Department of Health Services
Graduate Arts and Sciences

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Mission Statement
Consistent with our Jesuit roots and Ignatian goals of education, the graduate programs in Health Services are built on a liberal arts foundation with an emphasis on ethics, social justice, and professional competency. By enhancing skills in verbal communication, writing, critical thinking, quantitative analysis, globalization, and diversity, health services graduate programs prepare graduates to confront current and emerging issues in healthcare.

Department Programs
The Department of Health Services offers Master’s degree programs designed to meet the interests, needs, and personal and professional growth of health and medical professionals. Programs in Health Administration, Health Education, a joint program in Health Administration and Health Education Long Term Care Administration and Gerontological Services are designed to provide rigorous and comprehensive study for those seeking to enhance professional credentials. Core philosophies are professional competence, creative problem solving, respect for all persons, social justice in health care and medicine, and collaborative approaches to health promotion and disease prevention.

Admission Requirements and Procedure
The Health Services graduate programs are designed to provide advanced training for people who have two or more years of work experience in the health professions. Application forms are available online at http://www.sju.edu/academics/cas/grad/index.html

Applicants should submit to the Office of Graduate Admissions the following:

- Official sealed transcript(s) of undergraduate and any graduate coursework. Saint Joseph’s University graduates do not have to obtain their transcripts. The program will access your transcripts.
- a current résumé
- two letters of recommendation appraising the candidate’s promise and capacity for graduate study, reflecting from a professional’s point of view, the candidate’s ability to pursue a rigorous, independent course of study at the graduate level. Often one of these comes from a former faculty member and one from a current employer, but two employer references or two academic references are acceptable.
- a two-to-three page (500 to 750 words) personal statement outlining the candidate’s professional goals and educational objectives for the program, including the applicant’s rationale for program choice and professional study.
- $35 application fee – waived if attended an Open House or if a SJU graduate.

The Graduate Committee looks for both a strong academic record and serious interest in the health professions. The personal statement should articulate reasons for selecting this particular program and discuss the applicants personal goals and strengths. A personal interview may be required if additional or further information is needed.

Course Load
In order to meet the needs of working adults, courses are offered in a variety of formats, including the traditional one evening per week format; a five-day, weekend format, or on-line and hybrid formats. A full-time course load is three courses (9 credits) per term for fall and spring semesters and two courses (6 credits) for the summer term. Students who are working full-time should take no more than two courses (6 credits) in the fall and spring terms, and one course (3 credits) for each summer term.

The Director of Graduate Health Services Programs must approve any exceptions to this policy. Students requesting full time status should submit a letter in writing to the Director stating that they are working less than 20 hours per week during the semester(s) in which full-time status is sought.