

# Online Education Summary from the Colleges

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## College of Health Professions

### Master of Health Administration

The College of Health Professions offers the Master of Health Administration program in a residential and executive (distance) format. Executive MHA students are working health care professionals who balance their studies with their careers. Instruction is delivered primarily online, allowing students to continue working while completing two to three years of coursework. Students report to campus for a long weekend of study and collaboration once every semester. Graduates complete 54 credit hours; no internship is required.

### Doctor of Health Administration

The College of Health Professions offers three unique, doctoral-level programs in health administration. Each is designed to allow ambitious health care professionals to turn their clinical or administrative experiences into opportunities to teach, shape public policy and/or lead complex organizations. Successful applicants will possess relevant Masters degrees and at least five years of practical experience in the field.

### Executive Program

The world of health care is complex, and ever-changing, and will benefit from individuals who marry their deep learning with a desire to influence others. Candidates in the DHA-Executive program have achieved senior-level administrative positions, and now seek the next level of learning. Our graduates generally intend to turn their doctoral degrees into higher education faculty positions, into leadership roles in health care advocacy, or into the highest levels of health care administration. Courses are offered in executive format to allow students to combine their professional and academic lives. Required on-campus sessions are held one long weekend per semester.

### Interprofessional Studies Program

CHP is considered a national leader in the “interprofessional” approach to health care. This point-of-view harnesses the wide range of expertise found in a medical team, integrating their specialties into a patient-centered approach. Our DHA-Interprofessional turns this CHP core philosophy into a degree, fostering collaborative thinking in future health care faculty, advocates and executives. This program features evidence-based practice and hones individual leadership skills in order to broaden the health care community’s embrace of inter-professional practice. Courses are offered in executive format to allow students to combine their professional and academic lives. Required on-campus sessions are held one long weekend per semester.

## Information Systems

With national attention focused on improving efficiencies and outcomes in healthcare delivery, information management is emerging as a key to future success. This new program delivers cutting-edge, doctoral level training in an on-line environment, allowing students to continue working while studying. Professionals will apply their experience in healthcare technology to this degree, emerging prepared to help shape policy and improve patient outcomes. Courses are offered in executive format to allow students to combine their professional and academic lives. Required on-campus sessions are held one long weekend per semester.

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## College of Nursing

The College of Nursing was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Online Graduate Nursing program in the country according to the U.S. News & World Report. Current programs online include Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and a Ph.D. in Nursing program.

All of our graduate programs and 60% of our students study online. We have been offering online programs of study for 10 years. We have not used a company in developing our online courses. Instead our faculty developed each program with our own College of Nursing resources.

The DNP program is a practice-focused doctoral program in nursing that awards both the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree and the terminal professional degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) upon graduation.

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program is to prepare students for the advanced professional practice role as a primary care nurse practitioner in the areas of adult, family or pediatrics. The MSN program is offered online with a few visits to campus.

The online Ph.D. Program in Nursing prepares nurse scientists for a lifetime of intellectual inquiry through scholarship and research. The Ph.D. program includes a core foundation in theory development, research, ethics, and knowledge translation. It is supported by courses in methodology, analysis, measurement, grant writing, epidemiology, and cognates in the student's area of interest. With ongoing support from a designated advisor, mentored teaching, research and health policy courses allow students to design unique learning experiences with expert mentors in their field.

One of things that makes the Online Nursing program so successful is that the integrity of our graduate coursework, mentoring, and interaction with faculty and students is preserved in our online graduate program through the use of synchronous and asynchronous technology.

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## College of Medicine

Many of today's students benefit from the more active learning opportunities facilitated by online environments which are difficult to duplicate in the lecture setting typically used by medical colleges in the preclinical years. Moreover, high levels of student debt coupled with recent decreases in traditional outside sources of funding for medical education call for innovation.

For these reasons, the COM is supplementing its current program of study. We are planning to develop an online curriculum from the classroom lecture portion of years 1 and 2 of the existing MD program, and to offer an online curriculum as the "Master of Science in Integrated Preclinical Medicine." We will be using the same online assets, along with supplemental face-face based learning activities to support a 3-year pathway to the MD degree. In addition, once we have applicants to the COM who have earned the MS degree who are admitted into the MD program, we will provide a separate 3-year curriculum expressly for those students.

We believe the benefits of this initiative to be:

- Increased student engagement through a richer learning environment;
- Enhanced teaching experience for our faculty;
- Reduction of student debt;
- Increased funds to support medical education; and,
- Enhancement of MUSC's reputation through leadership on online education and curricular innovation

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## College of Dental Medicine

Dr. W. Renne    his students take an online course in CAD/CAM

Dr. Coover      he has taken one and he requires the sophomores to take Featherstone's course (Coursera MOOC) on caries risk management

Dr. R. Leite     she and Dr. Amy Martin plan on developing an online certificate program

Dr. Ravenel     he has developed and produced 2 online courses that dental students have taken as part of their Oral Medicine Classes. The first course is called The Dental Student Tobacco Course (DTAC). It consists of 2 modules which deal with the oral effects of tobacco.

The second online course is the Dental Student Alcohol Curriculum (DAC) which consists of 5 online modules. It covers the definitions of heavy drinking/alcohol abuse; how to screen patients for alcohol abuse; the oral complications of alcohol abuse; systemic complications of

chronic alcohol abuse; and how to safely provide dental care for patients who abuse alcohol.

Funding for both of these online courses was through research grants obtained with Dr. Peter Miller.

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### **South Carolina College of Pharmacy**

The South Carolina College of Pharmacy serves as a leader in pharmacy education and research. It combines expertise from MUSC, with the large comprehensive University of South Carolina, and the progressive Greenville hospital system. Much of the curriculum is done by distance to Columbia and Greenville. These are synchronous distributed courses that are recorded and made available to students.

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