



Five University of Wisconsin campuses to offer online Master of Science in Healthcare Administration

In an effort to provide degree programs that are aligned with the projected highest growth occupations in Wisconsin, five UW campuses will offer an online Master of Science in Healthcare Administration. The new degree will be available through UW-La Crosse, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Stout. The degree was developed in partnership with, and will be administered by, UW-Extension. The 37-credit UW online Healthcare Administration degree will launch in spring 2019, pending Higher Learning Commission approval.

“Industry support for the new Master of Science in Healthcare Administration is strong,” said David Schejbal, dean of the Division of Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning at UW-Extension. “This program provides the flexibility and quality that students with busy lives require, and it addresses the significant job opportunities that are available. Without an online option, it would be difficult to meet the growing demand for healthcare administrators.”

University of Wisconsin online collaborative degree programs are designed to fill a recognized need in the workforce by providing an accessible option for nontraditional and adult students to earn the education required to help close the skills gap. Healthcare has been the top growth industry in Wisconsin over the last ten years and is expected to experience the most annual growth nationwide in the coming decade, according to the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. Much of this growth stems from a healthcare system that will see increased demand from an aging baby boomer population, as well as technology that allows patients to live longer lives. The greatest demand will be in the nursing homes, physician offices, hospitals, managed care organizations and rural healthcare settings.

Wisconsin’s healthcare growth aligns with trends nationally. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts 1.9% annual growth in the healthcare sector nationally through 2024, more than twice the projected rate for almost every other industry, and most positions require a master’s degree in healthcare management or administration to qualify for leadership roles. When looking at the projected job growth in the region

(Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Iowa), the greatest opportunities will go to those with postgraduate degrees.

UW Healthcare Administration Program Manager William Limp said, “We work with a number of exceptional healthcare leaders representing a variety of settings from across the state and the region. The curriculum—from process improvement, talent management, and population health to financial management—is designed to produce well-rounded leaders. We believe the master’s degree that we have developed will help our students succeed in management careers ranging from administrative roles to directors to nursing leadership roles.”

The University of Wisconsin Master of Science in Healthcare Administration will launch spring 2019, pending final review and approval from the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more today at healthcareadministration.wisconsin.edu.

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