HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, B.S. (CAPITAL)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Harrisburg

Program Learning Objectives
1. **Know Health Orgs**: HPA graduates will possess in depth understanding of health and health care, including the structures, policies, processes and institutions that make up the U.S. health care system.
2. **Organize and Direct Resources**: HPA graduates will possess the knowledge and skills necessary for organizing and directing resources towards the achievement of organizational objectives.
3. **Policy Analysis**: HPA graduates will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate public policy.
4. **Emotional Intelligence**: HPA graduates will possess an awareness of and the ability to manage one's own emotions in a way that enables positive interpersonal interactions and the building of productive relationships.
5. **Diversity Adeptness**: HPA graduates will recognize the value of diversity and possess sensitivity to underrepresented and underserved groups in health care.
6. **Critical Thinking**: HPA graduates will be able to interpret, analyze, and evaluate information to identify, examine, and solve problems that occur in the health care system.
7. **Communication**: HPA graduates will be able to effectively receive, process, and relay information through speaking, writing, and listening.

Entrance to Major
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/semester_classification.cfm).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major)

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science degree in Health Policy and Administration, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>81-83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The requirements for the major are outlined below. Students may select courses in the Supporting Courses and Related Areas category to fulfill requirements for a minor, to develop a specialization, or to complete courses required for admission to medical, dental, law, or other graduate schools.

Per Senate Policy 83.80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. HPA requires students to complete 24 credits for the major through courses taken at University Park. Courses taken at other Penn State campuses may not be counted toward this 24 credit minimum. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for this major.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

**Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)**
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

**Knowledge Domains**
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

**Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)**
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

12 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

**Cultures Requirement**
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements.
• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
This includes 12 credits of General Education courses: 6 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Integrated B.S. in Health Policy and Administration/Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.) Admission and Degree Requirements

The integrated B.S. in Health Policy and Administration/Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.) program allows qualified undergraduate students to earn both degrees in five calendar years of full time academic study.

The following credentials will be considered for admission:

1. A demonstrated ability to communicate effectively, an advanced level of maturity, and high motivation to pursue a career in the health care field
2. Academic references
3. Successful completion of 60 credits having maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or better

Students admitted to the B.S. in Health Policy and Administration/M.H.A. integrated program are able to earn both the B.S. and M.H.A. in five calendar years of full time academic study.

Program Learning Objectives

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**Academic Advising**

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in- and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

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**World Campus**

Undergraduate Academic Advising
301 Outreach Building

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**Suggested Academic Plan**

**Harrisburg Campus**

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

### First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPA 101*</td>
<td>3 HPA 210*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BISC 004 or BIOL 141 or BBH 101</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 ECON 102*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL SC 001 *†</td>
<td>3 CAS 100*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30*†</td>
<td>3 Supporting Course</td>
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</table>

**Second Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPA 301W*</td>
<td>3 HPA 332*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 HPA 311*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 200 or 250*†</td>
<td>3-4 General Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPA 211*</td>
<td>3 ENGL 202A*†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course</td>
<td>3 Supporting Course</td>
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</table>

**Third Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPA 310*</td>
<td>3 HPA 400-level course*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPA 390*</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GHW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 HPA 395*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPSC 101 or 203*†</td>
<td>3-4 Supporting Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fourth Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPA 400-level Course*</td>
<td>3 HPA 400-level Course*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-level Supporting Course</td>
<td>3 400-level Supporting Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course (Select ECON or PLSC)</td>
<td>3 400-level Supporting Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course</td>
<td>3 Supporting Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course</td>
<td>3 HPA 455*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits 119.5-121.5**

\* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

\† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

Career Paths

The mission of the Bachelor of Science Program (B.S.) in Health Policy and Administration, B.S. (Capital) is to prepare graduates with the knowledge, skills, and values appropriate to work in entry-level management or policy-related positions or for the pursuit of graduate education in health administration, health policy, health law, health services research, public health, and other health related fields. HPA students develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand the complex societal problem of providing access to quality care at reasonable cost.

Careers

The HPA curriculum prepares students to work as health services managers/administrators or health analysts. Health services managers/administrators plan, direct, and coordinate medical, behavioral, and/or long-term care services. These individuals might oversee matters of personnel, budgeting, billing, equipment outlays, information systems, planning and more. Health analysts are responsible for analyzing, compiling, and validating information needed by different organizations of providers, payers, and policy makers. Analysts help these organizations understand the current trends in the health care system and to make well-informed decisions. Employment in the health care sector is projected to grow 17 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than all other occupations.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

HPA’s blend of courses in liberal arts, business administration, and the health sciences, is designed to prepare students for careers or further study in health care. HPA students have used the degree to prepare for graduate study in business, law, medicine or allied health fields, health administration, health services research or policy, and public health.

Professional Resources

- Association of University Programs in Health Administration (http://www.aupha.org/resourcecenter/futurestudents)
- American College of Health Care Administrators (https://achca.memberclicks.net/student-societies)
- American College of Health Care Executives (http://www.ache.org)

Accreditation

HPA is a fully certified member of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA). As such it has been recognized for having withstood the rigorous of peer review wherein curricula, faculty, and educational outcomes have been critically examined by external peer review. In a process comparable to other specialty program accreditations, programs seeking AUPHA certification must submit an extensive self-study detailing the program’s structure, educational processes, and assessment mechanisms in response to national criteria established by AUPHA.

Contact

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http://hhd.psu.edu/hpa/undergraduate/bs

World Campus

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https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-health-policy-administration-bachelors/overview