MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOSCIENCE AND HEALTH POLICY (MSBHP) DEGREE

Program Learning Outcomes for the MSBHP Degree

Upon completing the MSBHP degree, students will:

1. Be knowledgeable in current advanced bioscience and health policy topics affecting society
2. Be able to integrate science knowledge into better policies and practices.
3. Demonstrate written, oral, and visual communication strategies required to work effectively across science, business, and government.

Requirements for the MSBHP Degree

The MSBHP degree is a non-thesis master’s degree. For general university requirements, please see Non-Thesis Master's Degrees (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees). Students pursuing the MSBHP degree must complete:

• A minimum of 39 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements. Additional credit hours may be required depending on course selection.
• A 3-6 month internship. At the conclusion of their internship, students must present a summary of their internship project in both oral and written form as part of the professional master's seminar.
• A minimum of 30 credit hours at the 500-level or above.

Part-time students who already work in their area of study may request approval to fulfill the internship requirements by working on project with their current employer.

Note: Some of the listed courses are not offered every year, and some may also have prerequisites or require instructor permission. Students cannot take more than two (2) 300 or 400-level courses as part of the degree program without permission of advising faculty.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the PSM (Professional Science Masters) program director and the MSBHP advisor (or official certifier). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be completed in advance of registration.

Summary

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Degree Requirements

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Core Requirements

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MGMT 631 HEALTH INSURANCE IN THE U.S.: THE ESSENTIALS
MGMT 750 STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS IN HEALTH INFORMATICS
MGMT 673 COST ANALYSIS IN HEALTHCARE
MGMT 678 U.S. HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT
MGMT 679 COST AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE
MGMT 751 ECONOMICS OF HEALTH CARE SECTORS

C. Policy Courses - Select a minimum of 6 credit hours from the following: 6

ANTH 581 MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 643 ANTHROPOLOGY OF RACE, ETHNICITY AND HEALTH
HEAL 580 DISPARITIES IN HEALTH IN AMERICA
MGMT 631 HEALTH INSURANCE IN THE U.S.: THE ESSENTIALS
MGMT 690 HEALTHCARE STRATEGY
MGMT 691 BREAKTHROUGH NEGOTIATIONS IN A HEALTH CARE CONTEXT
MGMT 694 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION IN HEALTHCARE
NSCI 530 THE SHAPING OF HEALTH POLICY
SOCI 525 POPULATION HEALTH SEMINAR

Three to Six Month Internship
Practical experience is offered via a 3 to 6 month work immersion. 3

Elective Requirements
Select a minimum of 6 credit hours from the following: 6

ENGI 505 ENGINEERING PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS
ENGI 515 LEADING TEAMS AND INNOVATION
ENGI 529 ETHICS AND ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP
ENGI 614 LEARNING HOW TO INNOVATE?
ENGI 615 LEADERSHIP COACHING FOR ENGINEERS
HEAL 507 EPIDEMIOLOGY
HEAL 560 PLANNING AND EVALUATION OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION
HURC 506 HEALTH AND HUMANITIES MASTER CLASS
MGMT 623 COMMERCIALIZATION IN PHARMA/BIOTECH
MGMT 633 / BIOE 633 LIFE SCIENCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP & ROLES OF FOUNDERS & VENTURE CAPITAL IN HIGH-TECH STARTUPS
MGMT 712 PROCESS MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
MGMT 738 CUSTOMER FOCUS IN HEALTH CARE AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES: A STRATEGIC APPROACH
MGMT 961 BUSINESS LAW

Total Credit Hours Minimum of 39

Footnotes and Additional Information
1. There are other courses that may satisfy the Finance or Economics requirement or serve as courses that satisfy the Electives Requirement. For example, students can choose up to two electives from the UT Graduate School of Biomedical Science (GS), Informatics (HI), and/or Health Science Center (PH). See department for more details.
2. PH 3910 offered by the UT School of Public Health is approved to meet the 3 credit hour requirement for Group B, Finance and Economics.
3. Practical experience is offered via a three to six month immersion. The internship will be under the guidance of a host company, government agency, or non-profit organization. A summary of the internship project is required in both oral and written form for the cohort course NSCI 512.

Policies for the MSBHP Degree
Bioscience and Health Policy Graduate Program Handbook
The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, Bioscience and Health Policy publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: http://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2017_18/Professional_Science_Masters_Handbook.pdf

Admission
Admission to graduate study in Bioscience and Health Policy is open to qualified students holding a bachelor’s degree in biology or a related field that includes completed course work in biology, chemistry, calculus and statistics. Scores from the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE), good critical thinking and communication skills, and completed course work in introductory economics is preferred. Department faculty evaluate the previous academic record and credentials of each applicant individually and make admission decisions.

The Bioscience and Health Policy Professional Master’s Program has distinct focus areas for students with primary interests in policy careers, biomedical and health care related positions, or additional post-graduate training or education after degree conferral.

Transfer Credit
For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program’s advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

For additional information, please see the Bioscience and Health Policy website: https://profms.rice.edu/

Opportunities for the MSBHP Degree
Fifth-Year MSBHP Degree Option for Rice Undergraduate Students
Rice undergraduate students have an option to pursue the MSBHP degree by adding an additional fifth year to their four undergraduate years of science studies. Advanced Rice students in good academic standing may apply to the graduate program during their junior year. Upon acceptance, depending on course load, financial aid status, and
other variables, they may then start taking required core courses of the Bioscience and Health Policy program during their senior year. A plan of study based on their particular focus area will need to be approved by the PSM (Professional Science Masters) program director and the MSBHP advisor.

As part of this option and opportunity, Rice undergraduate students:

• must complete the requirements for their bachelor’s degree and the MSBHP degree independently of each other (i.e., no course may be counted toward the fulfillment of both degrees).
• should be aware that there could be financial aid implications, if the conversion of undergraduate coursework to that of graduate-level reduces their earned undergraduate credit for any semester below that of full-time (12 credit hours) status.

For additional information, please see the Bioscience and Health Policy website: https://profms.rice.edu/