



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing & Health Studies
Department of Health Systems Administration

**Master of Science
Health Systems Administration (MHA)**

Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants

What are the admission requirements?

Complete admission requirements and recommendations can be found on the admissions section of the [MHA website](#):

Is any full-time work experience required before applying to the program?

There are no work experience requirements for admission to the program. We have students who have been working in the field for many years as well as students who have recently graduated from undergraduate programs.

Is there any specific undergraduate degree or background/experience required?

No. We have students with degrees in business as well as in biology, history, sociology, etc. Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Most are recent college graduates; others have worked in the health field as technicians or clinicians (e.g., physicians, nurses and therapists) or have advanced degrees in related fields (e.g., public health, law). The diversity is a microcosm of the health care field and provides an opportunity for the students to learn from each other.

What are the characteristics of a successful student in the program?

The most important characteristics are: a willingness to work hard and to develop strong management skills, an intense interest in understanding the health care system, and a commitment to making the system work better.

Are there any pre-requisites for the program? Is a statistics course or other quantitative course required for admission to the program?

Accounting is the only prerequisite. It must have been successfully completed (a grade of B or higher) by the time of enrollment. However, the successful applicant will be able to demonstrate capacity for strong quantitative skills through their college transcripts and/or GRE/GMAT test scores.

The effective health care administrator is a leader and critical thinker. The attributes for managerial leadership supported by critical thinking will be developed and honed throughout the course of the program. However, applicants must demonstrate a capacity for strong quantitative skills and strong writing skills prior to entry into the program.

What is the application deadline?

Students are admitted only in the Fall semester. The application deadline for our program is January 15. All applicants, especially those who wish to be considered for a Graduate Assistantship, are encouraged to submit their application, and all supporting documents, by December 1. Application materials and other admissions-related information can be found on the [MHSA website](#).

Can I transfer courses from another university?

You can transfer up to 12 credit hours if the credits were not used toward a degree or certificate you obtained. To receive transfer credit, you must formally make a request through the Program Director (Dr. Bernard Horak at bjh28@georgetown.edu) by submitting syllabi and transcripts. Your request for transfer will primarily be evaluated by the faculty who teach in the subject area to ensure that the course is similar in content and class requirements.

THE PROGRAM**Why a Master's Degree in Health Systems Administration (MHSA)?**

Master's degrees in health systems administration have a variety of designations, all of which have equal status in the field. Within universities, the various colleges and schools are authorized to grant specific degrees. Regardless of the formal degree, most graduates identify themselves as having a "master's in health administration."

What are typical careers for which the MHSA is appropriate?

MHSA graduates take on the full range of managerial roles in the full range of organizations that finance, regulate, supply and provide health services. These include health insurance plans, organizations involved in health service investment, governmental agencies, advocacy groups, and consulting and supply companies. The largest employer of program graduates is hospitals/health systems. Increased opportunities are expected in medical group practices, long-term care institutions, home health services, freestanding diagnostic centers and wellness programs. Additionally, a significant number of graduates are working in consulting organizations and professional and trade associations at both the local and national levels.

This is a very dynamic field. New kinds of organizations and opportunities are continually emerging for which your master's degree is an excellent foundation.

Is the program accredited?

Yes. The MHSA program is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education](#) (CAHME).

How long will it take to complete the program?

Our program can be completed in approximately two years, which includes a summer session and a residency that is taken during the last semester.

What is the residency?

The residency is the experiential portion of the curriculum, which is taken in the final semester of the program. Students are expected to attend the residency site at least 32 hours (four business days) a week. During this time, students also complete a course and attend the residency seminar on campus. The residency provides the students with exposure to all aspects of the health care organization and real-world management experience under the guidance of a preceptor.

Where are the residency sites and will I be paid during the residency?

The sites are all unpaid positions located in the Washington, DC, area.

Can I participate in the Executive Mentoring Program (EMP) and what are its benefits?

Participation in the EMP is highly encouraged and open to both full- and part-time students. It provides an excellent opportunity to gain career and industry insights from senior executives. Additionally, your mentor will usually give you exposure and access to his/her organization.

What career development and support can I expect?

In addition to your mentor, you can call on an extensive network of contacts through the faculty and the alumni. Also, the department and the Student Association provide a number of career development seminars on topics such as interviewing and resume writing. Finally, your residency (through your preceptor and other managers) often leads to opportunities at that site or at affiliated facilities.

What are the completion and placement rates of the program?

The 2013 class had a completion rate of 90% and a placement rate of 80%. The 2012 class had a completion rate of 100% and a placement rate of 85%.

TUITION & FINANCIAL AID

What is the tuition?

For information on tuition, please visit <http://finaid.georgetown.edu>.

Is financial aid available? If so, how do I apply?

Complete information on need-based financial aid, part-time employment and supplemental loan programs is available from the [Georgetown University Office of Student Financial Services](#). The Office of Student Financial Services can help you apply for need-based financial aid, download applications, search for scholarships and obtain detailed information about the many options available for meeting graduate school costs. The Office of Student Financial Services can also be reached by phone at (202) 687-4547.

Are there graduate assistantship (GA) or research assistant (RA) positions available?

Yes. A limited number of Graduate Assistant positions are available each year for our students. These positions support faculty in a variety of teaching, research and continuing education initiatives. Applicants who apply by December 1 will be more likely to obtain a Graduate Assistantship. For more information, please contact Sarah Shoheit at sis266@georgetown.edu

Are there other paid positions available to students in the program?

Yes. The Department occasionally receives information from local employers regarding part-time opportunities. Most recently, these have included positions at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, Children's National Medical Center and the American Cardiology Association.