

Master of Science in Healthcare Administration (MSHCA)

Q: How is the Master of Science in Healthcare Administration program described?

The Master of Science in Healthcare Administration (MSHCA) is a practical program for those working in healthcare organizations and those who have healthcare backgrounds who desire to advance into leadership and management positions in these fields. The program is designed to provide skills to influence and guide people and their interpersonal relationships in the workplace, in order to effectively attain organizational goals. The program is of a practical, career focus and primarily for working adult students.

Peirce College's Master of Science in Healthcare Administration (MSHCA) program was designed in collaboration with Philadelphia's top healthcare employers to provide graduates with the key skills employers look for in management candidates. Today's healthcare managers face evolving challenges that require fast, strategic and ethical decision making. Peirce's MSHCA program teaches students how to analyze healthcare policies and develop solutions for delivering innovative care services and strategically managing the industry's financial and business needs.

The MSHCA degree program provides the essential skills for developing organizations and increasing organizational effectiveness, focusing on organizational behavior, development, structure, effectiveness, leadership, and management – all with specific emphasis on healthcare organizations and their unique needs. Graduates of the program will be equipped to become effective leaders in the competitive healthcare community by developing and implementing interventions to create interpersonal, group, inter-group, or organization-wide change. In the MSHCA program, our primary goal is to prepare students for successful, rewarding careers in as leaders in the growing healthcare field. Students will utilize their leadership skills in completing both a healthcare simulation as well as an applied healthcare capstone project.

Q: How many credits are required for the MSHCA at Peirce College?

A total of 36 credit hours (12 courses) are required to complete the MSHCA degree.

Q: Do you allow students to transfer credits into the program?

A maximum of six graduate credit hours earned at an accredited institution may be applied toward the requirements for a master's degree at Peirce College, dependent upon the course description and learning outcomes. Approval to apply any transferred credits toward the MSHCA degree program must be granted by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Courses considered for transfer must have been completed within five years prior to the date of enrollment at Peirce College, and must have a grade of at least a B.

Q: What is the course schedule format?

The master's degree program may be taken entirely online, entirely on campus, or in a combination of online and on campus. All classes are offered in a flexible format (PeirceFit™) through which students may choose on a week-by-week basis whether to attend on campus on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings or online. Courses are offered in seven-week sessions in the fall, spring, and summer sessions. Students may attend on a full-time or part-time basis. Students may complete the program in as few as 18 months.

Q: When is the application due?

Application deadlines are posted to the College's website. Students may begin in May, September, and January of each year.

Q: Is the online application the only way to apply?

The application form and supporting documents may be submitted in hard copy or electronically. Hard copy documents and a letter of recommendation are to be mailed to: The Office of Graduate Studies, Peirce College, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Q: What are the admission requirements?

Applicants with a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a baccalaureate GPA of 2.75 or above will be considered for enrollment. In some cases, undergraduates in Peirce College's programs may apply for early admission through our Graduate Scholars program. To apply for admission, you must submit the following items to the Dean of Graduate Studies:

- Application and fee (\$50)
- A current resume
- One letter of recommendation from a current or past faculty member, dean, and/or supervisor
- One official copy of transcripts from all accredited undergraduate institutions attended
- A statement of intent or career objective written in essay format (one or two pages)

In addition, applicants to the MSHCA program must have an undergraduate degree or certificate in a healthcare field or current experience in a healthcare field. Applicants without these qualifications may be considered for admission on an individual basis.

Q: How can I check the status of my application?

Inquire via email at masters@peirce.edu or call 215.670.9325 or 1.888.273.4723.

Q: How long after I complete the application process will I hear if I have been accepted?

Our goal is to inform you as soon as possible but you may experience a one-two week delay after completing the application process, before hearing if you have been accepted.

Q: Is the program accredited?

The Master of Science in Healthcare Administration falls within the regional accreditation of Peirce College. Peirce is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, 267-284-5000.

Q: Do I need any prep courses?

Some students may be asked to take a refresher course and/or a writing course if the graduate faculty or Dean of Graduate Studies determines that some additional skills development would enhance the opportunity for success in the program. Students without a degree, certificate, or experience in healthcare related fields may be asked to take preparatory courses as well.

Q: I've been out of school 15 years. Will I feel out of place taking classes after all that time?

Peirce has a proven track record of working with adult students returning to college after being away from the classroom for a substantial period of time. The average age of our undergraduate students is 35. Many of our students share this same concern and need help juggling graduate school with an already busy life. We emphasize convenience and flexibility in accommodating busy personal and professional schedules.

Q: What about busy schedules?

The program's flexible format allows for students to choose on a weekly basis whether to attend on campus or online. Participation is required during each instructional week.

Q: What is the tuition?

The 2018 - 2019 tuition is \$772 per credit hour. Each course is three (3) credit hours. For additional information regarding financial aid availability, please contact the Dean of Graduate Studies or go to <http://www.peirce.edu/FinancialAid/Default>.

Q: Are there any fees?

There is a \$50 application fee. Also there is a \$200 services fee assessed per term. Textbooks for each course will cost approximately \$100 - \$150.

Q: What are the criteria for completion of the MSHCA degree?

- Approval of the faculty advisor indicating that all academic requirements have been fulfilled.
- Successful completion and presentation of the capstone research project as defined by the graduate program in which the student is enrolled.
- Successful completion of the total number of credits and all courses required for the program.
- Successful completion of all course-related program requirements with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
- Compliance with all academic requests including submission of a graduation application.

Q: What courses are required for the MSHCA?

- Foundations of Contemporary Leadership Theory & Practice
- Applied Research Methods
- Introduction to Healthcare Administration: History, Economics and Theory
- Ethics in Healthcare Administration
- Healthcare Informatics and Information Technology
- Healthcare Law and Compliance
- Performance Leadership and Culture in Healthcare
- Risk Management and Insurance in Healthcare
- Strategic Management and Finance
- Business and Professional Communication
- Healthcare Practicum / Simulation
- Healthcare Administration Capstone Project

Q: What financial aid is available?

- Eligible students may apply for student loans. Students applying for loans must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- One-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to Peirce bachelor's graduates matriculating into the graduate degree program.
- For additional financing information, please contact the Dean of Graduate Studies or go to <http://www.peirce.edu/FinancialAid/Default>.