery and public health.

The **MHA in Health Systems Management** prepares mid-career professionals to serve as leaders, managers, consultants, and analysts in various settings: public and private health care systems (including public health agencies), legislative arenas and policy-related professional and advocacy organizations, and health accreditation and regulatory organizations. The curriculum integrates concepts from a variety of disciplines such as business management, economics, philosophy, organizational behavior, information technology management, assisted living and senior housing administration, and health policy formulation.

The **Master of Science in Health Informatics**, offered in collaboration with the Volgenau School of Engineering, is a 34-credit hour program that prepares students to become health information systems specialists, managers and consultants. Graduates of the program may be employed in health information technology firms, health service organizations and their business partners, as well as public health entities. Graduates are able to effectively manage evolving health information systems and support the increased adoption and use of electronic health records. Also, students are familiarized with the newest trends and emerging technologies likely to impact the field in the future.

The **Master of Science in Health and Medical Policy**, offered jointly with the School of Public Policy (SPP), consists of two concentrations: *health policy* or *global medical policy*. The health policy concentration is offered through the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) and the global medical policy concentration is offered by SPP. The program provides students with the knowledge to support policy formulation for health and medical professionals, health systems development, resource allocation, and advocacy for national and international public health. Graduates are prepared to become health and medical systems policy analysts, consultants, and public health advocates.
Graduate Certificates

The department also offers a number of graduate certificates, which include: Health Informatics and Data Analytics, Public Health Leadership and Management, and Quality Improvement and Outcomes Management in Healthcare Systems. Please visit hap.gmu.edu for detailed information about these certificates.

Application Requirements

Applicants to each program must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Admission is competitive, and a variety of criteria are evaluated in the admissions process, including the strength of the undergraduate record and any post-baccalaureate coursework, the GRE/GMAT (if required), career goals, letters of recommendation, professional and/or volunteer experience, evidence of the ability to write and conduct research at the graduate level, and any additional evidence of potential success in the program. Information regarding CHHS application guidelines can be found at chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate.

Applicants must apply to one of the concentrations available for their program of interest, and offers of admission are made only for the concentration area selected. Students may apply to switch concentration areas after enrollment; however, approval for such requests is not guaranteed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to select the concentration that is best suited to their career goals. Applications are considered for the fall and spring semesters. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, please refer to the CHHS Graduate Admissions website at http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/deadlines.cfm.

Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis.

Health Informatics: Although the field or major is not a criterion for admission, the applicants are expected to have taken basic-level computer science/technology, mathematics, and statistics. An undergraduate grade point average of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) or above is preferred. Furthermore, applicants with at least one year of professional work experience in a medical or health-related organization OR one year of work experience in information technology in any sector are preferred.

Health Systems Management: Applicants must have one to three years of recent experience in health or a related management or technology field to be considered.

Master’s International

The Master’s International is a joint program between Mason and the Peace Corps, and enables participants to prepare for Peace Corps volunteer service while earning the MHA in Health Systems Management. Please contact the department for additional information.

Non-Degree Study

Students interested in enrolling in graduate-level courses prior to applying to their program of interest may have the option to do so through non-degree study. Please note that non-degree enrollment requires a formal application to the university, and no more than twelve credits of non-degree coursework may be applied to a degree. For more information, please visit the CHHS Non-Degree website at: http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/non-degree.cfm

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The above information is based on the 2015-16 (unpublished) University Catalog and is subject to change without notice or obligation. It is not to be regarded as a contract. Please refer to the catalog for full course descriptions, department information, and university policy governing graduate degree programs at catalog.gmu.edu.