

ESTABLISH THE CLINICIAN EXECUTIVE MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Clinician Executive Master of Healthcare Administration, School of Public Health

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate, Graduate College, and the School of Public Health, recommends the establishment of the Clinician Executive Master of Healthcare Administration.

The School of Public Health has offered a Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) since 2005 for students who have chosen a management career in health services organizations such as hospitals, managed care plans, and long-term care providers. It has attracted applicants who represent three broad categories: those entering immediately after completing their undergraduate studies; those with some experience in entry-level administration positions who seek professional advancement; and those with terminal degrees in clinical fields who wish to make the transition into management.

Each of these applicant populations has its own set of competencies and limitations, but the latter group is particularly unique. These students have extensive clinical training in a specific aspect of the provision of healthcare. Their commitment to healthcare leads

them to perceive the world through the lens of individual patient treatment. As they move into administrative leadership it is essential that they learn to shift their perspective to seek community, organization, and group benefit. In addition, after earning the MHA, the anticipated future leadership roles of these students are substantially different, although complementary, than the leadership roles of students without clinical training and experience. Finally, practicing clinicians are likely to have significant time constraints which make the structure of a traditional MHA program unfeasible.

The Clinician Executive Master of Healthcare Administration (CEMHA) is designed to produce clinician executives who can integrate their extensive clinical experience with a thorough understanding of the complex factors affecting the delivery and sustainability of healthcare, and serve as a bridge between clinical professionals and administrative professionals within healthcare delivery organizations. The CEMHA builds upon the existing MHA degree; however, the CEHMA has five distinct characteristics. First, students must possess a doctoral-level clinical degree and a minimum of five years of clinical experience. Second, the coursework focuses traditional management and leadership education on the essential collaboration between clinicians and administrators. Third, a cohort approach will allow students to progress through their coursework with a single group of colleagues, allowing students to take full advantage of the experiences of their peers and to develop professional networks that will extend into their administrative careers. Fourth, CEMHA students engage in a special management project directly related to the healthcare organization in which they currently work, under the guidance of an executive mentor. Fifth, the degree utilizes both distance education

and intense, short-term periods of on-campus activity (the equivalent of two weeks each semester) to best accommodate the ongoing clinical responsibilities and professional commitments of students.

The MHA requires a minimum of 60 hours comprised of 19 core courses and additional electives. The CEMHA requires 48 hours comprised of 16 core courses, thirteen of which are shared with the MHA but are delivered separately due to differences in delivery format. Both degrees require coursework in management, healthcare finance, information and decision support systems, and marketing. However, CEMHA students are not required to complete biostatistics and healthcare service delivery courses as these are requirements of the clinical doctoral degrees they have already earned. In addition, the degree replaces additional coursework in corporate finance and accounting with coursework in healthcare policy.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, the *General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.