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PennState
World Campus

Master of Health
Administration

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“The health care environment is in such a state of dynamic flux that organizations must either adapt or risk failure. When health care organizations fail, the repercussions impact every level of the community—from regional economic viability to individual access to care.”

“Our goal is to provide World Campus Master of Health Administration students with skills they can immediately use to help their organizations adapt strategically and efficiently—so they can continue to serve every member of the community who needs their care and support.”

—Chris Calkins, Ph.D.

Outreach Assistant Professor and Executive Director of Penn State World Campus Master of Health Administration and Residential Master of Health Administration, Department of Health Policy and Administration, College of Health and Human Development



Online Master of Health Administration

The health care system of the future must focus on greater efficiency and quality through improved technology, organization, and management. There is already a growing need for new leaders who can find solutions to the problems we face both now and in the future. This rapid evolution of the health care environment means that updating your education is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity.

A Master of Health Administration in Health Policy and Administration (MHA) can help you combine your work experience in health care with a strong business management education so you can become more highly qualified for challenging leadership positions in health care—giving you the tools you need to lead change in such a dynamic environment.

If you have work experience in health care and want to enhance your business management skills, Penn State's online MHA program is designed for you.

View courses and more:

worldcampus.psu.edu/mha

"I returned to school to get an MHA degree because I want to enhance my knowledge and skills to make a difference in the lives of my patients. I believe this degree will help me achieve these goals by further facilitating my career development in our dynamic health care system."

—Minh Tran, PharmD
United Healthcare, California





“The exceptional breadth of the MHA curriculum drew me to Penn State World Campus. The program covers the most significant real-time challenges facing the health care professional today. I have found the application of achieved learning objectives to be of immediate value to myself, and to my organization.”

*—Imran Khan, M.D.
United Nations, Karachi, Pakistan*

Master of Health Administration Curriculum

Penn State's online MHA program is designed to be completed in seven continuous semesters and is composed of 17 courses, including an independent study and two face-to-face management intensive sessions, totaling 49 credits. A four-week online orientation precedes the first semester of courses.

The MHA program's curriculum is competency based, derived from a subset of the National Center for Healthcare Leadership Competency model.

Our ksB=C competency model emphasizes:

- building content knowledge
- enhancing necessary skills
- demonstrating key Behaviors

Through the use of highly interactive and collaborative teaching strategies, the course work combines core health care and management principles for which administrators of health services organizations are held accountable in the complex health care industry, including:

- health economics
- health law
- health care marketing
- leadership ethics
- health care operations and strategy
- finance
- population health and quality management
- health information systems
- human resources leadership
- organizational behavior
- project management

During the program, you will also complete a capstone project. Working closely with your academic adviser, you will tailor this project to your unique and individual work experiences and professional goals to address a real-life health care problem or issue.

To view the full course list and cohort schedule, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/mha-courses

Management Intensives— Develop Your Leadership Competencies

Meet with your classmates and faculty to complete two uniquely designed, face-to-face management intensives. Our management intensives include classroom components and program-sponsored events that focus on ethical leadership, collaboration, and strategy.

The onboarding intensive takes place during the first semester of the program. You will meet the other members of your cohort, as well as online MHA faculty and College leaders, and become familiar with Penn State resources while you complete the majority of a 3-credit course.

The graduation intensive takes place during the last week of the final semester in the program. You will present your final capstone projects to program faculty before participating in graduation-related activities.

Both management intensives are held at the Penn State University Park campus in State College, Pennsylvania.

Attendance at these face-to-face learning experiences is mandatory.



“The summer management intensive offered me valuable time to network with my incredibly accomplished and knowledgeable classmates. I enjoyed hearing the perspectives of classmates from other areas of the industry and being able to look at issues and challenges from so many angles.”

—Meredith Mills
Country Meadows
Retirement Communities
Hershey, Pennsylvania





"I chose Penn State's online MHA program because it offers a very strong and flexible curriculum at an internationally recognized university. Every topic presented is relevant to and enhances my administrative work or clinical practice. I also enjoy learning from a very supportive faculty and the diverse members of my cohort."

*—Christopher Clark, D.O.
Saint Vincent Health System
Erie, Pennsylvania*

Career Opportunities for Graduates

Influenced by the fields of health care and business management, Penn State's 49-credit online MHA program can provide you with skills from both of these disciplines.

You may enroll in our program because you want to influence organizational decisions that impact your work. You might also want to improve the efficiency of health care delivery and enhance the care provided in your community. Sometimes the degree leads to different organizations and different work, and it can even lead to new roles in your current organization.

Regardless of your reason for entering the program, you can feel confident that the courses have been designed to prepare you for the requirements of increased accountability, organization design, and management—emphasizing competencies in ethical leadership, critical thought, and effective communication. You can also expand your professional network, broaden your perspective on how best to organize care and care teams, and gain greater confidence in your own capacity to lead.

Dynamic change and steady job growth in health care are projected for the next several years. New roles, organizational forms, and financing mechanisms will continue to evolve. As a graduate of the Penn State MHA program, you can be positioned for an administrative, management, or executive position in one of several health care–related organizations, including:

- hospitals and health systems
- medical group practices
- clinics and outpatient care centers
- home health care agencies
- skilled nursing facilities
- insurance companies
- consulting firms
- federal regulatory, policy, and public health agencies
- integrated delivery networks
- pharmacy, medical device, and IT/EMR services firms

Cooperative Approach to Learning

The online Master of Health Administration program, developed by Penn State's Department of Health Policy and Administration in the College of Health and Human Development, is delivered through Penn State World Campus. This cooperative effort helps to ensure a high-quality online experience for our learners. Your experience will be further enhanced with:

Development of critical decision skills

The Penn State online MHA curriculum is designed around our competency model. As you progress through the program, our focus is to develop core competencies and new skills you can apply immediately to improve your current work environment. Beginning with a competency self-assessment during orientation, we will work in partnership with you to strengthen and enhance essential leadership competencies. Whether your stakeholders are patients, residents,

covered lives, co-workers, providers, or your leadership team and board, the program can give you the confidence and competence to lead change in service to your community.

Caring faculty and staff

A focused, committed core of faculty and staff are dedicated to your success in the program. Our team has direct experience in health care roles and settings. We leverage this experience to advise and mentor students in service to your professional goals and aspirations.

View courses and more:

worldcampus.psu.edu/mha

“Balancing school with a full-time job and family obligations has been challenging, but it’s definitely manageable with the flexibility that the online MHA program offers. I’m so thankful that Penn State has created an online learning environment that allows me to fit this program into my busy work and home life.”

—Gmerice Welch
Reimbursement Technologies, Inc.
Conshohocken, Pennsylvania



Why Penn State?

► Collaboration

Penn State World Campus has many years of experience providing global access to a real university education, so you can be assured that the course content provides far more than a textbook on a screen. The online environment of the MHA program is highly interactive and collaborative, allowing you to interact frequently with your faculty, providing even greater opportunities to share insights and reinforce what you are learning. And, with our global learning community of adult learners exchanging ideas and experiences, you will be as close to the face-to-face experience as possible.

► Faculty Expertise

We believe that our online courses should be taught by the same industry-respected faculty who teach our on-campus courses. The online MHA is a collaboration between Penn State World Campus and Penn State's Department of Health Policy and Administration in the College of Health and Human Development and School of Public Affairs. The partnership connects you with faculty from a highly ranked MHA program, with years of experience guiding student learning. The resident program's 4,000+ alumni and professional contacts help maintain the focus on health care's current leadership challenges.

► Online Learning Experience

The online learning format offered by Penn State World Campus makes it possible for you to fit a degree program into your life. The flexibility of studying when and where you want can give you the opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge you need to make critical decisions that can affect the lives of your patients and employees.

► Accreditation

Penn State has 30 years of experience in providing high-quality graduate programs in health administration. Our resident MHA program was re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) in 2013. The online MHA program is covered under this accreditation and is in the process of seeking stand-alone accreditation through CAHME. Our faculty serve as CAHME Fellows and on CAHME committees to remain actively engaged in the accreditation process.

► Military-Friendly University

Penn State has the experience you need to help you meet your goals during and after your service to your country. Through our commitment to increasing access to education for military personnel, veterans, and military family members, we have aligned our online programs, student support services, policies, and procedures to address your unique needs.

Begin Your Application Today

Admissions decisions for the Master of Health Administration program are based on the quality of your credentials, relative to those of other applicants, after a thorough review of your completed application materials and interview.

Our cohorts include students with an average of 10 years of professional experience. We ask students with less than 3 years of professional experience to complete the GMAT as part of their application. We prefer applicants to have 5 or more years of health care experience.

Your application materials must include:

- online application form and fee
- personal statement
- current résumé
- two essays
- two professional references
- copy of an official transcript from each postsecondary institution attended
- TOEFL or IELTS scores, if applicable
- interview (Depending on the overall quality score of your application materials, we may extend an invitation for you to participate in the second level of applicant evaluation—an interview. This brief interview (via Skype or Zoom) serves to further assess your potential for fit within the cohort and overall success in the program.)

To apply or for more information about these application materials, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/mha-apply

Did You Know?

- Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus.
- Penn State World Campus has enrolled students from all 50 states and all 7 continents.
- MHA graduates are in leadership positions in health care organizations across the country.
- The College of Health and Human Development is the leading training ground for Penn State students entering the health care field.

For More Information

Contact Us

pennstateonline@psu.edu

worldcampus.psu.edu

800-252-3592 (toll free within the United States)

814-865-5403 (local and international)

814-865-3290 Fax

Admissions Counseling Hours

8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET Monday–Thursday

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET Friday

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Penn State World Campus

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