HEALTH SECTOR MANAGEMENT GRADUATE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Person-in-Charge: Karen Duhala
Program Code: HLTHMT
Campus(es): Great Valley

The School of Graduate Professional Studies at Penn State Great Valley offers a four-course (12-credit) Graduate Certificate program in Health Sector Management.

The program is designed to provide preparation for individuals who work or aspire to work in the health sector as administrators, managers, physicians, nurses, pharmaceutical representatives and scientists, and other health sector organizations. The program is designed to respond to the needs of professionals in health care provider organizations, third-party payors, biopharmaceutical organizations, and other organizations whose business is focused on the health sector including information technology, medical devices, benefits management, clinical research organizations, and consulting firms.

The curriculum emphasizes development of the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to understand and influence the dynamics of the health sector's business environment. The curriculum's broad focus considers business issues from the vantage points of multiple stakeholders to prepare students with a comprehensive understanding of the health sector. The program is designed to help students build a distinctive competence in health sector management that is relevant not only to managers and professionals employed by payor and provider organizations but also for those employed by biopharmaceutical, medical device, information technology, and other organizations that comprise the health sector. Required course work emphasizes the key dimensions of policy, financing, and organization in the health sector; critical analysis of current issues that health sector organizations face; as well as legal and ethical dimensions of decision making in the health sector. The cost, quality, access paradigm serves as an over-arching framework for study of current issues in the health sector including commercialization of biopharmaceuticals, information technology (IT) solutions, marketing, managing business processes, developing new ventures, regulation, and quality improvement. Content is grounded in research and best demonstrated practice and is both theoretical and applied, with an emphasis on practical application of knowledge gained.

This certificate program is attractive to individuals who desire advanced education in health sector management but who do not wish to pursue a master’s degree at this time, as well as those interested in pursuing specialized knowledge of health sector management concurrent with a graduate degree program. With program approval, the courses in this graduate certificate program may be applied to the Master of Business Administration program at Great Valley or, in the case of two courses in the certificate program (BUSAD 830 and BUSAD 834) to the Master of Leadership Development (M.L.D.) program, subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/transfer-credit/). Certificate students who wish to have certificate courses applied towards a graduate degree must apply and be admitted to that degree program. Admission to the M.B.A. or M.L.D. graduate degree program is a separate step and is not guaranteed. This graduate certificate program also is valuable for individuals who already hold a master’s degree and wish to update or expand their knowledge and skills.

Effective Semester: Spring 2017
Expiration Semester: Spring 2022