Texas A&M Health Science Center
School of Public Health
Department of Health Policy and Management
Executive Master of Health Administration Degree

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) offering an Executive Master of Health Administration (MHA) program at the Texas Medical Center?
Our listening to the healthcare service delivery leaders in the southeast Texas region has identified a real need within Houston and the surrounding market area to provide Master’s level education to mid-career healthcare professionals. Currently, other focused Master’s level programs are offered to early careerists and are provided in a manner that is not necessarily amenable to working professionals. We have identified solid support for this educational program format for the Houston area healthcare professionals based at the Texas Medical Center. Knowledge will be consistent with our resident MHA program currently offered in College Station and address provider organizations (e.g., hospitals, physician groups, and clinics), managed care organizations, health insurers and a variety of organizations that supply or otherwise support public/private health service organizations. Additional knowledge will be developed in a variety of functional areas with emphasis on health systems management, health policy, health finance, human resources management and health planning and marketing.

2. How long does it take to complete degree?
Students will able to complete the degree in 24 months. The first cohort will be admitted in August, 2015 and scheduled to graduate in August 2017. Subsequent cohorts will be admitted every year in August.

3. Who would be the likely candidate for this graduate program?
The ideal candidate would be the mid-level careerist who has worked for 5 to 10 years and needs the additional educational preparation for career advancement or to improve leadership capabilities. Also, physicians, nurses, and other clinicians who are interested in advancing their careers in leadership positions within their medical staff structures, the new accountable care organizations (ACOs), and other responses to the integration of clinical and administrative duties to respond to reform initiatives.

4. What are this program’s admission requirements?
Admission standards for the Executive MHA program are competitive and rigorous. To be considered for admission, the following criteria must be minimally met:

- Demonstrated leadership potential (as indicated through the applicant’s statement of purpose and letters of recommendation);
- Have a minimum of five years of full time work experience within the healthcare field with increasing responsibilities; and
- Maintained no less than a cumulative 3.0 GPA in their bachelor’s degree and not less than a cumulative 3.0 GPA in the final (junior and senior level courses) 60 hours of their bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution recognized by Texas A&M University.

Note that prospective students are NOT required to take a graduate admissions examination (i.e., GMAT or GRE).

5. What is the anticipated cost for the program?
The total cost for the 2015 incoming class is estimated to be $52,700, comprised of a $800 per hour program fee ($400 x 48 total credit hours across the two years = $38,400) and $14,300 in tuition (again, a total for the two years).

6. How many credit hours will the program require to graduate?
This graduate program requires 48 credit hours (i.e., 12 courses x 4 credit hours per course).
6. What will a typical “academic weekend” look like for the student?
   Every month, a typical student weekend would be as follows: Arrive Friday evening; class hours on Saturday (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) and class hours on Sunday (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). There will be two 15 minute breaks (one in the morning, one in the afternoon) and 30 to 60 minutes allowed for lunch each day.

7. How long will each course last?
   Students will take one course every two months. Each course will last four weekend days. The first class day will be held on a Sunday. Then, a Saturday and Sunday of the following month and the last class will be held on a Saturday in the subsequent month.

8. How many students will be in each cohort?
   Entering cohorts will not exceed 25 students.

9. Where will the classes meet?
   The classes are scheduled to be held at the Texas Medical Center, in the TAMHSC’s institute of Biosciences and Technology (ALKEK Building), at the corner of Holcombe and Main.

10. What is the anticipated time commitment of the student between classes in this program?
    Students should be prepared to devote an average of at least 20 hours per month to the program between weekends.

11. What is the course sequence for this graduate program?
    The 12 courses are taught in a lock-step sequence with no electives and no courses are allowed to be taken out of sequence.
    The first year course sequence is:
    1. Population and Public Health for Health Professionals (PHPM 604)
    2. Health Systems Management (PHPM 606)
    3. Managing Healthcare Data and Information (PHPM 603)
    4. Health Economics (PHPM 661)
    5. Healthcare Financial Management (PHPM 623)
    6. Quality and Process Improvement (PHPM 617)
    
    The second year course sequence:
    7. Operations Management (PHPM 620)
    8. Management of Human Resources (PHPM 616)
    9. Health Law and Ethics (PHPM 633)
    10. Strategic Planning and Marketing (PHPM 614)
    11. Health Policy and Politics (PHPM 640)
    12. Health Systems Leadership (PHPM 680)

12. Is there an Internship or practicum requirement for this program?
    No, there is not an internship nor a practicum requirement.

For More Information:
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