

Master of Health Administration Course Descriptions

MHA 621 - Health Care System (3): This course allows students the opportunity to analyze the current organizational arrangements and patterns for the provision and financing of healthcare services in the United States. Topics include the healthcare process and factors which affect need, access, and use of services; factors affecting the supply and distribution of health professionals and health facilities; factors related to healthcare costs; quality assessment and quality assurance; the impact of legal and regulatory actions; technology evaluation; and financing of care through private health insurance and governmental programs. Emphasis will be placed on current trends in the organization, financing and delivery of healthcare, including managed care, healthcare reform, mergers, consolidations, and integrated delivery systems. As well, the inter-related nature of all aspects of the healthcare delivery system will be illustrated throughout the course.

MHA 622 - Biostatistics (3): This course provides the statistical basis for the science-based evaluation of health data and services. In order to make objective administrative decisions, proper interpretation, and analysis of information is essential. This course addresses statistical tools used in the evaluation of data and potential sources of statistical error. Specific areas covered include: data types and sources, statistical tests commonly used in the health field, sampling error, study designs and associated issues, bias within studies, and the effect and control of other factors that may affect results. Additional topics include: data based decision-making, analytic approaches, and the use of meta-analysis in health services. This course will include a critical review of health data from research or the literature and the development of a study design directed at administrative issues in health services.

MHA 623 - Operations Research in Health Care (3): Provides framework for decision-making for both operating and control systems in the healthcare environment. Emphasizes basic modeling techniques and examples of actual hospital applications. Students study the application of operations research techniques in healthcare.

MHA 624 - Health Care Economics (3): Examines economic theory and the concepts of production, distribution, supply, demand and utilization of individual and public healthcare resources. Focuses on the relevance of economic analytic techniques and their application to processes of resource allocation. Emphasis is placed on the economic analysis of public policy development.

MHA 625 - Competitive Strategy in Health Care (3): Concepts of marketing and competitive strategies are applied to healthcare settings. Topics include health consumer behavior, market segmentation and targeting, medical staff relations, forecasting service demand and analysis of the competitive environment using market research, new product development, product pricing and distribution, advertising and public relations, personal sales techniques, and strategy formulation. Emphasis is placed on methodologies for developing organizational strategic plans using the marketing approach.

MHA 626 - Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care (3): Legal issues related to the organization and delivery of healthcare will be examined, along with the ethical and moral considerations associated with the management of healthcare facilities and the provision of health services. Topics include government regulation of healthcare facilities and occupations, civil rights regulations regarding diversity, fraud and

abuse, institutional and personal liability for negligence and malpractice, patient consent requirements, termination of care, confidentiality of medical information, medical staff credentialing, peer review of care, utilization review, and managed care regulations. Treatment of ethical and moral issues will emphasize the understanding of diverse viewpoints and methods for resolving conflicting moral obligations. Concerns arising from potential conflicts between legal and moral obligations are investigated.

MHA 628 - Epidemiology (3): This course provides the foundation for the evidence-based evaluation of health data and elementary concepts of epidemiology. In order to make objective health or administrative decisions, proper interpretation and analysis of information is essential. This course addresses core concepts and terms used in the study of disease and the potential causes of the spread of illness. Specific areas covered include: prospective studies, retrospective studies, odds ratios, risk ratios, and rates.

MHA 633 - Human Resources and Labor Relations in Healthcare (3): Concepts in human resources management as applied to health services organizations are presented. Topics include the relationship between human resources management and general management, the nature of work and human resources, compensation and benefits, personnel planning, recruitment and selection, training and development, employee appraisal, and discipline. Labor relations topics focus on the history of the labor movement; legal regulations related to labor; union structure and formation; the analysis of union contracts; the collective bargaining process; grievance and arbitration; and the problems of managing with and without a contract.

MHA 634 - Managerial Accounting in Health Care (3): Principles of financial management and insurance are integrated and applied to healthcare. Methods of public and private financing for a variety of providers and services are examined. Costing concepts are applied to financial control of healthcare operations and managed care contracts. Strategic financial planning, financial statement analysis, and budgeting are covered. Students use spreadsheet software to complete assignments that model actual healthcare practice.

MHA 637 - Health Care Leadership (3): This course allows students the opportunity to critically appraise the role and requirements of the effective leader in today's complicated, fragmented and dynamic healthcare system. An examination of the history of leadership in this country and around the world will assist students in identifying key components of effective leadership styles in a number of diverse settings and situations. Further study will provide for the practical application of effective leadership models to the administration and delivery of healthcare services contemporarily with a focus on the specific requirements of effective leadership that are unique to the healthcare industry.

MHA 642 - Health Informatics (3): This course introduces students to the concepts and practices of health informatics. Topics include: (1) introduction to the health informatics discipline; (2) major applications and commercial vendors; (3) decision support methods and technologies; (4) information systems design and engineering; and (5) new opportunities and emerging trends. A semester-long group project will provide students hands-on experience in planning and building healthcare information

systems; associated ethical and legal concerns, software engineering and computer interaction issues, and user acceptance and outcomes evaluation methods will be discussed.

MHA 643 - Health Care Finance (3): Principles of corporate financial management theory are integrated and applied to healthcare. Methods of public and private financing for a variety of providers and services are examined. In addition, the course examines the time value of money, working capital management, capital budgeting techniques, cost flow analysis, and capital structures planning. Students use spreadsheet software to complete assignments that model actual healthcare practice.

MHA 651 - Capstone 1: Planning (1): This course focuses on project development including process and outcome evaluation, budget development, and measurement tools. The initial project proposal will be completed during this course. Students will present their project plan in a public forum. This course is part of a three-semester sequence (for the capstone requirement) required of all MHA students.

MHA 652 - Capstone II: Implementation (1): This course focuses on implementation of the MHA project. This course is part of a three-semester sequence (for the capstone requirement) required of all MHA students.

MHA 653 - Capstone III: Dissemination (1): This course culminates the MHA capstone experience. Students will present their current project status, evaluation methodology, dissemination plans, and future recommendations. Dissemination of the project outcomes will be completed. This course is the final course of a three-semester sequence required of all MHA students.

CIS 601 - Information Systems and Technology (3): This course explores alternative approaches to managing the resources (computers, networks, software, data, and people) that organizations utilize in applying information technology (IT). It focuses upon the role of the user-manager in identifying opportunities (and avoiding pitfalls), developing applications, and creatively using IT to improve personal and organizational performance.

MHA 644 - Healthcare Enterprise Operations (3): This course examines the entire information technology needs of healthcare organizations (namely hospitals settings, physicians practices and long-term care institutions). Within these settings, the needs include patient access services, ambulatory care, clinical practice and organization, nursing services, managing facilities and resources, personnel and staffing, and finance and billing services

MHA 645 - HIT Integration, Interoperability and Standards (3): This course will provide the details of healthcare information technology standards and interoperability. The value proposition of standards will be presented. The course will review health information models and cover the role of non-medical standards in health informatics. The course will also cover multi-institutional issues and telemedicine, e-commerce, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards compliance.

MHA 646 - Healthcare Technology Acquisition & Assessment (3): This is a practical course in how to acquire and assess new health care technology, either as a vendor who needs to know how to meet the expectations of customers and their acquisition requirements, or as a customer/practitioner who must know how to validate technology selections and implementations. Topics covered will include cost analysis and justification, economic models, capital purchase, leasing strategies, the ASP or risk-sharing model, purchase agreements and contracts, writing an RFP, analyzing an RFP response, and the industry business trends.

MHA 647 - Knowledge Management and Data Mining in Health Informatics (3): his course covers concepts, techniques, and practices of health care knowledge management and data mining. The course will cover topics such as: health informatics challenges and standards, security and privacy, ethical and social issues, and medical knowledge mapping. Students will be exposed to the application research in data mining, medical textual mining, and knowledge discovery research. Concepts and techniques will be illustrated with case studies.