

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, MASTER OF (M.H.A.)/ INFORMATION SYSTEMS, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) [DUAL DEGREE]

Advanced study in health administration and information systems is available through a dual degree program co-sponsored by the Department of Health Administration in the College of Health Professions and the Department of Information Systems in the School of Business.

The dual degree M.H.A./M.S. program allows students interested in the fields of health management and information technology to earn two highly ranked and relevant master's degrees in just three years, which is the time it usually takes to complete just one of the degrees. The dual degree program is ideal for students who are pursuing careers in health IT management, health IT business consulting or working in the health IT vendor industry.

Applicants for this program are required to meet the admission requirements of each program. For information regarding the dual degree program, contact the director of the program.

Degree requirements

The curriculum allows students to earn both the M.H.A. and the M.S. in Information Systems with a total of 78 credit hours rather than the 89 credit hours that would be required to obtain the degrees separately. The dual degree option offers this credit-hour efficiency by taking advantage of curricular similarities in the two programs and allowing some courses to count toward both sets of requirements. A total of 12 credit hours will count toward both degrees and the M.H.A. foundation courses will be substituted for the business school foundation course requirements for dual degree students. Students in the dual degree program will follow the same schedule as regular M.H.A. students, including the two lockstep years. Both degrees are conferred concurrently when all requirements for both degrees have been completed.

Students will take 51 credit hours of health administration courses required for the M.H.A. and nine additional courses (27 credit hours) in the M.S. in Information Systems program, including INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630. Students whose undergraduate degrees are not in information systems may also be required to take additional undergraduate prerequisite courses before taking the graduate information systems courses, as determined by the program adviser. The HADM 612 course taken for the M.H.A. will substitute for INFO 640, normally required for the M.S. in Information Systems degree, and one of the additional information systems courses will also count toward the elective courses in the M.H.A. program. A three-credit-hour, 10-week internship is required and must have substantial global, entrepreneurial and/or experiential components related to both degrees. The six information systems courses to be taken in addition to INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630, must be approved by the program adviser and would normally be selected to satisfy one of the M.S. in Information Systems concentrations.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
Courses		
HADM 602	Health System Organization, Financing and Performance	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	Managerial Epidemiology	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/ECON 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 693	Internship in Health Administration	3
INFO 610	Analysis and Design of Database Systems	3
INFO 620	Data Communications	3
INFO 630	Systems Development	3
INFO electives (chosen with permission of adviser)		6
INFO focus area courses (see options below)		12
Total Hours		78

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this dual degree is 78.

Information systems focus areas

Students must declare a focus in two of the following areas and take the classes offered for each of those two areas for a total of 12 credit hours.

Course	Title	Hours
Business engineering		
INFO 611	Data Re-engineering	3
INFO 632	Business Process Re-engineering	3
Information assurance		
INFO 622	Internet Security Management	3
INFO 644	Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security	3
Information technology management		
INFO 641	Strategic Information Systems Planning	3

INFO 643	Information Technology Project Management	3
Knowledge engineering		
INFO 614	Data Mining	3
INFO 616	Data Warehousing	3

Sample M.H.A./M.S. in Information Systems plan of study

Year one

Fall semester		Hours
HADM 602	Health System Organization, Financing and Performance	3
HADM 606	Health Care Managerial Accounting	3
HADM 609	Managerial Epidemiology	2
HADM 646	Health Care Organization and Leadership	3
HADM 681	Clinical Concepts and Relationships	2
HADM 682	Executive Skills I	1
Prerequisite HADM or INFO courses if needed		
Term Hours:		14

Spring semester

HADM 607	Financial Management in Health Organizations	3
HADM 610	Health Analytics and Decision Support	3
HADM 624	Health Economics or or Health Economics ECON 624	3
HADM 647	Management of Health Care Organizations	3
Prerequisite HADM or INFO courses if needed		
Term Hours:		12

Summer semester

Prerequisite INFO courses if needed		
Term Hours:		0

Year two

Fall semester

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
INFO course (elective or focus area course from above)		3
Prerequisite INFO courses, if needed		
Term Hours:		13

Spring semester

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:		12

Summer semester

HADM 693	Internship in Health Administration	3
Term Hours:		3

Year three

Fall semester

INFO 610	Analysis and Design of Database Systems	3
INFO 620	Data Communications	3
INFO 630	Systems Development	3
INFO focus area course (from above)		3
Term Hours:		12

Spring semester

INFO elective		3
INFO focus area courses (from above)		9
Term Hours:		12
Total Hours:		78

Contact

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Program website: ha.chp.vcu.edu/mha-program/dual-degree-programs
(<https://ha.chp.vcu.edu/mha-program/dual-degree-programs/>)