

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

What is Health Services Administration?

Health Services administration examines public policy related to health and the financial and human management of health care organizations. It is one of the five core disciplines of public health. Students pursuing a degree in this field may end up in a career that:

- Analyzes health care policy
- Examines how health care organizations can run more efficiently
- Serves as a liaison between patients, providers, and governmental entities
- Advocates for changes in public policy

What are examples of careers in Health Services Administration?

A variety of careers exist for those interested in health services administration. Below are just a sample of the professions related to this field:

Local

- Economic Stability and Health Policy Coordinator, Voices for Children
- Governmental Relations Specialist, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Research Specialist, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

National/International

- Health Scientist Administrator, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- HIPAA Compliance Coordinator, Massachusetts General Hospital
- Medical Administration Specialist, US Veterans Administration

Who might be interested in a Health Services Administration career?

Students interested in this field typically have backgrounds in areas related to public policy, business, or planning. If you want to know answers to the following types of questions, you might want to explore health services administration some more:

- What health care systems produce the lowest rates of infant mortality?
- How does health care spending relate to health outcomes for patients?
- Has marijuana legalization in states like Colorado led to increased rates of marijuana abuse?
- What are the costs and benefits to expanding Medicaid to more people?

Where can I get a degree in Health Services Administration?

All schools of public health should have graduate degrees in health services administration. Students should consult each school they plan to apply to in order to know what coursework will be required for admission. These requirements may vary by school. UNMC has the following programs available:

Master of Public Health (with any of the concentrations below):

- Community Oriented Primary Care
- Health Policy
- Public Health Administration
- Public Health Practice

Master of Science in Emergency Preparedness

Students may choose to pursue an academic or practice focused track for their master's program in Emergency Preparedness.

Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Services Research, Administration, and Policy

A master's or other advanced degree is required for admission, but exceptional undergraduate students will be considered.

What other courses can I take to prepare for a Health Services Administration program?

See our Pre-Public Health sheet for courses that will broadly prepare you for a public health graduate program. Beyond those, specific courses that are relevant to this field include those below. Please consult an academic advisor and the Undergraduate Bulletin to discuss these classes before enrolling.

Bureaucratic Processes: POLS 210, 410, 414

Community Planning: CRPL 400

Organizational Communication: COMM 386

Public Finance: ECON 371, 471

Public Policy and Analysis: POLS 234, 235, 236, 286, 417, ECON 409, 472

State and Local Politics: POLS 221, 225

What can I do to explore Health Services Administration?

- **Research:** Gain experience through a UCARE project or by identifying an internship at a governmental or advocacy organization that is involved in health policy. Even if you aren't directly writing or research policies, getting a first-hand look at what it takes to develop and implement these items is a great background for an undergraduate student interested in a career related to Health Services Administration.
- **Career Information:** Find a professional who you can do an informational interview with in order to learn more about career paths in the field.
- **Organizations:** Join the Pre-Public Health Club to gain exposure to the various career and academic opportunities for students interested in public health. Consider joining a professional organization to stay up to date with current trends in the areas that most interest you. Student memberships are generally affordable.

How do I apply?

For admission to UNMC's MPH or PhD programs, students must apply through the centralized application process – SOPHAS. Information on SOPHAS can be found at www.sophas.org and on the UNMC admissions page at <http://unmc.edu/publichealth/admissions/index.html>.

Students can apply to start the MPH program in either the fall or spring semesters each year. The PhD program only admits students to the fall semester. Please see UNMC's admissions page for specific application dates.

The admissions committee reviews grade point average, letters of recommendation, knowledge of profession, service, and leadership experience. In addition to a GRE (or other acceptable entrance exam), students will need to provide a one page personal statement and a resume reflecting one or more years of work/volunteer history related to health and/or human services.

Where can I go for more information?

UNMC College of Public Health

Department of Health Services Research & Administration

<http://unmc.edu/publichealth/departments/healthservices/>

Associations of Schools and Programs of Public Health

<http://www.aspph.org/study/health-policy-management/>

Association of University Programs in Health Administration

<http://www.aupha.org/>

Explore Health Careers

<http://explorehealthcareers.org>