Key competencies in the MHA program: Management

by Dr. Greg Page

Management is a core competency within our MHA program because it is a fundamental aspect of organizational success. Management includes planning, coordination, and control of resources to achieve specific goals. It involves decision-making, problem-solving, and the efficient utilization of human, financial, and material resources. Effective management is important in healthcare settings, ensuring that an organization's objectives are met while ensuring both efficiency and effectiveness. Managers play a pivotal role in guiding teams, fostering collaboration, and adapting to dynamic environments, all of which contribute to the overall success and sustainability of an organization.

Healthcare management focuses on the unique challenges in the healthcare sector. Healthcare managers must navigate changing and complex regulatory environments, address the diverse needs of patients and healthcare professionals, stay up to date on advancements in medical technology and changes in reimbursement models. Healthcare management requires an understanding of healthcare policies, ethical considerations, and the ability to optimize patient outcomes within budgetary constraints. Successful healthcare managers are comfortable leading interdisciplinary teams, promoting patient-centered care, and ensuring the efficient delivery of healthcare services.

Leadership and management are often used interchangeably. Leadership and management are two distinct concepts and also have overlapping characteristics. Management is primarily about planning, organizing, and controlling resources to achieve specific objectives. Leadership focuses on inspiring and motivating individuals to collectively pursue a shared vision. .

Newsletter Highlights

5 Part Series: Key Competencies within the MHA Program

———

Updates and Announcements

———

Kelli's Corner

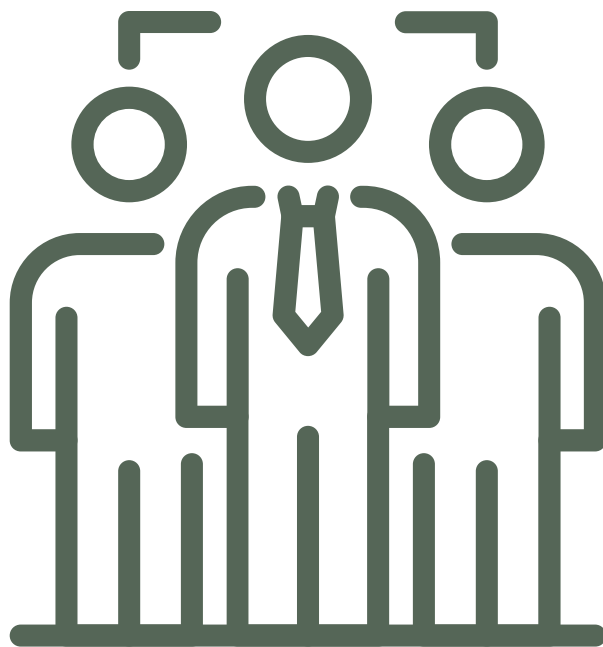For more information or to apply, scan the QR code

Important Dates

Semester Break Ends
January 7, 2024

Registration Ends
Spring A: January 7, 2024
Spring B: March 3, 2024

Spring A
Last day to Add/Drop: January 12, 2024

Last day to Withdraw: January 19, 2024

Leaders tend to have well developed interpersonal skills and strong communication skills. Management can be described as focusing on administering processes, while leadership is focused on influencing people. Successful organizations have a healthy balance of both management and leadership. Successful managers can develop into successful leaders. Our students are likely to start in roles as managers and will advance into leadership positions with experience and time in the field.MHA students also need to understand strategic management which focuses on the formulation and implementation of long-term plans to achieve an organization's goals and objectives. Strategic management and strategic leadership involve making decisions that align with an organization's mission and vision, considering internal and external factors, competitive forces, numerous stakeholders and market dynamics.Healthcare management is an exciting field that is constantly changing and not short on challenges. Our MHA program prepares our students to be successful as managers and as leaders.

Updates and Annoucements

Beginning in Spring 2024, Term A, the updated grading rubric for MHA Students will be as follows:

MHA Programmatic Final Grading Scale:
A 94.00 – 100.00%
A– 90.00 – 93.99%
B+ 87.00 – 89.99%
B 83.00 – 86.99%
B– 80.00 – 82.99%
C+ 77.00 – 79.99%
C 73.00 – 76.99%
C– 70.00 – 72.99%
F ≤69.99%

We would also like to congratulate the Doctor of Medical Science graduates of 2023, Dr. Mallary Clay, Dr. Raejonna Pascarella, and Dr. Amber Kagan. The Department of Medical Sciences is proud to have you as alumni and wishes you the best for your future endeavors

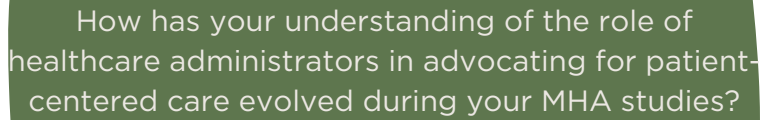# Kelli's Corner
with Faith Price

As the time for our first graduating class to complete the program draws nearer, I wanted to reach out to one of our students to see what they think of the MHA program. Student and HPU Women's basketball player, Faith Price shares her thoughts here.

What motivated you to pursue a master's in health administration, and how has your perspective on healthcare management evolved during the program?

I've always had passion for the healthcare industry, a desire to make a positive impact on patient care and outcomes, and an interest in the business aspect of healthcare management. I have gained a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges within the healthcare system, including issues such as quality improvement, patient safety, how to improve healthcare technology and more.
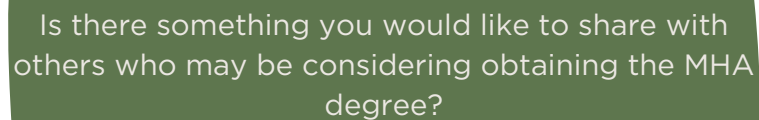
Can you discuss a specific project or coursework from your MHA program that you found particularly challenging or rewarding?

Looking back on my experience, the program has effectively fostered a sense of community and collaboration amongst us students. Even though this program is 100% online, you still interact with each other just as much as you would in a classroom setting. Each class has weekly discussions which allows us to share our thoughts about different topics we learn about each week, and then we are also given the opportunity to respond and collaborate with other classmates. Also having the check ins from Kelli (Education Liaison) each term is good. That's showing that they care about how we are doing and willing to hear from us if we have any questions or concerns about anything. Meeting with Dr. Goodspeed allows us to share our thoughts and listen to his feedback and also give him feedback about how our individual journeys through this program. And lastly, the professors have been great! They are always willing to work with you if you allow them to, they respond to emails in a timely matter, and they are always on top of giving feedback to submitted work to help better your work for the next assignment. In my eyes, there is no reason for anyone to struggle or fail in this program with all the resources given.

How has your understanding of the role of healthcare administrators in advocating for patient-centered care evolved during your MHA studies?

During my MHA studies, my understanding of the role of healthcare administrators in advocating for patient-centered care has evolved significantly. Initially, I viewed healthcare administrators primarily as managers responsible for overseeing the operational aspects of healthcare organizations. However, as I get deeper into the program, I have come to realize that their role extends far beyond management duties. I had a thing where I didn't want to just be sitting behind a desk doing a bunch of paperwork, and I wanted to be in the mix, hands on. I realized that healthcare administrators play a crucial role in promoting and implementing patient-centered care within organizations. I have recognized the importance of collaboration among different departments or units within healthcare organizations to achieve patient-centered care. Healthcare administrators must build bridges between clinical staff, support services, and quality improvement teams to ensure a complete approach to patient care.

Is there something you would like to share with others who may be considering obtaining the MHA degree?

Yes, I'd tell them to go in with an open mind because the field of healthcare is constantly evolving, with new challenges, innovations, and policies emerging regularly. Embracing an open mind will allow you to adapt to these changes, think critically, and explore new solutions.