Master of Health Administration

Providing Professional Education for Leadership Careers in Healthcare Administration
Why an MHA?

The Master of Health Administration (MHA) program fills an important labor market and educational need in New Mexico and the Southwest by providing professional education for leadership careers in healthcare administration. Healthcare organizations statewide worked with the School of Public Administration to develop the MHA program. The shared aim is to develop effective healthcare executives and informed policy analysts and advisors.

The MHA Curriculum responds to the particular needs of our diverse state and region. Issues and concerns related to minority, rural and global health care are built into the curriculum. A diverse student body is recruited for the MHA program in order to meet the needs articulated by our stakeholders and to enrich our program. Many MHA students already have mid-level experience in hospitals, clinics, healthcare agencies or health-related non-profit organizations.

Admissions

The MHA program enrolls up to twenty new students each Fall. Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution and have a scholastic grade point average of a B (at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale).

A Faculty Admissions Committee reviews applications and makes admission recommendations to the MHA Program Coordinator and the Director of the School. Admission is competitive: decisions are based on consideration of the applicant’s undergraduate grade point average, letters of recommendation, résumé, and a letter of intent describing how this program suits the applicant’s background and career goals.
The MHA Curriculum

The MHA program offers a strong curriculum encompassing core courses, such as healthcare finance, health economics, health information technology, and cultural competence and electives, e.g. hospital and clinic administration, behavioral health. To accommodate the needs of our working professional students, we offer classes at 4 or 7 pm and on weekends.

The MHA program draws on the expertise of faculty from across the campus, including faculty in the School of Public Administration with expertise in health administration and policy, others associated with the Master of Public Health program, faculty in several departments in the College of Arts and Sciences (including Economics, Political Science and Sociology). Expert practitioners contribute as guest lecturers when appropriate.

The MHA degree is designed to meet the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) accreditation standards. CAHME requires a minimum of 40 credit hours including an experiential component, practicum, or internship. The UNM MHA program requires 48 credit hours of graduate study consisting of a core curriculum, a practicum/internship, and a substantive culminating experience.

Distance Learning

The UNM School of Public Administration uses two-way videoconferencing technology (ZOOM) to give educational access to students at locations distant from the UNM main campus in Albuquerque. The videoconferencing technology connects students with each other and their instructors in classrooms that reach across and beyond the state.

ZOOM allows interaction between UNM faculty and students, as well as among fellow distance students.
The Faculty

(L-R) Professor Uday Desai, Jim Pendergast - MHA Program Manager, Dr. Kun Huang - MHA Program Coordinator, Dr. Nick Edwardson, and Dr. Kate Cartwright

MHA Partners

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2016 MHA Cohort

UNM School of Public Administration
1 UNM MSC05 3100
Albuquerque, NM 87131

http://spa.unm.edu/mha-graduate-program/
(505) 277-3074
EMAIL: pend@unm.edu