



HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Degree offered: Master of Health Policy and Administration

Application deadline: Fall - March 1; Spring - September 1

Campus: Spokane

Test required: GRE or GMAT; TOEFL (international students only)

Master the Business of Health Care

With our nation's health care system in a state of flux, the need for competent leaders who are well-versed in the business of health care is greater than ever. The master of health policy and administration program at Washington State University prepares you to take a leadership role in the dynamic field of health care management. The program's accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME)—the standard of excellence in health care management education—ensures the quality of your educational experience and the lasting value of your degree.

Designed for Success

The 50-credit hour curriculum provides you with the solid foundation of knowledge and skills you'll need to succeed in the field. It consists of introductory courses, core courses, electives, an internship, a capstone course, and a graduate project or thesis. The curriculum offers a strong focus on the financial and policy aspects of health care—in fact, the program's comprehensive coverage of health care accounting and finance has earned it national recognition. Also included in the curriculum is a two-semester sequence of health law courses recommended by the Association of University Programs in Health Administration.

You will be learning from distinguished faculty who have expertise in many different aspects of health care management, including the comparative analysis of international health systems; decision science; disability and aging services; long-term care policy; health economics; and health care management in rural settings.

The program accommodates both full-time and part-time students. Full-time students typically complete the program in two years, enrolling in 12 to 18 credit hours per semester. Most classes are scheduled for late afternoons and evenings, enabling working professionals to combine their studies with their careers.

A Mix of Students

Students enter the program with undergraduate degrees in a variety of disciplines, ranging from psychology and biology to business and health services administration. The program also provides practicing physicians, nurses, and other clinicians with an opportunity to enhance their management skills or advance to management positions. In addition, its focus on health care finance makes it especially suitable for CPAs who specialize in health services clients.

As part of a small, tightly knit cohort, you'll be sharing classrooms and exchanging ideas with fellow students from all over the country and around the world—up to 30 percent of each cohort consists of international students. The varied composition of the student body combined with the intimate atmosphere of the program provides excellent opportunities for building professional networks as well as lifelong friendships.

Career Options Abound

Graduates of the program are working in a wide range of career fields, including hospital management, public health, managed care, group practice management, and financial management. A degree in health policy and administration also opens doors to other educational opportunities. Graduates have successfully applied to top-ranked programs in medicine, public health, pharmacy, and law, as well as doctoral programs in health services administration and health sciences research, among other fields.

A Growing Health Sciences Campus

The master of health policy and administration program is based in Spokane, Washington, on the Riverpoint Campus, a beautiful campus at the intersection of downtown and the medical district. You'll feel right at home in the professional, health care-focused environment offered by Washington State University Spokane, which has been officially designated as Washington State University's health sciences campus. The growing campus is home to graduate, professional, and upper-division undergraduate programs, with a strong emphasis on interprofessional education, health sciences research focused on advancing practice, and statewide community engagement to improve health. As a health policy and administration student, you will share the campus with future doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, exercise specialists, and other health care professionals.

The Medical Heart of the Inland Northwest

The health care hub for the Inland Northwest, Spokane is the second-largest city in Washington and the largest medical community between Seattle, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, and Calgary, Canada. Powered by a workforce of 35,000—equivalent to 12.5 percent of the local employment base—the health care sector is the largest employer in the region. Spokane's four full-service hospitals include Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Deaconess Medical Center, the second- and third-largest facilities in the state, as well as five community health centers and a number of organizations that serve the health care needs of low-income residents.



In this diversified health care setting, opportunities for employment and internships are plentiful. Students interested in community-based health care and rural health care, especially, will find Spokane a convenient base from which to explore careers in those fields. Eastern Washington is home to 28 of Washington's 38 critical access hospitals, which offer access to health care services in rural areas.



For More Information

Go to www.hpa.spokane.wsu.edu for more information on the program, including admission requirements and the application process. You can also contact us directly at hpa@wsu.edu or 509-358-7980.