



## ▶▶ Master of Health Administration (MHA)

### ▶▶ About the MHA Program

The Master of Health Administration (MHA) is primarily an online, course-based degree. It offers students the opportunity to pursue personal and professional enhancement by obtaining a master's degree on their own schedule, without having to take time away from home or work to participate in traditional classroom learning.

Courses are highly interactive using varied multimedia discussion forums and supportive text-based materials. In addition to their coursework, students participate in two brief in-person residency periods. Each residency will be held over a weekend and will involve group exercises including case studies, management simulations, breakouts and presentations, creating important learning and networking opportunities for students.

The degree is focused on building management, administrative and policy capacity for the next generation of health-sector leaders. Students will develop the knowledge and skills base of professionals and managers in the health field, enabling them to contribute to improving the effectiveness of program and policy development, implementation and evaluation, as well as effectiveness in health service delivery and managerial and administrative performance. The MHA degree prepares students for positions that require advanced management and strategic ability, policy knowledge and skills, and

exceptional analytical and evaluation capacity. The key competency areas focus on the unique needs and complexities of a dynamic health care system.

The online MHA graduate program is administered through the school's University of Regina campus.

### Program Curriculum

Students are required to complete 30 credit units, consisting of nine online courses (27 credit units) and two in-person residencies (three credit units).

All MHA students are required to complete nine courses from the following list:

- > **JSGS 812** - Aboriginal Health Policy - Examines issues and challenges related to the health of Aboriginal populations in Canada. Health and illness concepts will be embedded within historical, social, cultural, and political realities. The student will have the opportunity to critically examine and reflect on Aboriginal health issues and health care practices.
- > **JSGS 814** - Biostatistics for Public Health - This course is an introduction to basic biostatistical methods and principles as they apply to public health data. An emphasis is placed on the applications of statistical methods to public health data, interpretations of the resulting analyses and critical appraisal of these methods.

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DR. FATIMA COOVDIA, DENTIST AND MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION STUDENT

*"As I delve further into the complexities of the Canadian Healthcare System through JSGS's comprehensive MHA program, I find myself looking at its political, social and financial elements through a new lens. This new program is innovative, exciting and challenging and its online platform allows students to network and connect with colleagues from coast to coast. The instructors are the very best in the field, very engaging and approachable, making this experience highly rewarding. I am excited to be amongst the first students to embark on this new adventure and I know that a new, promising career awaits me."*

*"The Master of Health Administration is an exciting new initiative underway at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School. The challenges facing today's health systems are unquestionably complex, and the need for strong leadership, critical thinking and innovative approaches is perhaps greater than ever. This program will help prepare graduates to be effective health system leaders, and its online delivery format will allow busy professionals to pursue advanced education in a flexible manner that accommodates the many personal and professional demands on their time."*

AMY ZARZECZNY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND MHA PROGRAM DIRECTOR, JOHNSON-SHOYAMA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF REGINA CAMPUS

- > **JSGS 817 - Health Policy** - The course reviews the historical development of the Canadian health care system and its supporting principles, governance structures and fiscal arrangements; and examine contemporary structures and relationships. Issues such as benefit coverage, health human resources, user fees, pharmaceuticals, regional health boards, and health reform in a comparative context will be examined.
  - > **JSGS 823 - Health Promotion** - This course covers the underlying concepts, principles, historical development, theory, and current practice of health promotion. The focus of learning is not so much on "how to do" health promotion, as on "how to think" about the conceptual, ideological, and political issues which underlie health promotion practice.
  - > **JSGS 824 - Health Program Planning and Evaluation** - This course covers basic concepts and principles of the cycle of health program planning, which includes needs assessment, program development and implementation, process, impact, and outcome evaluation. Both qualitative and quantitative data collection will be addressed.
  - > **JSGS 826 - Human Resources Management in Health Care** - This course will address health human resource management. Its scope will include the knowledge and skills necessary to working with self-regulating professions and in a highly unionized environment. Essential aspects of collective bargaining, negotiation and professional organization will be covered, as will working with the public/private divide in healthcare provision.
  - > **JSGS 827 - Health Care Organization and Administration** - This course will provide students with an understanding of issues involved in the management and organization of health services. Students will examine issues related to managing health in terms of regional health authorities, health ministries and individual health organizations.
  - > **JSGS 829 - Decision Making and Leadership in Healthcare Organizations** - This course will cover leadership theory and practice, with a focus on effective leadership in the public sector and ethical decision-making. It will address decision-making models relevant to the health sector, including emerging philosophies (e.g., LEAN).
  - > **JSGS 832 - Population Based Health Program Management** - This course will apply the techniques of epidemiology and biostatistics to evaluate population-based health programs. In addition, students will become familiar with principles of public health, prevention, and health care quality management.
  - > **JSGS 833 - Performance Measurement in Healthcare Organizations** - Focusing on the health care imperative of accountability to the community, this course deals with the measurement of performance in health care organizations. Management control focuses on the implementation of business strategies and the attainment of organizational goals.
  - > **JSGS 834 - Financial Management of Healthcare Organizations** - This course covers the financial management function in health care organizations including operating and capital budgeting processes along with budgetary and financial controls. There will be extensive use of financial analysis tools for the health care organization and skills needed to develop basic finance and accounting foundations will be reviewed.
  - > **JSGS 835AT - Health Law and Policy** - This course will provide an overview of issues at the intersection of health law and policy. It will include a basic introduction to the foundations of health law followed by examination of topical issues in this domain such as stem cell research, genetics, and medical tourism.
  - > **JSGS 837 - Health Economics** - This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to economic concepts and analysis relevant to health, health care and health care systems. Students will examine economic aspects of various elements of the health-care sector, identify relevant policy questions and apply economic concepts and techniques to analyze them.
- All MHA students are also required to complete the following course:
- > **JSGS 830 MHA Residency** (two sessions) - Each in-person residency will be an intensive three day session focusing largely on group exercises including case studies, management simulations, breakouts and presentations. Each residency will have different guiding themes including strategic planning, coaching and communication skills and managing and evaluating quality improvement initiatives.

### Application Qualifications (University of Regina only)

All applicants must have completed a four year bachelor's degree, or equivalent, with a minimum 70% average from a recognized college or university and should also have completed a minimum of three years relevant health sector experience.

Applications for the online MHA degree must be submitted by July 15 for fall (September) entry, November 1 for a winter (January) entry, and March 15 for spring (May) entry.

### Tuition and Student Fees (University of Regina only)

Tuition for the MHA program is approximately \$2,086.50/course or \$20,865 for the degree.

For more information regarding this program, including courses and tuition, please visit [www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca](http://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca)