

HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, B.S. (HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park, World Campus

Program Description

This major helps prepare students for management and policy positions or graduate study in the field of health care. Students in the major develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand the complex societal problem of providing access to quality health care at reasonable cost. All Health Policy and Administration students complete an internship in a health-care-related setting, giving them valuable experience and contacts in the industry. HPA students study a multidisciplinary curriculum that prepares them to work as health services managers or health analysts. Health services managers, also called health care executives or health care administrators, plan, direct, and coordinate medical, health, and/or long-term care services. They might manage an entire facility or specialize in managing a specific clinical area or department, administrate a program or manage a practice for a group of providers. Health analysts are employed throughout the health care industry gathering, compiling, modeling, validating, and analyzing data needed by different organizations of providers, payers, and policy makers. Analysts help these organizations understand the current trends in the health care system and to make well-informed decisions. Both health services managers and analysts must be able to adapt to changes in health care laws, regulations, and technology. HPA students have also used the degree to prepare for graduate study in business, law, medicine or allied health fields, health administration, health services research or policy, and public health.

What is Health Policy and Administration?

Health Policy and Administration (HPA) is a multidisciplinary course of study with courses in the liberal arts, business administration, and health sciences. In general, HPA students are prepared to work in six types of health care organizations including:

1. Health care providers (hospitals, physician practices, nursing facilities, home health agencies, etc.)
2. Health insurers (nonprofit and commercial insurers, health maintenance organizations, etc.)
3. Health care consulting firms
4. Health care supply companies (pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, etc.)
5. Health services research and policy organizations (health policy research groups, industry trade groups, etc.);
6. Local, state, and federal health agencies and public health organizations (local public health departments, state Department of Health, federal Department of Health and Human Services, etc.).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hpa>)

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in business administration or management and want to focus primarily in the healthcare industry.
- You are interested in influencing health policy and public health by working in government at the state or federal level or nonprofit organizations.
- You are interested in improving access to health care for underserved populations.
- You are interested in reducing health care costs or improving health care quality through policy reform or business leadership.
- You are interested in addressing social inequity in the form of health disparities.
- You are interested in empowering individuals to manage their chronic disease conditions.
- You are interested in analyzing clinical data to improve health care quality.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION (<https://hhd.psu.edu/hpa/bachelor-science-bs-health-policy-and-administration>)