

MHSM and MBA/MHSM Frequently Asked Questions

(1) Are there any program pre-requisites?

No. The MHSM and dual MBA/MHSM programs do not assume that entering students have any particular academic background. However, it is expected that entering students are able to use the MS-Word word processing and MS-Excel spreadsheet programs.

(2) Can I attend the program on a part-time basis?

The program is designed to meet the needs of part-time students. All classes are held either on weeknights or on Saturday. Students who want to pursue their studies on a full-time basis can do so by taking a full-time course load. It is not unusual for a student to begin the program on a full-time basis and then switch to a part-time course load midway through the program.

(3) When and where are the classes held?

Generally speaking, HSM classes follow the traditional semester schedule and meet on weeknights at the Parkland Campus, while BUS classes use an accelerated format and meet all day on three separate Saturdays at an off-campus site in Plano.

(4) How long will it take to complete the program?

That depends on how many credit hours per semester you take. The dual MBA/MHSM program is 57 hours, so at a rate of 6 hours (two courses) per semester, the program would take 9.5 semesters or just over three years. Generally speaking, most part-time students finish the dual program in three years or less. Similarly, the 45-hour MHSM program would take 7.5 semesters, or about two years, on a part-time basis.

(4) Can I complete the program online?

No. The MHSM program is not an online program. Some courses in the program meet partly in the classroom and partly online. Other courses meet mostly in the classroom. The type of material in the course determines the format used.

(5) Can I start in the MHSM program and change to the dual MBA/MHSM program later?

Yes. Since both programs use the same admissions criteria, all that is required is for the student to submit an application to the Graduate School for the MBA program. However, this must be done before a student graduates from the MHSM program.

(6) What are the admissions requirements?

Since the EMBA program and the MHSM program use a joint admissions process, the admissions requirements for the MHSM program are the same as those for the EMBA program. The EMBA webpage has specific information about what is required and how to apply. If you are applying for the dual MBA/MHSM program, you will need to fill out two applications, one for the MBA and one for the MHSM.

(7) Is the GMAT or GRE required for admission?

No. There is no GMAT or GRE requirement for admission to the MHSM program.

(8) Can I begin the program in any semester or only in the Fall?

The program is designed so that you can begin in any semester including the Summer semester.

(9) What classes should I take first?

The program classifies the following courses as "entry" level courses in the sense that they are intended to be taken early in the program or contain prerequisite material for other courses:

- HSM 5003: Management of Health Services Organizations
- HSM 5033: Health Services Human Resources Management
- HSM 5053: Quantitative Methods in Health Care Administration
- HSM 5183: Health Resources and Policy Analysis
- HSM 5903: Special Topics – Analysis and Management of Health in Populations
- BUS 5433: Accounting

The program recommends that students with no prior coursework in financial accounting take the BUS 5433 Accounting course as soon as possible because it is the first in the program's three-course finance sequence: BUS 5433 -> HSM 5063 -> HSM 5263. In addition, the program recommends taking the HSM 5053 Quantitative Methods course early in the program because, although not a strict prerequisite, it contains material that is very helpful in other courses.

Generally speaking, the program suggests that students take the HSM courses early in the program and use the BUS courses to balance their schedule.

(10) What is the MBA with an emphasis in health systems management?

This is an option in the MBA program that allows students to substitute HSM courses for BUS courses. Since it isn't a formal program, the selection of courses is left to the student subject to the approval of their MBA program advisor.

(11) Why is the program called "Health Systems Management"?

In 2006, the program changed its name from Health Care Administration to Health Systems Management to reflect changes in the health care industry. The term "Health Care Administration," like the earlier "Hospital Administration," derives from a period in which health services organizations had primarily charitable objectives and were managed using principles from the public health and public policy disciplines. The new name was chosen to reflect the industry's transition to the provision of services by complex organizations, through coordinated provider systems, managed using sophisticated methods developed in the business and management science disciplines. At the same time, the program also moved into the School of Management.

(12) I started a graduate program in health care administration at a different university, but would like to transfer. Will my course credits be accepted?

The Graduate School permits the MHSM program to accept up to 12 transfer credit hours. However, there are a number of conditions. First, the courses must be approved by the program. Second, the course grade must be an A or B. And, third, in the semester in which the student graduates, the transferred credits can be no more than six years old.

(13) I am an international student, can you help me with visa problems?

The MHSM program does not issue letters or manage visa problems. Students from other countries should contact TWU's International Student Office, or the Graduate School, for help.

(14) I cannot begin the program in the semester for which I was admitted, how do I defer admission?

To defer your admission, send a request to the Graduate Admissions Director in the School of Management requesting that your admission be deferred. Include your name, student ID number, and the semester you expect to enter. If the School of Management approves your request, it will notify the Graduate School and you will receive notification from them.