

CAHME Accreditation and AUPHA Membership

We are committed to continuous program improvement. The MHA Program has been fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Health Management Education (CAHME) since 1991. CAHME is an interdisciplinary group, devoted to quality improvement in the education of health care managers and administrators. To learn more about CAHME, please visit its website (www.cahme.org).

The MHA program is also a Full Graduate Member of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA). A world-wide network of colleges and universities, AUPHA is committed to excellence in education of health care administrators. Please visit the AUPHA website to learn more about its role and opportunities for health care administrators (www.aupha.org).

Website Information

For additional information about our Master of Health Administration Program, professional format, and the Health Services Policy and Management Department, please visit us on the web: <http://hspm.sph.sc.edu/mhapro/>

For Further Information

For further information about the MHA Program, Professional Format, contact:

Suda Xirasagar Ph.D., Assistant Professor and MHA Professional Format Program Director
Department of Health Services Policy and Management

Arnold School of Public Health

University of South Carolina

Health Sciences Building - Room 116

Columbia, SC 29208

Phone: 803-576-6093 , Fax: 803-777-1836

Email: sxirasagar@sc.edu

Web site: <http://hspm.sph.sc.edu/mhapro/>

For application process details, contact: Mitchell Taylor at taylormw@mailbox.sc.edu or Sonja Snowdon at ssnowdon@mailbox.sc.edu

Department of Health Services Policy and Management

Arnold School of Public Health

University of South Carolina

Health Sciences Building - Room 116

Columbia, SC 29208

Additional Information about the Arnold School

If you have questions or need additional information on how you can receive a rewarding degree from the Arnold School of Public Health visit our Web site at www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents or e-mail the Office of Student and Alumni Services at: www.sphstsr@mailbox.sc.edu
Phone: 803-777-5031



The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Health Services

Policy and Management MHA - Professional Format

(An accredited program by CAHME)

Health Administration is an interdisciplinary field, focusing on the management and delivery of public and private health care services. Health care management has become more challenging with increasingly diverse and older populations, new technologies, higher costs, and complex payment mechanisms. This dynamic health care environment presents many challenges to health care administrators such as competition for scarce resources, demands of accreditation and healthcare quality certification bodies, culturally diverse workforce, and the ongoing consolidation of health care systems.

The need for health care managers has increased dramatically. Excellent and growing career opportunities are expected in the foreseeable future in all health care settings, including, hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, insurance organizations, and governments.



Our goal is to prepare health care managers who understand and manage:

- The rapidly changing political, social, and economic environment;
- Limited financial resources and changes in reimbursement;
- Culturally and ethnically diverse workforces;
- Intense market competition; and
- Increasing diversification and integration.

Our MHA degree prepares you for career advancement to middle and upper management positions in health service and related organizations, through its focus on updated knowledge, competencies, and skills in health care management.

MHA Curriculum

The MHA curriculum is multidisciplinary, covering management, organizational behavior and leadership, in-depth understanding of health care delivery, reimbursement and financing systems including managed care, financial management, and applied research. The objective is to help up build your knowledge and skill-sets needed to formulate, implement, and evaluate managerial decisions in health care settings. Areas of focus include management of integrated health systems, management information systems, health economics, managed care, financial management, strategic planning, quantitative data analysis, law, epidemiology, and biostatistics.

MHA Professional Format

This program presents an opportunity for physicians, senior and mid-level healthcare executives, clinician managers/directors, and other health care professionals to obtain an advanced degree in health care administration, without interrupting full-time careers. Coursework is accomplished through state-of-the-art video-streaming technology. This format provides excellent opportunities to watch a live class delivered on campus, and interact with faculty and peers through the internet, without coming to campus for classes. The Professional Format through video-streaming has been offered since fall 2004.

To be eligible to apply for the MHA Professional Format, you should have worked full time in health care or an allied field for a significant duration, and also fulfill the application requirements for the MHA program.

Students will complete 58 hours of course work, 52 instructional hours and 6 credit hours of a management residency. Coursework is typically completed by enrolling on a part time basis, at the rate of 6 credit hours per semester, requiring three and a half years to complete the program. Participants may also elect to complete the program on a schedule that best meets their personal needs. The following learning modes are used:

- Live, on-campus lectures delivered via video-streaming;
- Asynchronous web-based instruction using Blackboard;
- One-day campus meeting at the end of each semester;

(continued)

admission to department of Health Services Policy and Management MHA - Professional Format (An accredited program by CAHME)

You can discover a world of possibilities for an exciting and challenging career at the Arnold School. Our programs can provide you with the specialized knowledge and skills you need to address current and emerging public health issues. Our faculty prepare students to be scholars, research specialists, teachers and experts in a vast array of public health professions. An advanced degree from the Arnold School will open doors to professional advancement, competitive salaries, and a meaningful career. You can become one of our passionate and committed graduates helping people across the nation and around the world.

The Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina is one of only 38 accredited schools of public health in the United States and the only one in South Carolina. Located in Columbia, SC, the school offers reasonable tuition, day and evening classes and one of the most beautiful historic campuses in America.

- A one-day orientation on campus for new students (to register, complete a distance communication workshop, tour the campus and library, meet faculty and other students); and
- Completion of a special project to satisfy residency program requirements.

This mode allows students to complete coursework with a great deal of flexibility. However, the course content, course requirements, and learning expectations are no different from on-campus MHA courses. Live classes taught in the classroom during the semester are streamed via the internet and made available within 24 hours of each on-campus lecture. Lectures are available for viewing for two weeks following each class, and can be viewed any time of the day or night on a PC using a password for access.

Students should allow adequate time for coursework. Program participants will need to be disciplined to keep up with week-to-week lectures, readings and assignments as required by the instructors. They will also need to be motivated to work through some challenging assignments that might require more time to understand without live, instantaneous facilitation by an instructor.

Tuition

Tuition and fees for the MHA Professional Format program are the same as for on-campus, in-state MHA students plus a one-time matriculation fee of \$8,088, payable over the first two semesters. The fee schedule for the Arnold School of Public Health programs for both full time and part time enrollment is available at <http://www.sph.sc.edu/currentstudents/fees.htm>. Please also review the section on Health Services Policy and Management on this page to locate the program specific fees. Please note that for out-of-state MHA Professional Format students, the tuition per credit hour is the same as for in-state students plus \$25 per credit hour, not the regular out-of-state tuition. The program-specific matriculation fee of \$8,088 supports the state-of-the-art technology, program support, and intensive faculty interaction. For more information about tuition and fees, please visit: <http://www.sc.edu/bursar/> and for information on financial aid, please visit <http://www.sc.edu/financialaid>.

Technology Requirements

Participants must have access to a personal computer, a current operating system (e.g., Windows 2000 or higher), and Microsoft Office Applications, including MS Word, Excel, and Power Point. Participants must also have high-speed internet access, e.g., DSL or Roadrunner.

Application Process

Please note that applications for this program should be made directly to the Department of Health Services Policy and Management, and NOT through SOPHAS (USC's Arnold School of Public Health website). Since the MHA Professional Format is a special format of our (accredited) MHA program, with different deadlines from SOPHAS, the application process for this program is different. Please contact Mitchell Taylor at Taylormw@mailbox.sc.edu or Sonja Snowdon at ssnowdon@mailbox.sc.edu Ph: (803) 777 1627, BEFORE APPLYING for clarifications/assistance. For eligibility and other program details, please contact Sudha Xirasagar, PhD, the MHA Professional Format program director (sxirasagar@sc.edu, Ph: 803 576 6093) or Sarah Laditka, PhD, Program Director of the MHA program (sladitka@mailbox.sc.edu).

All applications to the MHA Professional Format should be mailed by HARD COPY, addressing your application package to the MHA Professional Format, University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Health Services Policy and Management, 800 Sumter Street, Rm 116, Columbia, SC 29208. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE USC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH GENERAL APPLICATION PORTAL (SOPHAS) ON THE WEB. Please review the webpage titled "MHA Professional Format Application Process."

Applications will be reviewed through June of each year for admission in the fall.

Other Questions

Please visit the FAQs link for more information: <http://hspm.sph.sc.edu/mhapro/FAQs.html>

Departmental Faculty

Carleen H. Stoskopf, *Professor, Department Chair, and Director of Doctoral Programs, Sc.D.*, The Johns Hopkins University, 1989. Research interests: HIV/AIDS, mental health, uninsured, women in health professions.

Samuel L. Baker, *Associate Professor and Director of the Computer Lab, Ph.D.*, Harvard University, 1977. Research interests: Maternal and child health, bioterrorism preparedness.

Amy Brock-Martin, *Research Assistant Professor and Deputy Director of the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Dr.P.H.* University of South Carolina, 2003. Research interests: rural health care delivery, health disparities, potentially preventable hospitalization.

Keith Elder, *Assistant Professor, Ph.D.*, University of Maryland, 2002. Research interests: Minority men's health, cancer and other health disparities.

Sandra H. Glover, *Associate Professor, Ph.D.*, University of South Carolina, 1991. Research interests: health disparities, education and training to increase minorities in the health professions.

Whiejong M. Han, *Clinical Assistant Professor, Ph.D.*, University of South Carolina, 2003. Research interests: health services policy, statistical analyses.

Sarah B. Laditka, *Associate Professor and MHA Program Director, Ph.D.*, Syracuse University, 1995. Research interests: access to primary and prenatal health care, active life expectancy, long term care services.

James F. McTigue, *Adjunct Associate Professor and MPH Program Director, Ph.D.*, University of Oklahoma, 1971. Research interests: AIDS, clinical trials, health services delivery, patient safety.

Janice C. Probst, *Associate Professor and Director of the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Ph.D.* University of South Carolina, 1990. Research interests: rural health care delivery, health disparities, potentially preventable hospitalization.

Sudha Xirasagar, *Assistant Professor and Director, MHA Professional Format Program, Ph.D.*, University of South Carolina, 2002. Research interests: physician leadership, international health and health sector reforms, health disparities, the uninsured.

USC in Focus

For 200 years USC has distinguished itself as a center of learning with a tradition of leadership and service in higher education. USC offers a diverse and talented student population, a dedicated and successful faculty, a highly regarded 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 of these programs are nationally and internationally ranked, from the arts, humanities, public health, physical science, law, business, and engineering. 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.

