



## GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

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West Chester University's graduate certificate in health care management is designed to meet the career advancement needs of health care professionals as well as managers seeking to transition into the health care industry. This certificate program can be completed as a stand-alone program or applied toward the completion of the M.P.H. degree with a concentration in health care management. This program will benefit physicians, nurses, clinicians, managers, and professional staff in the health care industry. In addition, it will benefit those in managed care and not-for-profit organizations, government, consulting firms, and the pharmaceutical industry, among others. The program is designed to provide advanced study of current health care management issues, trends, and topics.

#### PROGRAM OF STUDY

The graduate certificate in health care management consists of six, three-credit courses for a total of 18 credits. Courses include the following:

- Legal Aspects of Health Care
- Approaches to Health Care Delivery
- Health Care Management
- Advocacy for Quality of Health Care Services
- Health Care Technology and Information Management
- Strategic Leadership in Health Care

#### COURSE COMPETENCIES

These courses promote an environment where learning is interactive, dynamic, cooperative, and reflective. The department uses a variety of teaching and learning methods for students to gain competencies

in the following areas:

- Comprehension of health management topics and techniques
- Demonstration of organizational theory and practice in public and private institutions
- Understanding of health information technology and information management
- Development of accounting principles and procedures for both profit and nonprofit organizations
- Recognition of ethical/legal issues in health care
- Identification of major forces that have shaped health care delivery in the past and will impact the future

#### THE LEARNING PROCESS

This program features a student-centered approach to learning. Diverse, skilled faculty create an environment that encourages students to interact fully in a stimulating learning environment. All courses are designed to provide students with methods to enhance their supervision and management skills. Courses include the following principles and practices:

- Practical, experiential learning
- Combined basic administrative theory with contemporary practices used in the health care industry
- Application of new theory, as well as reframing traditional theory and concepts in new ways
- Critical thinking with strategies for life-long learning beyond the certificate

#### DISTANCE EDUCATION

The University offers the certificate in an online learning format permitting students to complete the certificate in as little as 34 weeks (fall/spring semesters and summer

sessions), or longer. Courses online allow students to complete classes at their convenience, without sacrificing quality or valuable interaction with their instructor and peers. As long as students have an Internet connection, they can attend class, anytime or anywhere.

#### MASTER'S PROGRAM

Once students have completed the certificate in health care management, they are eligible to pursue the master's degree in public health. Students can use the courses in the graduate certificate program as evidence to support their admission application to the graduate degree program. Students need to apply formally and be accepted into the graduate program. Then they will need to complete an additional nine credits in public health core courses and two final, three-credit courses, Applied Learning Experience I and II.

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the certificate in health care management, students must meet requirements for WCU graduate study (a minimum 2.8 GPA in an undergraduate degree and 2.8 GPA in the major area of study). Applicants will typically have undergraduate and/or graduate degrees in health, business administration, or related fields. The GRE is not required for admission to the certificate program. Students can apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad/](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad/).

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education  
McKelvie Hall  
102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943  
Fax: 610-436-2763  
E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)  
Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)  
Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcugrad)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Dr. Tanya Gatenby  
Associate Professor and M.P.H.  
Program Track Coordinator  
for Health Care Management  
Department of Health  
Sturzebecker Health Sciences  
Center 312  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2213  
Fax: 610-436-2860  
E-mail: [tgatenby@wcupa.edu](mailto:tgatenby@wcupa.edu)  
Web: [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics\healthsciences/health/certificate-hca.asp](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics\healthsciences/health/certificate-hca.asp)  
The Graduate Catalog is available online at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/officialdocuments/graduate.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/officialdocuments/graduate.catalog/).

## ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines

or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal

School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

