

HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION, MS

Northwestern's Healthcare Administration (MHA) degree prepares students for various leadership roles in the healthcare industry with a focus on the business side of healthcare. Students will engage in coursework that analyzes effective healthcare models and examines how to deliver excellent, innovative, and efficient care while balancing costs. Courses cover strategic planning, leadership, financial management, and human resource responsibilities. Students are required to complete 12 courses to earn the degree. There are eleven core courses and one capstone course. Current students should refer to curriculum requirements in place at entry into the program.

Curriculum

Course	Title
Core Courses (12 units)	
HCA 401-DL	The American Healthcare System: Patient, Payor, and Provider
HCA 402-DL	Clinical Thinking for Healthcare Administrators and Clinical Managers
HCA 403-DL	People Leadership and Change Management in Healthcare (HR1)
HCA 404-DL	Financial Management in Healthcare Organizations (Finance 1)
HCA 405-DL	Data-Driven Healthcare Management: Why Data Matters
HCA 410-DL	Leading Quality Care and Ethical Compliance
HCA 411-DL	Leadership Development and Organizational Behavior (HR2)
HCA 412-DL	Healthcare Value and Revenue Cycle Management (Finance 2)
HCA 413-DL	Healthcare Organizations: Operations and Performance Improvement
HCA 420-DL	Operating in the Patient-Centric Healthcare Environment and Structures
HCA 430-DL	Defining Value in a Healthcare Market: Strategic Planning and Marketing
HCA 498-DL	Capstone - Final Business Project and Program Development

About the Final Project

This course provides students with opportunities to apply the fundamentals of strategic planning and marketing, human resources, finance, analytics, and operations acquired in previous courses to approach practical problems and decisions faced by real healthcare systems and may include policy or product development and other services innovation. Ideally, the project will address an applicable and current issue in the student's current organization such as problem-solving a crisis management issue. For students who do not have this option, senior managers from the program will "pitch" the potential projects to students to choose. Students apply techniques of situational assessment, data analysis, strategy development, problem solving, and critical thinking. As the capstone course, students are expected to integrate their knowledge and to apply it to healthcare case studies. Students analyses will be guided by the practicing professionals, who are their faculty mentors, and consistent with the mission, vision and core values of an organization. The outcome is an improved ability to think from the patient point of view, analyze critically, identify key challenges,

complete strategic plan for main business problems, and communicate those clearly and effectively to various stakeholders. Projects will host key elements defined by relevance, realistic, consequential, measurable and include more than two distinguishable stakeholders. Projects will be scoped in a reasonable definition and timeline in order to make a marked impact and change within the student's own organization. The project is built in concept at the start and continues through the program culminating and a faculty presentation.