

Paths to a Career in Healthcare Administration/Management

The healthcare industry is a dynamic field, and the healthcare management/health administration profession includes individuals with specialized training in traditional management disciplines, taught in a healthcare context, and combined with coursework in policy and public health.

A 4-year baccalaureate degree—B.S. or B.A.—is the primary pre-requisite for admission to a graduate program. The baccalaureate degree may be obtained in any field of study. Some coursework in economics and statistics is helpful, but not necessarily a requirement. Most students choose the traditional route of a master's degree in health administration healthcare management, or public health. However, students are investigating other options, including degrees in business with course concentration in healthcare management. Some schools offer a joint degree—a master's degree in both business administration and public health, or in both healthcare management and law, for example.

Prepare to launch your career in healthcare management by selecting the approach that provides specialized skills and knowledge essential to managing health-related organizations—something not available in traditional management programs.

Why Consider Healthcare Management?

- **Making a Difference/Social Mission**—Decisions made by healthcare executives can help improve life for hundreds, even thousands of people every day. Healthcare executives have a sense of social mission—they deeply care about the people they work with and serve. Further, our hospitals and healthcare organizations provide opportunities for those who want to “do well by doing good.”
- **Career Opportunities**—Employment of medical and health services managers is expected to grow 16 percent from 2008 to 2018, faster than the average for all occupations. The healthcare industry will continue to expand and diversify, requiring managers to help ensure smooth business operations. Furthermore, unlike many traditional management programs, graduates of healthcare management programs can find significant opportunities in areas ranging from small rural communities to large metropolitan areas and throughout the world.
- **Excellent Earning Potential**—Students pursuing healthcare management careers have excellent earning potential. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010-2011 Outlook Handbook, medical and health services managers earned an average annual salary of \$80,240, with the middle 50 percent earning between \$62,170 and \$104,120. Senior healthcare executives with more experience and achievements can earn \$200,000 or significantly more.

- **Career Flexibility**—An education in healthcare management can take you in many different and exciting directions. In addition to more traditional careers in healthcare management, graduates work in many other areas including: pharmaceutical companies, health insurance companies, public health agencies, management consulting, banks and other financial institutions, long-term care facilities, professional societies and state and Federal agencies. The core skill set you develop in a healthcare management program provides a competitive advantage within the healthcare sector. In addition, these skills transfer readily across a variety of industries, providing flexibility for non-health sector positions as well.
- **Management and Advancement Potential**—There is an excellent career ladder—and many people also take on roles in different sectors of the field over the course of their careers.
- **Visible and Valued Role in the Community**—Healthcare executives typically are highly respected members of their communities. Hospitals and other healthcare organizations are among the largest employers in many communities and their organizations positively impact the health of the populations they serve and the well-being of their community.
- **Continual Self Improvement**—Healthcare management is a career that values continual self improvement and education, and most employers encourage continued professional development. Many organizations often support tuition remission or in-service training for new skills. Innovation and continuous learning will be a part of the job from the day you start.

About AUPHA

The Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) is a global network of colleges, universities, faculty, individuals and organizations dedicated to the improvement of healthcare delivery through excellence in healthcare management and policy education. Its mission is to foster excellence and drive innovation in health management and policy education, and promote the value of university-based management education for leadership roles in the health sector. It is the only non-profit entity of its kind that works to improve the delivery of health services - and thus the health of citizens - throughout the world by educating professional managers at the entry level.

AUPHA's membership includes the premier Baccalaureate and Master's degree programs in healthcare management/health administration education in the United States and Canada. Its faculty and individual members represent more than 400 colleges and universities. In addition, a large number of health care institutions, hospitals and other health services delivery organizations and associations worldwide participate in, and benefit from, the network and services of AUPHA.

About HAMPAS

The Healthcare Administration, Management & Policy Centralized Application Service (HAMPCAS) is the first national centralized application service designed for students applying to graduate programs in health administration, healthcare management, and health policy. The service enables applicants to apply to multiple colleges and schools through a single web-based application.

HAMPCAS Application Processing Fees

Application processing fees are dependent on the number of designated programs/degrees selected by the applicant. The first designation is \$115.00 with each additional application being \$40.00.

Tips for a Successful HAMPCAS Application

- Apply as early as possible
- Read all of the instructions within each section of your HAMPCAS application before submitting your completed application
- Review the specifics of the programs to which you are applying via the program links within the HAMPCAS application
- Print a copy of your HAMPCAS application for your records
- Make sure to monitor you application online and check for email messages from HAMPCAS or the schools via the online application and email account you provided in your application.

- Remember that your application is not considered complete, and will not be processed, until you have e-submitted the application, paid your application fee, and an official transcript from every college and university you have attended is received by HAMPCAS (HAMPCAS transcript processing dept., PO Box 9122, Watertown MA 02472).

Questions?

Need assistance with the HAMPCAS portal? Call 617-612-2882 or email hampcasinfo@hampcas.org. HAMPCAS Customer Support is available to answer your questions Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm Eastern Time.

More Help from HAMPCAS

Have more questions about HAMPCAS? Contact AUPHA at (703) 894-0940 or via lianep.kluge@aupha.org.

AUPHA mailing address is 2000 14th Street North, Suite 780, Arlington, VA 22201. www.aupha.org.

HAMPCAS mailing address for the purpose of sending your transcripts is HAMPCAS Transcript Processing Dept., PO Box 9122, Watertown MA 02472.

Additional Resources

FIND A PROGRAM

To search for a program, both HAMPCAS programs and non-HAMPCAS programs, go to the AUPHA website to search via lists or via the AUPHA Online Directory of Programs at <http://www.aupha.org/custom/directory/>.

APPLY TO HAMPCAS PROGRAMS

To find out whether the programs you want to apply to are available via the HAMPCAS portal, visit <http://www.aupha.org/HAMPCASSchools> on the AUPHA website or go directly to www.hampcas.org.

How HAMPCAS Works

