

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, MASTER OF (M.H.A.)/AGING STUDIES, CERTIFICATE IN (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE) [DUAL DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE]

Advanced study in health administration and aging studies is available through a dual degree and certificate program co-sponsored by the Department of Health Administration and the Department of Gerontology in the College of Health Professions.

The program allows students to earn a Master of Health Administration and Certificate in Aging Studies with a minimum of 71 credits rather than the 74 credits necessary if the two degrees were pursued separately. This efficiency lowers the overall cost of tuition while also reducing time to earning both degrees.

Program goals

The objectives of this dual degree and certificate program are to:

- Prepare graduates to address the complex needs of a diverse aging population using holistic knowledge of the biopsychosocial aging process
- Provide graduates with an understanding of empirically and theoretically based components contributing to optimal aging using evidence-based, best-practice approaches
- Prepare graduates to discuss and critically analyze health-related principles and policies that impact older adults
- Prepare graduates to work with interprofessional teams in organizations and institutions to benefit and support older people and caregivers.

Among the many benefits offered by participation in the dual degree and certificate program are the following:

- Students holding these degrees will be more competitive in the job market and will have expanded opportunities for career advancement in the aging services sector.
- Students will have advanced knowledge of aging-related trends, social issues and policies that impact older adults in all settings

The diplomas for this dual degree and certificate program may be awarded simultaneously. However, students must complete a separate graduation check out for each program.

Student learning outcomes

See the individual program pages for student learning outcomes.

Other information

Advising

The student is assigned an adviser from each program to develop a plan of study. Advisers from each program will provide guidance on course requirements for their respective programs.

Admission requirements

Students must meet the admission requirements for each program. Admission into one program does not guarantee admission into the other.

The Certificate in Aging Studies program is open to qualified students who have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university or the equivalent and who have met all **general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School**.

The admission requirements for the M.H.A. (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-allied-health-professions/health-administration/health-administration-mha/#admissionrequirements>) can be found on the program page.

Application procedure

Applicants may apply to the certificate program any time after acceptance into the M.H.A. program.

Students may contact VCU Graduate Admissions to have their transcripts and letters of recommendation from the M.H.A. application attached to their certificate application. A new personal statement is required.

Dual degree and certificate requirements

As standalone programs, the M.H.A. comprises 59 credits while the certificate requires 15 credits. The dual degree and certificate program allows students to share three credits, therefore decreasing total credits to completion from 74 to 71.

Based on the equivalent knowledge acquired by successfully completing HADM 602 in the M.H.A. program, the elective requirement is satisfied in the certificate curriculum.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
M.H.A. requirements		
• Required courses		
HADM 602	Health System Organization, Financing and Performance (satisfies certificate restricted elective)	3
HADM 606	Health Care Managerial Accounting	3
HADM 607	Financial Management in Health Organizations	3
HADM 608	Seminar in Health Care Finance	3
HADM 609	Population Health Management	2
HADM 610	Health Analytics and Decision Support	3
HADM 611	Health Care Law and Bioethics	3
HADM 612	Information Systems for Health Care Management	3
HADM 614	Health Care Marketing	3
HADM 615	Health Care Politics and Policy	3
HADM 624	Health Economics	3
HADM 646	Health Care Organization and Leadership	3
HADM 647	Management of Health Care Organizations	3
HADM 648	Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations	3

HADM 649	Human Resources Management in Health Care	3
HADM 681	Clinical Concepts and Relationships	2
HADM 682	Executive Skills I	1
HADM 683	Executive Skills II	1
HADM 694	Practicum in Health Administration I	5
HADM 695	Practicum in Health Administration II	3-5
• Electives		
Select one of the following: ¹		3
FIRE 638	Real Property Investment Law	
GRTY 603	Social Gerontology	
HADM 692	Independent Study in Health Administration	
HSEP 601	Foundations in Emergency Management	
HSEP 650	Public Health Preparedness	
INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers	
MGMT 637	Advanced Human Resource Management	
MGMT 655	Entrepreneurship	
PADM/GVPA 601	Introduction to Public Service and Administration	
PADM/GVPA 625	Policy Insights: Assessing Public Policies	
PADM 650	Principles of Nonprofit Management	
SCMA 677	Quality Management and Six Sigma	
Certificate requirements		
GRTY 601	Biological and Physiological Aging	3
GRTY 602	Psychology of Aging	3
GRTY 603	Social Gerontology	3
GRTY 606	Aging and Human Values	3
Restricted elective (satisfied by HADM 602)		3
Total Hours		71

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The list is suggestive. Other graduate-level courses may be selected by a student, though they should be approved by the program director to ensure they meet requirements.

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual program is 71.

Sample plan of study

Year one

Fall semester		Hours
GRTY 603	Social Gerontology	3
HADM 602	Health System Organization, Financing and Performance (satisfies certificate elective)	3
HADM 606	Health Care Managerial Accounting	3
HADM 609	Population Health Management	2
HADM 646	Health Care Organization and Leadership	3
HADM 681	Clinical Concepts and Relationships	2
HADM 682	Executive Skills I	1
Term Hours:		17

Spring semester

GRTY 606	Aging and Human Values	3
HADM 607	Financial Management in Health Organizations	3
HADM 610	Health Analytics and Decision Support	3
HADM 624	Health Economics	3
HADM 647	Management of Health Care Organizations	3
Term Hours:		15

Year two

Fall semester

GRTY 602	Psychology of Aging	3
HADM 608	Seminar in Health Care Finance	3
HADM 612	Information Systems for Health Care Management	3
HADM 615	Health Care Politics and Policy	3
HADM 683	Executive Skills II	1
Elective		3
Term Hours:		16

Spring semester

GRTY 601	Biological and Physiological Aging	3
HADM 611	Health Care Law and Bioethics	3
HADM 614	Health Care Marketing	3
HADM 648	Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations	3
HADM 649	Human Resources Management in Health Care	3
Term Hours:		15

Year three

Fall semester

HADM 694	Practicum in Health Administration I	5
Term Hours:		5

Spring semester

HADM 695	Practicum in Health Administration II	3
Term Hours:		3
Total Hours:		71

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual program is 71.

Contact

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