

Old Dominion University – College of Health Sciences

FREQUENTLY ASKED B.S.H.S. QUESTIONS

Q: Who is the Director of the BSHS Program?

A: Jacqueline E. Sharpe, RN, MSN, CHES, PhD

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Who are my academic advisors in Norfolk, the main campus?

A: **Dr. Jacqueline Elaine Sharpe** and **Dr. Ann Marie Kopitzke** are the academic advisors for Hampton Roads area students. Site Directors serve as primary advisors for distance learning students at ODU sites outside of Hampton Roads. **Dr. Rob Curry** serves as academic advisor to BSHS students outside of VA who are not located near an ODU site.

What if I do not have an Associate's Degree?

A: You could be admitted into the program for those with a license/certification, but it will be expected that you will complete all general education requirements along with taking upper electives that are required. The required writing intensive courses, CHP 415W or CHP 430W require that the English prerequisites are completed prior to taking a writing intensive course. You must be admitted into the program and your major declared in order that you can enroll into management courses or if you seek a minor in management.

Are there any other courses where general education requirements can be met within the Major?

A: Yes. Philosophy can be met within the major by taking CHP 400. Oral communication can be met within the major by taking CHP 450, CHP 400, and CHP 415 or CHP 430. These courses also fulfill the requirements for upper electives. Impact of technology is satisfied within the major with CHP 485.

Q: What are the differences between the two BSHS program choices?

A: The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences with Health Services Administration concentration is an additional concentration to the BSHS, with a minor in management. This change was implemented to fulfill AUPHA accrediting requirements and to provide our students with degree requirements that are competitive with other nationally accredited degree programs. The Health Services Administration concentration is designed to provide the skills necessary to be effective middle and upper level managers.

The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences with a minor in Human Services is useful for practitioners with considerable patient contact. It is appropriate for students with an interest in social work or patient advocacy.

Q: What can the BSHS degree do for me and my career?

A: The BSHS program is designed for working health professionals who wish to increase their knowledge by receiving a higher degree. It will provide the advanced credentials one may need for increased earning potential. The BSHS builds on the skills that health professionals

already have, enabling them to work up the supervisory ladder, enhance relationships with patients, clients, and colleagues, and/or train other health professionals in an organization. This degree can also prepare students for graduate work. For those entering the program without experience, a license, or certification in the healthcare field, the program now offers a career path for those who do not wish to pursue a clinical route into the healthcare field.

Q: How long will it take me to finish the BSHS degree with Old Dominion University?

A: The answer depends on how many credit hours you have remaining and how many credit hours you take each semester. The total hours needed to graduate is 120. If all general education requirements and professional health courses have been satisfied, students may have 90 semester hours or more of transfer credits completed. The minimum credit hours with ODU must be 30 to meet university residential requirements. It is 4 years for those entering the program without work experience, a license or certification, or without any college transfer credits.

On campus the remaining credits might possibly be completed in one-year with full-time attendance and no other commitments. Distance learning students need a minimum of five semesters.

Q: How long will it take distance students to finish the BSHS?

A: The BSHS Distance Program was designed for working adults who could not come to the main campus. Distant learning classes are offered in the evening so that working professionals may find a time that fits their busy schedules. We always offer at least two broadcast courses every semester for the distance students. Additionally, many BSHS courses are online, allowing BSHS students to take a class from anywhere that they have access to a computer and an internet connection. To participate in an online course, occasionally there may be previously agreed upon times when all students will be logged in at the same time, but most often the course will be flexible to accommodate busy professional's schedules. There are pending changes with the distance learning program.

Most often students applying to the BSHS program still need a few lower level general education courses which may be taken while completing the major and minor courses. However, it is recommended that if more than three lower level general education courses (more than 9 credit hours) are remaining, those should be taken **first** to gain or refresh lower level writing and critical thinking skills needed to do well in the upper division courses.

The **minimum length of time required for a distance student needing only the 30 ODU hours** could be **five semesters**. If you have more than just the 30 ODU credits to complete, your distance learning advisor can work with you in developing a plan of action to complete all required courses in the shortest time possible.

Q: Could a distance student who needed only the 30 hours of upper division ODU courses be full time and finish in a year?

A: No. Due to the required course work for the concentration and minor, the pre-requisites and scheduling of concentration and minor courses, the minimum time to finish the BSHS is five semesters through ODU Distance Learning. If you have lower level general ed courses remaining, you will probably find more than two courses each semester is too heavy with your full time job. A televised BSHS major course (CHP, DNTH, and NMED) is offered on Wednesdays 4:20-7:00 pm during fall and spring semesters. The times could also be later after 7 PM for some courses. During summer sessions, some schedules are shortened to 6 weeks; major courses are aired on Mon + Thur 3:45-6:45 pm in May and June.

In addition to the televised offerings, a large number of BSHS major courses are offered in online formats. It is feasible to finish the major courses entirely in this format. Before making a decision to pursue the BSHS, however, you must ensure that you can attend classes during the televised slots for the Health Services concentration or Human Services minor. All times listed are Eastern Time.

Management minor courses are offered on Tuesdays from 7:10-9:50 pm in fall and spring semesters, with additional course offerings available at other times. These courses are online so students can access them from any location with broadband internet access. The schedule for Management course offerings may vary during the summer semester. Required Management minor courses for the BSHS are listed in the University Catalog and on the program curriculum sheet. Consult with your advisor for the up to date information.

Human Services minor courses are offered at various day, evening, and weekend times at extended campus locations. Please check long range schedule for specific days and times. Choose courses specific for the BSHS program. Required HMSV minor courses for the BSHS are listed in the University Catalog and the program curriculum sheet.

Q: If I am a distance student, what happens if I let one of the required courses slip by without taking it?

A: We encourage distance students to work closely with their site directors who usually have a feel for the frequency of classes. If you miss a required class, you will have to wait for it to come around again.

Q: If I am a distance student, what happens if I run into a snag?

A: Most snags can be handled by your site staff. Work closely with them on choosing your classes and always refer to the curriculum requirements listed on the online Degree Works program. If there are discrepancies, please contact your advisor to help resolve them. Ask lots of questions, read and become familiar with the Catalog, and keep lines of communication open between you and your advisor.

PLEASE don't let your snag be not having a required course in time for graduation. There is not a lot we can do for you at that late date and course exceptions will not be made because of poor planning. Your Old Dominion University degree will require the same courses as if you were on-campus AND it will be just as prestigious!

Q: May I use this degree to get into a Physician's Assistant program or medical school?

A: Yes, you could build the pre-requisites into your BSHS program by knowing which courses your chosen school requires. By researching the programs and selecting a school, the courses can then be tailored to meeting that school's pre-requisites. The undergraduate public health concentration offers the scientific emphasis that contains the science courses required for medical school.

Q: May I use this degree to get into grad school?

A: Yes, you could. Graduate programs usually have a number of requirements including a

baccalaureate degree. In addition to the baccalaureate degree, most graduate programs require a minimum grade point average (usually 3.0) and additional information and/or standardized tests (e.g, the Graduate Record Exam). Those who are interested in grad school are advised to contact schools that might be of interest to them well in advance of graduation to determine their entry requirements.

Additionally, students who are interested in pursuing a Master's in Community Health, who meet the requirements, may choose to accelerate their BSHS by taking several master's level courses to satisfy both the bachelor's and master's degree requirements. Interested students should review the Accelerated BSHS to MSCH application to determine if that educational approach would be beneficial for their academic goals. Currently the Master's in Community Health is being phased out in favor of the Master's in Public Health. The Accelerated BSHS to MPH would allow two or three undergraduate level courses to be taken at the graduate level. Interested students must meet eligibility guidelines to be accepted into the accelerated program. **An internship and exit portfolio are now required for students entering the program in the Fall Semester of 2013.**

GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS!

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