

Course Catalog Graduate Program in Health Care Administration 2004 - 2005

The School for Health Studies

The coeducational Graduate School for Health Studies (SHS) was established in July 1989, underscoring Simmons' commitment to the preparation of students for positions of leadership in health care. The School brings together the College's health-related programs in health care administration, nutrition, physical therapy, and primary health care nursing in addition to the post-baccalaureate Dietetic Internship Program in nutrition. In 2001 the School was realigned to include the undergraduate programs in nursing, physical therapy and nutrition. Further information about these undergraduate programs is available at www.simmons.edu. In 2002, as a result of this realignment, the Graduate School for Health Studies became the School for Health Studies. The School's goal is to prepare individuals for clinical and administrative leadership positions in a rapidly changing health care environment. Its programs are committed to educating students to be sensitive to human needs in terms of access and quality of health care, and to also understand the organizational, institutional, and policy constraints that dominate the health care system. Because it incorporates both clinical and administrative programs in one organization, the School is uniquely positioned to respond to the critical need for well-prepared health care professionals, to enhance the opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation, and to expand the resources available to faculty, graduate students, and the health care community.

SHS students benefit from the College's location in Boston. The city is one of the world's largest medical centers, with more than seventy hospitals, dozens of health centers, and hundreds of other health care-related organizations. These countless resources, combined with Boston's equally distinguished high technology and research institutions, provide excellent learning experiences and career opportunities for students in health-related programs. At 300 The Fenway, Simmons is located in the heart of the Longwood Medical Area, neighbor to the Harvard medical, dental, and public health schools and in close proximity to noted medical institutions such as Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Children's Hospital.

Graduate Program in Health Care Administration

The Graduate Program in Health Care Administration is accredited by the Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Services Administration (ACEHSA) and is a full member of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA).

The program, founded in 1985, focuses on the needs of working professionals in health care. Classes are held in the evenings so that students can continue their employment while attending school, applying their newly acquired skills and knowledge at work, and using that experience to illuminate and enhance the learning process.

Vision

- A community of individuals who work in different disciplines and types of organizations and networks within the health care system, who are from diverse national and international backgrounds, and who share the common goal of efficient, effective, and equitable health care
- Known among health care employers for fostering the growth of HCA graduates to positions of leadership
- Committed to innovative curriculum and use of technology to integrate and enhance learning about the management and delivery of health care services
- A lively intellectual community of health care scholars and practitioners
- Internationally recognized for defining the standards of accredited and continuing education programs in health care administration for working health professionals
- Dedicated to improving the health of individuals and of communities wherever HCA students, graduates, and faculty live and work
- Accredited by the Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Services Administration

Mission

The Graduate Program in Health Care Administration contributes to the delivery of efficient, effective, and equitable health care and improves the health of individuals and communities by:

- Excelling in the education of working women and men, particularly mid-career managers and professionals, to be leaders prepared to address a broad set of health care issues with appropriate skills and knowledge
- Encouraging faculty to conduct scholarly and applied research that contributes to the field of health care administration, to an innovative curriculum, and to enhanced student and graduate learning opportunities within the program
- Supporting the preparation of faculty, staff, and students for leadership within health care organizations and systems, and in the broader communities

Values

The fundamental values that form the foundation of the Graduate program in Health Care Administration are:

- Academic rigor and excellence
- Highest standards of ethical behavior in the management of health care services and health care organizations
- Collaboration, interdisciplinary perspective, strong network of collegial relationships
- Continual personal and professional growth

Educational Objectives

The Program's educational objectives are based upon the Accrediting Commission's standards and the Pew Health Professions Commission report:

At the conclusion of their degree requirements, students will be able to:

- Assess the health status of populations, determinants of health and illness, and factors influencing use of health services
- Contribute to the redesign of health services, organizations, and systems
- Conduct and apply economic, financial, policy, and quantitative analyses
- Contribute to the redesign of economic and financial incentives so that providers of health care can deliver quality care more effectively
- Apply value and ethical analysis to decision making within health care organizations and systems
- Use outcomes data in the design of health services
- Position health care organizations in their environments and lead in a way that supports their future effectiveness
- Contribute to strategic innovation in health care organizations
- Demonstrate skills in interpersonal relations, including communication, initiating and leading change, conflict resolution, interdisciplinary collaboration, and interorganizational partnering
- Demonstrate intragroup and intergroup leadership, including leadership at the top levels of organizations
- Manage human, capital, and information resources; assess performance of those resources; and ensure continued improvement in the utilization of those resources
- Contribute to the linkage between the education of health care administrators and practice

Faculty Commitment

- Engage in education and development activities that will strengthen their professional expertise
- Conduct research and scholarship within a lively intellectual community of scholars, students and health practitioners
- Consult to health care organizations
- Participate in and create innovative collaborations between faculty and students, among faculty, and among students in order to foster the growth of students to positions of leadership, to continually improve the curriculum, and to define the standards of accredited programs
- Incorporate technologies that integrate and enhance learning and scholarly inquiry
- Serve the health care and broader communities in multiple and diverse ways

Program Options

- Master's Degree Program (MHA)
- Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) for individuals who have advanced degrees in another field (post-master's)

The Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) is a credit-based educational and career development program that prepares individuals with advanced education in other disciplines to be health care administrators and leaders. The program of study is designed by the student in consultation with the Program Director and builds on strengths that the candidate already possesses. Fifteen credits are required to obtain the Certificate. The courses are chosen from the required and elective courses of the Graduate Program in Health Care Administration including, if desired, a capstone field experience or an independent study. Prospective students are encouraged to meet with the Program Director to discuss their goals for the Program.

Program of Study (MHA)

The 48-credit Master's Program may be completed on either a full or part-time (U.S. citizens only) basis. Students are expected to take at least five credits a semester except under unusual circumstances. The curriculum consists of four sections:

1. Principles and Foundations (3 credits)
2. Basic Concepts, Knowledge and Skills (15 credits)
3. Intermediate Concepts, Knowledge and Skills (18 credits)
4. Relating the Organization to the Environment (10 credits)

In addition, students take two elective credits.