

HEALTH SERVICES, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

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Program director

bshs.chp.vcu.edu (<https://bshs.chp.vcu.edu/>)

The Bachelor of Science in Health Services will prepare future health care leaders with the knowledge, skills and competencies to meet the challenges of managing responsibilities across the range of health care organizations. With an emphasis on evidence-based practice, the program will prepare students to work as medical and health services providers charged with planning, directing and coordinating medical and health services. Graduates will be able to work in diverse health care settings, such as hospitals, specific clinical areas or departments within those facilities, health management organizations or in medical practice groups.

The program is designed for students who wish to create a pathway into a health care field. It provides a core set of courses to build a foundation of health care knowledge. It also provides the flexibility for students to focus their studies on a particular area of interest through the selection of open and restricted elective courses. The flexibility gives students an opportunity to identify how their strengths, values and skills can best serve the health of their communities.

Students in the health services program have the option to complete the entire program face-to-face or online.

Student learning outcomes

Upon completion of the B.S. in Health Services degree program, graduates will be able to:

- Describe health, illness and human development in the context of the U.S. health care system
- Analyze contemporary issues and trends in health promotion and delivery in the context of the U.S. health care system
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of professional and ethical behaviors within the health care context
- Identify and analyze cultural and economic factors impacting health disparities in the U.S. health care system
- Apply effective written and oral communications skills within the health care services context
- Analyze and apply basic theories of leadership and change management to the health care services workplace
- Evaluate and interpret evidence-based practices in the health care services context

Degree requirements

The B.S. in Health Services requires 120 credits.

Service-learning requirement

All students in the degree program will have a culminating experiential learning opportunity in the final semester of the senior year when they take ALHP 435. All students will receive constructive feedback from their faculty adviser and also the site supervisor for the relevant experiential and applied learning experience. The course is designed to prepare students for career search, future professional and educational

opportunities, and reflective oral and written presentations on professional and ethical practice in the service-learning environment.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
General education (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
ALHP 310	Introduction to Health Care Professions	3
ALHP 320	Person-centered Care	3
ALHP 325	Introduction to Rehabilitation Services	3
ALHP 330	Human Growth and Development for the Health Professions	3
ALHP 340	Health Care Technology and Innovation	3
ALHP 410	Professional and Clinical Ethics	3
ALHP 415	Health Care Financing and Budgeting	3
ALHP 416	Health Care Economics	3
ALHP 420	Positive Organizational Leadership Development	3
ALHP 425	Health Care Management and Performance	3
ALHP 430	Overview of Research in the Health Professions	3
ALHP 435	Health Care Career Development and Planning in Allied Health Professions	3
• Additional major requirements		
ACCT 202	Accounting for Non-business Majors	3
HCMG 300	Health Care Organization and Services	3
Ancillary requirements		
ECON 210	Principles of Microeconomics (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)	3
STAT 210	Basic Practice of Statistics (satisfies general education quantitative foundations)	3
Restricted electives (Select from the list below.)		24
Open electives		
Select any course.		24
Total Hours		120

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Restricted electives

Course	Title	Hours
AFAM 310	Black Health Matters: Social Determinants of Health in the African American Community	3
ALHP 202	Creative Expressions of Healing and Resilience	3
ALHP 300	Communication Strategies in Health Services	3

ALHP 490	BSHS Community Internship Experience I	3	SEDP 282	Multicultural Perspectives and Disability	3
BUSN 329	Introduction to Intercultural Communication	3	SEDP 330	Survey of Special Education	3
CLED 200	The Science of Resilience and Holistic Health	3	SEDP 405	Collaborative Practices to Support Inclusion for Children and Youth with Disabilities	3
CLED 220	Diversity Issues in Counseling and Helping Professions	3	SLWK 201	Introduction to Social Work	3
CLED 405	A Survey of Career Counseling	3	SLWK 230	Communication and Interpersonal Skills in Social Work	3
CLED 440	Family Dynamics	3	SOCY 344	Medical Sociology	3
CLED 501	A Survey of the Counseling and Human Services Professions	3	SOCY 401	Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities	3
CLLS 202	Introduction to Infectious Disease and Societal Impacts	3	Students who complete the requirements for this degree will receive a Bachelor of Science in Health Services.		
ECON 211	Principles of Macroeconomics	3	What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.		
ECSE 201	Infants and Young Children With Disabilities	3	Recommended course sequence/plan of study		
ECSE 202	Social-Emotional Development in Early Childhood	3	Freshman year		
ECSE 302	Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers With Disabilities	3	Fall semester		
ECSE 303	Behavior Support in Early Childhood	3	Hours		
ECSE 304	Communication and Language Development in Early Childhood	3	ALHP 310	Introduction to Health Care Professions	3
ECSE 401	Medical Aspects of Early Childhood Special Education	3	MATH 131	Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (or open elective depending on placement; any serves as prerequisite for STAT 210)	3
ECSE 410	Play-based Instruction for Inclusive Settings	3	or	MATH 141	or Algebra with Applications
ECSE 501	Principles of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health	3	or	MATH 151	or Precalculus Mathematics
ECSE 542	Family/Professional Partnerships	2	or	MATH 200	or Calculus with Analytic Geometry I
GRTY 200	Disrupting Ageism: An Exploration of Diversity and Aging	3	UNIV 111	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Play course Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
GRTY 410	Perspectives on Aging	3	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication		
HADM 215	Introduction to Health Care Through a Policy Lens	3	General education course (select AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3	
IDDS 200	Disability History and Culture	3	General education course (select BOK for humanities/ fine arts and AOI for creativity, innovation and aesthetic inquiry)	3	
IDDS 201	Disability, Diversity and Human Rights	3	Term Hours: 15		
INFO 360	Business Information Systems	3	Spring semester		
MGMT 310	Managing People in Organizations	3	ALHP 320	Person-centered Care	3
MGMT 331	Human Resource Management	3	STAT 210	Basic Practice of Statistics (satisfies general education quantitative foundation)	3
MUED 260	Introduction to Music Therapy	2	UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
PSYC 101	Play course video for Introduction to Psychology (satisfies general education BOK for social/ behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience)	4	Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
PSYC 304	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3	General education course	3	
PSYC 412	Health Psychology	3	General education course (select BOK for natural sciences and AOI for scientific and logic reasoning)	3	
RHAB 202	General Substance Abuse Studies	3	Term Hours: 15		
RHAB 321	Introduction to Substance Abuse	3			
RHAB 502	American Sign Language I	3			
RHAB 503	American Sign Language II	3			
SEDP 202	Preparing Diverse Learners From Multicultural and Global Perspectives	3			

Sophomore year**Fall semester**

ALHP 325	Introduction to Rehabilitation Services	3
HCMG 300	Health Care Organization and Services	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
General education course		3
Restrictive Elective		3
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

ACCT 202	Accounting for Non-business Majors	3
ALHP 330	Human Growth and Development for the Health Professions	3
ALHP 340	Health Care Technology and Innovation	3
Open electives		3
Restricted elective		3
Term Hours:		15

Junior year**Fall semester**

ALHP 430	Overview of Research in the Health Professions	3
ECON 210	Principles of Microeconomics	3
Restricted electives		6
Open Elective		3
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

ALHP 410	Professional and Clinical Ethics	3
ALHP 416	Health Care Economics	3
Restricted elective		3
Open Elective		6
Term Hours:		15

Senior year**Fall semester**

ALHP 415	Health Care Financing and Budgeting	3
ALHP 425	Health Care Management and Performance	3
ALHP 435	Health Care Career Development and Planning in Allied Health Professions	3
Open elective		3
Restricted electives		3
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

ALHP 420	Positive Organizational Leadership Development	3
Restricted electives		6
Open electives		6
Term Hours:		15
Total Hours:		120

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Accelerated B.S. and M.S.

The accelerated B.S. and M.S. program allows qualified students to earn both the B.S. in Health Services and M.S. in Gerontology in a minimum

of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. Students in the program may count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both the B.S. and M.S. degrees. Thus, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 138 credits rather than the 150 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately.

Students holding these degrees will have completed advanced course work focused on preparing future health care leaders with the knowledge, skills and competencies to meet the challenges of managing organizations that are involved with health care and health-related services. These career opportunities exist in a variety of health care settings for older adults where graduates can pursue employment in the community, corporate and university health care systems or advanced study and research in the field of health sciences.

Entrance to the accelerated program

Interested undergraduate students should consult with their adviser as early as possible to receive specific information about the accelerated program, determine academic eligibility and submit (no later than two semesters prior to graduating with a baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the spring semester of their junior year) an Accelerated Program Declaration Form to be approved by the graduate program director. Limited spaces may be available in the accelerated program. Academically qualified students may not receive approval if capacity has been reached.

Minimum qualifications for entrance to this accelerated program include completion of 84 undergraduate credit hours including ACCT 202, ECON 210 and STAT 210; an overall GPA of 3.0; and a GPA of 3.0 in core ALHP courses and restricted electives. Students who are interested in the accelerated program should consult with the graduate program director of the M.S. program before they have completed 84 credits. Successful applicants would enter the program in the fall semester of their senior year.

Once enrolled in the accelerated program, students must meet the standards of performance applicable to graduate students as described in the "Satisfactory academic progress (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/satisfactory-academic-progress/>)" section of Bulletin, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Guidance to students in an accelerated program is provided by both the undergraduate health services adviser and the graduate program director of the graduate gerontology program.

Admission to the graduate program

Entrance to the accelerated program enables the student to take the approved shared courses that will apply to the undergraduate and graduate degrees. However, entry into an accelerated program via an approved Accelerated Program Declaration Form does not constitute application or admission into the graduate program. Admission to the graduate program requires a separate step that occurs through a formal application. In order to continue pursuing the master's degree after the baccalaureate degree is conferred, accelerated students must follow the admission to graduate study requirements outlined in the VCU Bulletin.

Degree requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Health Services degree will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 120 credits and the satisfactory completion of all undergraduate degree requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

A maximum of 12 graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits will substitute for restricted electives for the undergraduate degree. These courses are shared credits with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

The graduate gerontology courses that may be taken as an undergraduate, once a student is admitted to the program, are:

Course	Title	Hours
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

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is the recommended plan of study for students interested in the accelerated program beginning in the fall of the junior year prior to admission to the accelerated program in the senior year.

Course	Title	Hours
Junior year		
Fall semester		
ALHP 310	Introduction to Health Care Professions	3
ALHP 325	Introduction to Rehabilitation Services	3
HCMG 300	Health Care Organization and Services	3
Restricted electives		6
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
ALHP 320	Person-centered Care	3
ALHP 330	Human Growth and Development for the Health Professions	3
ALHP 340	Health Care Technology and Innovation	3
ALHP 410	Professional and Clinical Ethics	3
Elective (general or restricted)		3
Term Hours:		15
Senior year		
Fall semester		
ALHP 415	Health Care Financing and Budgeting	3
ALHP 425	Health Care Management and Performance	3
ALHP 430	Overview of Research in the Health Professions	3
GRTY 602	Psychology of Aging	3
GRTY 603	Social Gerontology	3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
ALHP 416	Health Care Economics	3
ALHP 420	Positive Organizational Leadership Development	3
ALHP 435	Health Care Career Development and Planning in Allied Health Professions	3
GRTY 601	Biological and Physiological Aging	3
GRTY 606	Aging and Human Values	3
Term Hours:		14-16
Fifth year		

Fall semester

GRTY 605	Social Science Research Methods Applied to Gerontology	3
GRTY 607	Field Study in Gerontology	2
GRTY 608	Grant Writing	2
Elective		3
Term Hours:		10

Spring semester

GRTY 604	Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology	4
GRTY 607	Field Study in Gerontology	2
Elective		2
Term Hours:		8