

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Graduate Program Head	Amber Stephenson
Program Code	HADM
Campus(es)	Harrisburg (M.H.A.)
Degrees Conferred	Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.)
The Graduate Faculty	View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/?searchType=fac&prog=HADM)

Healthcare has become one of the top three industries in the United States. As it has expanded, the practice of healthcare administration has become much more complex. Recognizing that the national healthcare system is in a period of administrative and technical restructuring and redesign, healthcare leadership is looking to its staff to meet the new challenges confronting its healthcare system. With the scope and depth of the restructuring, it will require many staff to “retool” to meet the challenges.

The Master of Healthcare Administration Program at Penn State, Harrisburg, is specifically designed to aid healthcare staff in gaining the skills needed to meet the new complexity of the healthcare system. The Program is designed to ensure that its Graduates will be fully capable of identifying and resolving new, complex healthcare system issues and seizing on latent opportunities stemming from its growth and complexity.

The 36-credit curriculum initially reviews core foundational healthcare administrative and system issues. It then covers more advanced healthcare program components, with an emphasis on currency in practice. Currency of practice in the field is focused on with the intent of elevating staff knowledge, skills, and abilities that will allow them to meet the complexities and challenges of a rapidly growing and changing healthcare system.

The degree is designed for part-time, working students already engaged in healthcare administration careers. The mission of the program is to enhance student knowledge and skills in a continuous learning cycle so that they will be prepared to address today's healthcare system challenges. There is an expectation that students will possess a basic knowledge of existing healthcare administrative practice and be capable of developing skills to redesign and implement innovative internal systems consistent with the demands of their unit and the needs of the overall system to which they are assigned. This would include but not be limited to one or more than one of the following: issues of access to care, efficient and effective management, cost control, and quality of care delivery.

Part-time students may start the program at the beginning of any semester. Students usually take one or two 3-credit courses each semester depending on a student's available time and their desire to finish. Students may also take up to 6 credits during a summer session to maintain steady progress toward the degree. All Healthcare Administration courses are scheduled for the evening hours for the convenience of part-time students. A student generally completes the MHA on a part-time basis in two to four years.