Virginia Commonwealth University

Department of Health Administration

Career Opportunities “in the trenches”

Representation of:
- Hospitals and health care systems
- Academic medical centers
- Physician groups
- Managed care plans
- Public sector

Health law:
- In-house counsel
- Risk management
- Antitrust
- Employment & labor law
- Tax law
- Corporate law
- Reimbursement consultation
- Fraud & abuse
- Administrative law
- Litigation in medical malpractice

Visit us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/vcuhad

Dual Degree Program in Law and Health Administration

The health care industry is becoming increasingly more complex in both the delivery of services and in organizational structure. Along with this has come competition among providers to a degree heretofore unheard of in health care. As the nation’s third largest business, the health care industry accounts for about 15 percent of our Gross National Product. As leaders of one of the most regulated industries in the United States, health care executives require extensive knowledge of state and federal regulations, reimbursement, insurance, medical ethics, contract law, mergers and acquisitions, tax laws, and antitrust laws, to name but a few areas. This has created a vigorous demand for legal experts who understand the intricacies of the health care industry as well as health law. To meet the demand for health law experts, the Virginia Commonwealth University has partnered with both Washington and Lee University School of Law and the University of Richmond School of Law to create a dual degree program. Created as a cooperative venture between VCU and the University of Richmond in 1986, then joined by Washington and Lee in 2005, this program addresses legal issues that affect organizations, financing, and delivery of health services.

Program Curriculum

The major advantage of the MHA/JD dual degree program is the time required to complete it. A three-year curriculum in health administration and a three-year curriculum in law have been combined to create an intensive, four and a half year program. Students may begin their studies either in law or health administration and upon completion of all requirements will receive both degrees concurrently. Students enrolled in the dual degree program must complete approximately 120 semester hours of study, 48 in health administration and 70 to 75 in law. The 48 semester hours to be completed in health administration include 45 hours in core curriculum, and at least three credits to be earned during a ten week summer administrative internship. The 70 to 75 semester hours to be completed in law include approximately 40 hours in required core courses. In addition, students must take additional courses as required by each school.
Students applying for admission to the Dual Degree Program must meet the standards and be accepted by both the Department of Health Administration and the Washington and Lee University School of Law. Students may either 1) apply to both schools in the dual degree program simultaneously, and upon acceptance into both programs, select, with the assistance and approval of both schools, which school to start in, or 2) enroll in one of the two programs first, and then apply for the other program during that first year of study. However, applying under this latter scenario does not guarantee acceptance into the other school.

To be considered for a position in the MHA program, applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Demonstrated evidence of personal and scholarly achievement and professional promise,
2. A baccalaureate or graduate degree from a college or university accredited by the Association of American Universities or recognized regional accrediting agency,
3. An overall grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or evidence of high scholastic achievement with a substantial amount of graduate work,
4. A satisfactory score (50th percentile or above) on either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT),
5. Prerequisite courses in financial accounting, statistics, and microeconomics (three semester credit hours each) that must be completed before entering the program.

The program uses a rolling admissions process. Applications which are complete will be reviewed for admission to the program on an ongoing basis and invited for an interview. We encourage early applications because space is limited. The application deadline is February 1 each year.

The two most important considerations in evaluating a candidate for admission to the Washington and Lee University School of Law are the candidate’s score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and the candidate’s undergraduate performance. The admissions committee at W&L also takes into consideration an applicant’s leadership potential, extracurricular activities, recommendations, employment experience, maturity, motivation, and character. Interested students may familiarize themselves with the admissions standards applied by W&L by reviewing the statistical information about median grade point average and median LSAT score in the Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, published annually by the American Bar Association and the Law School Admission Council.

The graduate program in health administration was one of the first of its kind to receive national accreditation, and it has maintained full national accreditation status with the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME).

http://www.had.vcu.edu/programs/mha/mhajd.html

MHA Info: 804.828.0719 shavasy@vcu.edu

The Juris Doctorate and Master of Health Administration (JD/MHA) dual degree is designed for students who wish to combine a solid legal education with exemplary preparation for a career in healthcare management.

Washington and Lee University School of Law
W&L Law Info: 540.458.8503 lawadm@wlu.edu
www.law.wlu.edu

---

**Curriculum Sequence**

**First Year, Fall Semester (14 credits)**
- HADM 602 Health System Organization, Financing & Performance (3)
- HADM 606 Health Care Managerial Accounting (3)
- HADM 609 Managerial Epidemiology (2)
- HADM 646 Health Care Organization and Leadership (3)
- HADM 681 Clinical Concepts and Relationships (2)
- HADM 682 Executive Skills I (1)

**First Year, Spring Semester (12 credits)**
- HADM 607 Financial Management in Health Organizations (3)
- HADM 610 Health Care Management Decision Support Systems (3)
- HADM/ECON 624 Health Economics (3)
- HADM 647 Management of Health Care Organizations (3)
- First Year, Summer (3 credits)*
- HADM 693 Internship in Health Administration

**Second Year, Fall Semester (10 credits)**
- HADM 608 Seminar in Health Care Finance (3)
- HADM 612 Information Systems for Health Care Management (3)
- HADM 615 Health Care Politics and Policy (3)
- HADM 683 Executive Skills II (1)

**Second Year, Fall Semester (9 credits)**
- HADM 614 Health Care Marketing (3)
- HADM 648 Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations (3)
- HADM 649 Human Resources Management in Health Care (3)