

admission to the department of health services policy and management

Health services policy and management is an interdisciplinary field concerned with the promotion of personal and public health through planning, organizing, directing, controlling, coordinating, and evaluating health services.

Career opportunities exist in hospitals and clinics, state and federal health care agencies, physician practices, long-term care facilities, professional organizations, consulting firms, insurance companies, health departments, and hospital and medical associations. Individuals from a wide range of undergraduate majors can expect to succeed in health administration, given the many career opportunities the field offers. The MPH program emphasizes the management of public health agencies and public sector health services. Graduates from the MHA program find jobs in finance and business development, operations management, information technology management, human resources, patient and community relations and other fields. The Ph.D. prepares students to conduct health services research and/or teach at a university level; the DrPH program prepares students to assume senior positions in teaching, policy, and/or management in public or private research institutes or government.

The Department of Health Services Policy and Management also offers three dual degree programs: JurisDoctor/Master of Health Administration; Master of Nursing/Master of Public Health; and Master of Social Work/Master of Public Health.

Degrees offered: MHA, MPH*, DrPH, Ph.D., JD/MHA, MSN/MPH, MSW/MPH

*This degree is also available via distance education.



Admission Requirements for Master's Degrees

Admission requirements include:

MHA and MPH applicants must apply through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS). Specific information and links regarding admissions, including deadline dates, can be found at the Arnold School of Public Health webpage: www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents. Please visit www.sophas.org for further details.

Applicants applying for a dual degree with Nursing, Social Work, or Law should apply via the USC Graduate School at <http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/apply.htm>.

1. a completed application to SOPHAS or the USC Graduate School (depending on the degree sought);
2. a report of scores achieved on the verbal and quantitative sections for the Graduate Record Exam (GMAT may be substituted for the GRE in both MHA and MPH Programs.);
3. official transcripts from each school or college previously attended (All prior academic study must be covered.);
4. resume;
5. two letters of recommendation;
6. a statement of professional goals and prior work experience, if any, not exceeding three pages;
7. and, for all international applicants: satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the IELTS Academic Course Type 2 Exam and non-US institution transcripts verified by World Education Services (WES) or equivalent evaluation service.

Requirements for the Ph.D. and the DrPH Degrees

Ph.D. and DrPH applicants must apply through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS). Specific information and links regarding admissions, including deadline dates, can be found at the Arnold School of Public Health webpage: <http://www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents/index.htm>.

1. Students should have a master's degree in health administration, business administration, public health, public administration or a health-sciences related degree. Exceptions to this list will be considered by petition to the faculty. Previous graduate-level course work should include health finance, statistics, organizational behavior, health economics, and epidemiology, or the student will have to make up deficiencies. Applicants with three or more deficiency areas may be given a conditional admission, contingent upon making up the deficiencies. Courses taken to make up deficiencies do not count toward the degree program. A strong student may be admitted with only a bachelor's degree, but will be required to complete all requirements for the MPH degree before beginning the doctoral program.
2. An applicant must have earned a 3.00 grade point average (based on a 4.00 scale) in previous graduate course work.
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores must be submitted (GMAT may be substituted).
4. For all international applicants, satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the IELTS Academic Course Type 2 Exam and non-US institution transcripts verified by World Education Services (WES) or equivalent evaluation service.
5. Three letters of recommendation must be submitted from persons who can reflect upon the applicant's prior academic and professional performance.
6. The applicant must provide a career goal statement and a current curriculum vita with the application.
7. Applicants for the DrPH degree must have worked as a mid-level manager in a health services organization or agency for at least four years.
8. An interview with the departmental faculty is highly recommended. *(continued)*

Degree Programs

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program (48 credit hours) provides training in health economics, public finance, organizational behavior, health policy and politics, community assessment, building partnerships, information systems, planning, and human resources as applied to the public sector, as well as a foundation in basic public health concepts.

MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

The Master of Health Administration (MHA) program (58 credit hours) provides training in management, accounting, finance, epidemiology, quantitative methods, evaluation and planning, information systems, health law, human resources, and decision making for health service organizations. The MHA program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME). The MHA is offered as a regular full-time, on-campus program.

JURIS DOCTOR/MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

The dual degree in health administration and law is designed for students who wish to practice law as applied to issues in health care settings. The dual degree has an innovative and integrated curriculum, which allows a JD/MHA to be completed over a four-year period.

MASTER OF NURSING/MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Through a cooperative arrangement, the College of Nursing and the School of Public Health offer a dual degree leading to the Master of Nursing/Master of Public Health degree. The program requires a combined total of 66-69 credit hours from the nursing and public health curricula. Applicants must meet the admission requirements for both the College of Nursing and the Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Health Services Policy and Management.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK/MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The College of Social Work and the School of Public Health's Department of Health Services Policy and Management offer complementary programs to make available a dual degree with the completion of 87 hours of specified course work. Applicants must meet the admission requirements for both the College of Social Work and the Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Health Services Policy and Management.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The Ph.D. in Health Services Policy and Management is structured to prepare students to conduct health services research and/or teach at the university level. The program of study is designed around the interests of the individual, taking previous academic training and professional experience into account. Emphasis in the program is in research methods, statistics, and advanced concepts in health policy and management. The program is 61 credit hours post-masters and requires a dissertation based on original research.

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The DrPH in Health Services Policy and Management is structured to prepare individuals for advancement to senior policy and management positions in public health agencies and other health care settings. Plans of study are designed to meet individual requirements in achieving a sound academic, yet professionally oriented education. This program is 61 credit hours post-masters and requires a major project or dissertation.

USC in Focus

For more than 200 years, USC has distinguished itself as a center of learning with a tradition of leadership and service in higher education. USC has a diverse and talented student population, a dedicated and successful faculty, a world-renowned library, outstanding research programs, and a campus that has been named one of the most beautiful in America.

The University offers more than 350 degree programs. Many programs are nationally and internationally ranked. If you want to learn more about the University of South Carolina, visit the Web site at www.sc.edu.

Information about the city of Columbia can be found at www.columbiasc.net or www.columbiacvb.com.



For Further Information and Degree Requirements

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