

Concurrent MBA/MD

What is the MBA/MD?

The MBA/MD program allows current UCLA/UCR/Drew MD students to participate in a combined 5-year program. Students successfully completing the program will be awarded both the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and the MD degree.

The core goal of the combined MBA/MD Program is to create educational opportunities for students to become effective "bilingual" leaders in both clinical and business environments. Given the increasing presence of a more organized, business-oriented style of medical practice and management throughout the country, exposure of even a small number of medical students to the issues addressed in the MBA program is highly beneficial.

One need only examine data on the increasing number of physicians employed in staff model HMOs, large medical groups, or directly as health plan or facility administrators to see the increasing reliance and importance of physicians with skills in operations and management.

In addition, regardless of professional pathway, all physicians are now faced with a significant number of administrative and financial concerns. Even as a new member of a small group practice or as a junior faculty member in an academic medical center, physicians should at least be aware of (and possibly may be required to know) the fundamentals of management.

The trends in health care that began in California 20 years ago are now accelerating and spreading throughout the rest of the nation, and it can be argued that today's healthcare system is increasingly dominated by business and administrative demands. As such, it is highly appropriate that medical students be given the opportunity to become trained in the issues that underlie this transformation in health care.

What kinds of career paths do MBA/MD students follow?

The career applications of the MBA/MD program are varied, and cover the spectrum of career opportunities for physicians. Many dual-degree graduates will be employed as:

- leaders of medical groups or in specific delivery sites such as hospitals on the provider side of the delivery system.
- academics participating in health services research or serving as administrative leaders in academic medical centers.
- medical directors to aid in benefit design and management for purchasers of care such as unions, corporations and large purchasing pools.
- developers of health policy for governmental entities.

- in various business functions (strategy, marketing, operations, etc.) at pharmaceutical companies, bio-tech firms, brokerage houses, and consulting firms.

Finally, the dual-degree program offers individuals who are interested primarily in the practice of medicine a unique chance to develop a much broader range of competencies. MBA/MD clinicians will serve as the next generation of clinical opinion leaders in their respective organizations. In summary, the opportunities for dual-degree graduates are quite broad, and in fact are far more diverse than imagined by most students interested in the program.

What competencies can I gain from the program?

The MBA/MD program's concurrent nature also allows students to develop and integrate their skills more effectively than if the degrees were obtained separately. The following competencies are developed in the program because they encompass the unique health care environment skills necessary for a physician executive. These competencies are in addition to the core management and medical competencies gained at each school.

1. Develop the attitude and skills necessary to succeed as a physician leader in the management of health-related organization:
 - a. Peer management
 - b. Consensus building in a non-hierarchical manner with non-physicians
 - c. Managing organizations during periods of uncertainty and change
 - d. Integration of systems and services
2. Describe common business competencies (such as economics and finance) as applied to the public and private health care industry.
3. Analyze the U.S. health care delivery structure from a business perspective:
 - a. Historical development and financing of organized medicine
 - b. Perspective on potential future models of health care delivery
 - c. Familiarity with all types of organizations that are involved in the healthcare sector (pharmaceuticals, venture capital, etc.)
4. Understand the development and role of public policy in shaping healthcare delivery.
5. Understand the ethical duties of physician leaders in healthcare and develop an internal framework for ethical decision-making.
6. Demonstrate a population perspective in medical management and healthcare planning.

How does the MBA/MD concurrent degree program work?

The program is comprised of formal training in both the medical and the management schools culminating in an integrated fifth year of study.

- The first three years are spent in the Medical School, where basic sciences and clinical applications are the foundation of the curriculum.
- During or before year 3, students take the GMAT examination and in year 3 apply to UCLA Anderson School of Management.
- Fourth-year students spend the majority of their time in UCLA Anderson completing management core curriculum and elective classes, as well as participating in essential socializing, team-building and leadership development experiences.

- The fifth year is invested in:
 - clinical electives
 - management electives
 - an integrated clinical elective that provides opportunity to further management skills (e.g. working with clinician leaders and studying medical management domains).
 - the Anderson Applied Management Research (AMR) project, a summary experience applying clinical and management skills in a team project setting by identifying a “real-life” business case project in a company or institution. This project satisfies six weeks of medical school academic nonclinical credit.

How do I apply to the MBA/MD Program?

UCLA medical students may only apply to the MBA Program during the third year of medical school. Applicants are highly recommended to apply in Round 1 or 2, and must submit a letter of good standing from the Medical School Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs in addition to all other required application materials. Interviews are by invitation only.

UCLA Anderson makes independent admissions decisions on all concurrent degree program applicants. Both degrees are awarded upon satisfactory completion of all requirements. If a student decides not to complete one of the degrees, all of the regular requirements for the other program must be met in order to graduate.

How can I obtain further information?

Group information sessions about the MBA portion of the program are offered at UCLA Anderson School of Management several times a week throughout the year. To schedule an appointment online, go to <http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x21305.xml> or you can call (310) 825-6944.

Jessica Chung

Associate Director of Admissions
UCLA Anderson
(310) 825-6944
jessica.chung@anderson.ucla.edu

Amy Frazier

Coordinator, Medical Leadership Program
David Geffen School of Medicine
(310) 267-0443
afrazier@mednet.ucla.edu

Faculty Advisors available for further consultation:

Dr. Victor Tabbush, Adjunct Professor

UCLA Anderson
victor.tabbush@anderson.ucla.edu

Carl Stevens, MD, MPH

Chair, Medical Leadership College
carlstevens@mednet.ucla.edu