Integrity | Empathy | Leadership | Innovation

“The health care environment is in such a state of dynamic flux that organizations must either adapt or risk failure. When health care organizations fail, the repercussions impact every level of the community—from regional economic viability to individual access to care.

Our goal is to provide World Campus Master of Health Administration students with skills they can immediately use to help their organizations adapt strategically and efficiently—so they can continue to serve every member of the community who needs their care and support.”

—Chris Calkins, Ph.D.
Outreach Assistant Professor and Executive Director,
World Campus Master of Health Administration
Department of Health Policy and Administration
College of Health and Human Development
The health care system of the future must focus on greater efficiency and quality through improved technology, organization, and management. There is already a growing need for new leaders who can find solutions to the problems we face both now and in the future. This rapid evolution of the health care environment means that updating your education is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity.

A Master of Health Administration (MHA) can help you combine your work experience in health care with a strong business management education so you can become more highly qualified for challenging leadership positions in health care—giving you the tools you need to lead change in such a complex environment.

If you have work experience in health care and want to enhance your management skills, Penn State’s online MHA program is designed for you.

“I returned to school to get an MHA degree because I want to enhance my knowledge and skills to make a difference in the lives of my patients. I believe this degree will help me achieve these goals by further facilitating my career development in our dynamic health care system.”

—Minh Tran, PharmD
United Healthcare, California
“The exceptional breadth of the MHA curriculum drew me to Penn State World Campus. The program covers the most significant real-time challenges facing the health care professional today. I have found the application of achieved learning objectives to be of immediate value to myself, and to my organization.”

—Imran Khan, MD
United Nations, Karachi, Pakistan
Penn State’s online MHA program spans seven continuous semesters. It is designed to be completed in twenty-eight months and is composed of 13 online courses, an independent study in your own organization, and two face-to-face management intensives, totaling 49 credits. A two-week online orientation precedes the first semester of courses.

**Semester 1**
H P A 503—Health Services Organizational Behavior (3 credits)
H P A 520—Introduction to Health Services Organizations and Delivery (3 credits)

**Semester 2**
H P A 447—Financing Health Care (3 credits)
H P A 822—Clinical Issues for Health Services Management (3 credits)

**Semester 3**
H P A 527—Health Care Operations Management (3 credits)
H P A 524—Management of Health Services Organizations (3 credits)
*(Held as part of the face-to-face Management Intensive)*
H P A 805—Change Leadership in Health Services Organizations (3 credits)
*(Held as part of the face-to-face Management Intensive)*

**Semester 4**
H P A 551—Quality Improvement in Health Care (3 credits)
H P A 523—Managerial Epidemiology (3 credits)
H P A 595—Internship/Independent Study (1 credit)
*(In consultation with a lead faculty member—to be completed in a student’s own organization)*

**Semester 5**
H P A 835—Financial Management in Health Services Organizations (3 credits)
H P A 545—Introduction to Health Economics (3 credits)

**Semester 6**
H P A 850—Health Care Marketing (3 credits)
Elective—Students can choose from a diverse list of online courses preselected by the program. (3 credits)

**Semester 7**
H P A 836—Health Law (3 credits)
H P A 855—Information Systems in Health Services Administration (3 credits)
H P A 556—Strategy Development in Health Services Organizations (3 credits)
*(Capstone project during the final week of classes held as part of the face-to-face Management Intensive)*
Management Intensives—Develop Your Leadership Competencies

Meet with your classmates and faculty to complete 9 credits of MHA program coursework in two uniquely designed, face-to-face management intensives. Our management intensives consist of classroom components and program-sponsored events, including panel discussions and site visits to local health care organizations that are designed to give you an enhanced learning experience in areas such as change leadership, strategic management, and collaboration.

The first management intensive takes place for two weeks during the third semester of the program. The second in-person learning experience occurs throughout the last week of class in the seventh and final semester. Both management intensives are held at Penn State’s University Park campus in State College, Pennsylvania.

Attendance at these face-to-face learning experiences is mandatory. Room and board are covered by the program; however, you must arrange and pay for your own travel to and from the management intensives.
“The summer management intensive offered me not only valuable time to network with my incredibly accomplished and knowledgeable classmates, but also a chance to learn leadership and change-management strategies that were immediately applicable to my day-to-day job focus. I enjoyed hearing the perspectives of classmates from other areas of the industry and being able to look at issues and challenges from so many angles.”

—Meredith Mills, Country Meadows Retirement Communities, Hershey, Pennsylvania
Influenced by the fields of health care and business management, Penn State’s 49-credit online MHA program can provide you with a solid foundation that combines both of these disciplines. Most students enroll in our program because they want to obtain a management position in the health care field. Some need the degree so they can qualify for advancement. Others simply want to be more knowledgeable about health care management to provide better service to their patients or employees. And still others are looking for a different position in the health care industry and need the skills to switch jobs.

Regardless of your reason for entering the program, you can feel confident that the courses have been designed to prepare you for the requirements of increased accountability, organization, and management—emphasizing competencies in ethical leadership, critical thinking, and oral and written communication.

Rapid change and steady job growth in health care are projected for the next several years. As a graduate of the program, you could obtain an administrative, management, or executive position in one of several health care–related organizations, including:

- hospitals and health systems
- medical group practices
- clinics and outpatient care centers
- home health care agencies
- skilled nursing facilities
- insurance companies
- consulting firms
- federal regulatory and public health agencies

“I chose Penn State’s online MHA program because it offers a very strong and flexible curriculum at an internationally recognized university. Every topic presented is relevant to and enhances my administrative work or clinical practice. I also enjoy learning from a very supportive faculty and the diverse members of my cohort.”

—Christopher Clark, MD
Saint Vincent Health System, Erie, Pennsylvania
Cooperative Approach to Learning

The online Master of Health Administration program, developed by Penn State’s Department of Health Policy and Administration in the College of Health and Human Development, is delivered through Penn State’s World Campus. This cooperative effort helps to ensure a high-quality online experience for our learners. Your experience will be further enhanced with:

Development of critical decision skills – As you progress through the courses, you’ll gain new skills and confidence that you can apply immediately to constructively influence your current work environment to benefit patients, providers, and your employees.

Expanded professional network – You will complete the program with the same cohort of classmates, allowing you to share your experiences with your peers as you learn from each other and create a dynamic community of professional colleagues.

Caring faculty and staff – A variety of student services will be available to you through every step of your educational experience. A focused, committed core of faculty and staff are dedicated to your success in this program.

Breadth of curriculum – The comprehensive curriculum in the program will prepare you for challenging leadership positions in a wide range of health care sectors, with course content that is fresh, innovative, and includes cutting-edge use of technology and concepts.

“Balancing school with a full-time job and family obligations has been challenging, but it’s definitely manageable with the flexibility that the online MHA program offers. I’m so thankful that Penn State has created an online learning environment that allows me to fit this program into my busy work and home life.”

—Gmerice Welch
Reimbursement Technologies, Inc., Conshohocken, Pennsylvania
Collaboration
Penn State World Campus has many years of experience providing global access to a real university education, so you can be assured that the course content provides far more than a textbook on a screen. The online environment of the MHA program is highly interactive and collaborative, allowing you to interact frequently with your faculty, providing even greater opportunities to share insights and reinforce what you are learning. And, with our global learning community of adult learners exchanging ideas and experiences, you will be as close to the face-to-face experience as possible.

Faculty Expertise
We believe that our online courses should be taught by the same industry-respected faculty who teach our on-campus courses. The online MHA is a collaboration between Penn State World Campus and Penn State’s Department of Health Policy and Administration in the College of Health and Human Development and School of Public Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg. The partnership connects you with faculty from a highly ranked MHA program with nearly 5,000 alumni and professional contacts who help maintain the focus on health care’s current leadership challenges.

Online Learning Experience
The online learning format offered by Penn State World Campus makes it possible for you to fit a degree program into your life. The flexibility of studying when and where you want can give you the opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge you need to make informed decisions that can affect the lives of your patients and employees.

Accreditation
Penn State has twenty-five years of experience in providing quality graduate-level health administration programs, offering a residential MHA program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME). The residential program was re-accredited for seven years (the highest achievable) in November 2013. The expertise and curriculum offered residentially is now being provided in the online format to meet the unique needs of working professionals.

Military Friendly University
Penn State has the experience you need to help you meet your goals during and after your service to your country. Through our commitment to increasing access to education for military personnel, veterans, and military family members, we have aligned our online programs, student support services, policies, and procedures to address your unique needs.
Admissions decisions for the Master of Health Administration program are based on the quality of your credentials, relative to those of other applicants, after a thorough review of your completed application materials and interview.

To apply or for more information about these application materials, visit: [www.worldcampus.psu.edu/MHA-Apply](http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/MHA-Apply).

Your application materials must include:
- online application form and fee
- personal statement
- résumé
- two essays
- two reference letters
- two official transcripts from each postsecondary institution attended
- GRE or GMAT Test Scores (waived for applicants with five or more years of professional experience)
- TOEFL or IELTS scores, if applicable
- interview (Depending on the quality of your application materials, we may request a brief interview, via Skype or in person, to assess your potential for success in our rigorous online program.)

Please mail transcripts to:
Online Master of Health Administration Program
Department of Health Policy and Administration
The Pennsylvania State University
118 Keller Building
University Park PA 16802-1300
Phone: 814-863-4821
Fax: 814-863-7372
Email: OnlineMHA@psu.edu

Did you know?
- Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus.
- Penn State World Campus has enrolled students from all 50 states and all 7 continents.
- MHA graduates are in leadership positions in health care organizations across the country.
- The College of Health and Human Development is the leading training ground for Penn State students entering the health care field.