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UCLA

Fielding School of Public Health

Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management

Quarterly Update – Summer 2026

The latest news about ExeCHPM students, faculty, and alumni.



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Congratulations to the ExecHPM Class of 2026! It's been a wonderful journey witnessing all of our [Executive MPH](#) and [online MHA](#) students working so hard while working full-time in professional careers over the last few years, often in the midst of other significant life milestones including career advancements, raising families, and running major initiatives in their own countries. Shout-out to MHA graduate [Fatima Maada Bo](#), the First Lady of Sierra Leone, who advocates for the health of women and children and is President of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFILD). Job well done, all of you. From all of us in the Executive Programs Office and the Fielding School of Public Health, congratulations. I'm looking forward to all of your next chapters as engaged UCLA alumni.

Throughout our 30-year history of the Executive Programs Office, we have seen so many illustrious faculty teach in our classrooms. As we always welcome new faculty, it is bittersweet to say goodbye to those who are moving into their next chapters. We wish to thank Tony Schiff, Martin Lee, and Becky Yano for all their considerable contributions to the education of our healthcare leaders. The lessons our students have learned from you will impact their professional lives throughout their careers.

In the MHA program, twelve new students have been accepted and started their online studies this summer. EMPH students who just finished their first year in the program are now working on their summer consulting projects and the new EMPH cohort is nearly finalized as we look forward to fall quarter which begins at the end of August. Applications are still being accepted through July.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Rest when you can and we'll see you in fall!

All my best,



Kyle Sullivan, MSW
Executive Director, Executive Programs in HPM

IMPORTANT DATES

Info Sessions

Please spread the word about our upcoming online Info Sessions. It's a great opportunity for interested applicants to learn about our programs in a live Q&A webinar that covers program curriculum, admissions requirements, and application materials.

EMPH Info Sessions:

Will resume in October. Check [website](#) for updates.

MHA Info Session:

October 14, 12pm PT

[REGISTER](#)

EMPH Fall 2026 Cohort Application Review:

We will accept applications through July 31st. Start or complete your application on the [UCLA Grad Portal](#).

The UCLA Grad Portal closes on August 1st and will re-open in mid-September for Fall 2027 Admissions.

EMPH Fall Quarter 2026:

Classes begin Friday, August 28, 2026.

EMPH Orientation:

August 28, 2026

MHA Summer Quarter 2026:

Classes began June 29, 2026.

MHA Summer Quarter 2026 Immersion:

Thursday, August 6 – Saturday, August 8, 2026

Reminder: MHA Immersion I and II are required courses in the curriculum. You must enroll in the course to participate.

MHA Fall Quarter 2026:

Application Deadline is

July 31, 2026. [APPLY NOW](#)

Instruction begins September 21, 2026.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026

We had the honor of conferring Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) degrees to our brilliant Class of 2026 students on June 12th. If you were not able to attend the commencement ceremony or would like to view it again, a recording is available on the [UCLA Fielding School of Public Health YouTube channel](#).

To view and download photos from commencement day, please click [here](#).

To view the commencement ceremony program, please click [here](#).

To view the full text of Dr. Julio Frenk's keynote address, please click [here](#).



[**EMPH Class of 2026**](#)



MHA Class of 2026



ExecHPM Students Inducted into Delta Omega Honorary Society - 2026



EXECUTIVE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (EMPH) PROGRAM

EMPH Program Director: [Dr. Isomi Miake-Lye](#)

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's Executive MPH (EMPH) is a two-year graduate degree program. Students attend classes twice a month on Friday and Saturday, in person on the UCLA campus. Tailored for professionals invested in their careers, the EMPH program provides students the opportunity to work full-time while pursuing a rigorous graduate program.

Upon completion of the program, graduates are conferred a fully accredited Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with an emphasis in Health Policy and Management.

The EMPH program is not in session during summer, but as students prepare to start their second year, they participate in a summer consulting project under the leadership of [Professor Mike Galper](#).

First-year students will meet for the first time at EMPH Orientation on August 28, 2026, when fall quarter begins.



EMPH Student Kisa Hilliard Awarded HPMAA \$5,000 Paul Torrens Scholarship

Celebrating a 30-year legacy of healthcare leadership, community-rooted reform, and the art of balancing it all.

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Executive Programs in
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[EMPH Student Spotlight: Kisa Hilliard](#)



Team SafeBite Technologies Wins 2026 EMPH Sinaiko Business Plan Award

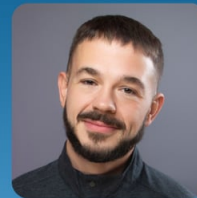
Congratulations to Emily Brown, Maite Medina, and Trishna Singh for their innovative idea to develop a risk-management screening tool to help food vendors identify and stop potential contamination before it reaches the customer.

UCLA Pritzker School of Public Health
Executive Programs in
Health Policy & Management

EMPH Student Spotlight: Emily Brown, Maite Medina, Trishna Singh

Dr. Dhruv Khurana and EMPH Candidate Andy Short Co-Author Paper Published in Health Affairs Scholar

"Protecting safety-net equity monitoring after federal sexual orientation and gender identity data rollbacks."
Health Affairs Scholar, Volume 4, Issue 6, June 2026



UCLA Pritzker School of Public Health
Executive Programs in
Health Policy & Management

EMPH Student and Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Dhruv Khurana and Andy Short

MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION (MHA)

MHA Program Director: [Dr. Laura Erskine](#)

UCLA's online MHA is a flexible graduate degree program. Graduates are conferred a fully accredited Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) degree. Featuring two on-campus immersions and a capstone project, this flexible program offers most course content asynchronously, with the freedom to adjust the number of courses taken each quarter.



MHA Candidate Henry Phan Awarded HPMAA \$5,000 Paul Torrens Scholarship

Celebrating a Double Bruin's commitment to expanding the healthcare workforce, championing grassroots advocacy, and bringing large-scale impact back home.

UCLA Harvard School of Public Health
Executive Programs in
Health Policy & Management

MHA Student Spotlight: Henry Phan



Meet Shaunessy Burton, 2026 MHA Outstanding Student Award Winner

Discover how this dedicated leader earned the highest praise from the UCLA community while transforming care in rural health clinics across interior Alaska.

UCLA Harvard School of Public Health
Executive Programs in
Health Policy & Management

MHA Student Spotlight: Shaunessy Burton



Spring 2026 MHA Capstone: How Diverse Expertise Propelled "Helping Hands Medical Center" to the Top

Congratulations to Danielle Milosavljevic, Kimberlee Pintea, and Jenevieve Segura on Placing First in Healthcare Hero Business Simulation Game

UCLA Harvard School of Public Health
Executive Programs in
Health Policy & Management

Spring 2026 MHA Capstone: Danielle Milosavljevic, Kimberlee Pinte, and Jenevieve Segura Place First

Welcome, New Summer Quarter 2026 MHA Candidates

One of the highlights of UCLA's online MHA Program is that students can begin their graduate studies any quarter throughout the year. Congratulations to the following MHA candidates who were recently admitted into the program and began classes this Summer Quarter on June 29, 2026: Colesha Easler, Analucia Fuentes, Phillip Wright, Andres Arreguin, Nina Levin, Carolina Arellano, Katherine Do, Diana Patpatian, Ayesha Waseer, DDS, Kimia Ramezani, Valerie Altamirano, Stephanie Corson, and Angela Soto.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus at an upcoming Immersion.



Meet Dr. Ayesha Waseer:
\$10,000 MHA New Student Scholarship Recipient, Summer 2026

A returning Bruin and community health dentist pivoting to healthcare administration to champion accessible, quality-oriented care.

UCLA UCLA School of Public Health
Executive Programs in
Health Policy & Management

MHA New Student Scholarship Recipient: Dr. Ayesha Waseer

MHA Faculty – Summer Quarter 2026

Executive HPM draws on the distinguished faculty, programs, and academics of the nationally renowned UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Courses are taught by leading practitioners and researchers in the field of public health, health policy, and healthcare management, as well as faculty from UCLA's other graduate schools and management-related fields. Their expertise spans clinical practice, applied research, policy analysis, entrepreneurship, and consultation at the local, national, and international level.

[Matt Beymer, PhD](#): Fundamentals of Public Health (PUBHLT 201)

[Dhruv Khurana, PhD](#): Microeconomic Theory in the Health Sector (HLTADM 411)

[Sangeeta Ahluwalia, PhD](#): Healthcare Organization & Financing (HLTADM 401)

[Asya Jones, MS](#): Statistics for Health Management Decision-Making (HLTH 412)

[Nahal Sabrkhani, MPH](#): Management & Organizational Behavior in Health Systems (HLTADM 402)

[Sandra Pothoff, PhD](#): Healthcare Operations Management (HLTADM 413)

[Jean Balgrosky, PhD](#): Healthcare Information Systems & Technology (HLTADM 403)

[Mike Galper, MPH, CPA](#): Healthcare Financial Accounting (HLTADM 414)

[Linda Magara Horner, MBA](#): Healthcare Strategy (HLTADM 404)

[April Kelly, Ed.D., RN, MAOM/MHA](#): Healthcare Financial Management (HLTADM 415)

[Lindsay Williams, PhD, RN](#): Leadership & Ethics (HLTADM 405)

[Kelly Watson, MHA, RN](#): Quality Improvement & Performance Excellence (HLTADM 416)

[Hannah Reischl, MPH](#): Data Analytics & Visualization (HLTADM 417)

[Laura Erskine, PhD, MBA](#): Capstone Project (HLTADM 400)

[Christopher Lee, MPH](#): Healthcare Innovation (HLTADM 407)

[Julie Elginer, DrPH, MBA](#): Healthcare Marketing (HLTADM 406)



Faculty Spotlight: Nahal Sabrkhani Translates Executive Healthcare Strategy into Classroom Leadership

From driving operations at Optum Care California to guiding the next generation of leaders, this double-Bruin anchors classroom learning in real-world expertise.

ALUMNI UPDATES

The **UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Executive Programs in Health Policy and Management Alumni Network** includes over 700 professionals committed to making a difference in the field of public health. Nothing brings us more joy than sharing your important work with our community. Please notify us of your career updates for an opportunity to be featured. Just send us an email at exechpm@ucla.edu or feel free to DM or tag us on [LinkedIn](#).

EMPH Alumni Career Updates

[Jeff Agner, MPH](#) (EMPH 2014) is now Principal, Consulting Senior Manager at CannonDesign.

[Coleen Cantwell, MPH](#) (EMPH 2002) is now the Chief Revenue Officer at ETR.

[Carinne Hawley, MPH](#) (EMPH 2008) is now an Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene at Oxnard College.

[Alfonso Iniguez](#) (EMPH Candidate) is now the Licensing Program Manager at the California Department of Social Services.

[Alisa Lazaryev, MPH](#) (EMPH 2022) is now the Associate Director of IT Program Management at Gilead Sciences.

[Cozette Lyons-Jones, MD, MPH](#) (EMPH 2018) is now the Chief Medical Officer of Watts Healthcare Corporation.

[Michelle Marciniak, MPH](#) (EMPH 2006), founder of Let California Kids Hear, was featured in LA Times article, "[Harvard-Westlake tennis champion Chase Klugo is fighting to expand hearing aid coverage](#)," on June 11, 2026.

[Marina Martinez, MPH](#) (EMPH 2026) was accepted as an Administrative Fellow at Cedars-Sinai and started her first four-month rotation in June 2026.

[Isabella McShane](#) (EMPH Candidate) started a new position as a Research Coordinator for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded CTN 0155 BISTRO Trial at Community Health Project LA.

[Nicole Morales, MPH](#) (EMPH 2025) is now the Research Evaluation Coordinator at The Lundquist Institute.

[Lara Peña, DO, MPH](#) (EMPH 2010) is now the Medical Director of Clinical Operations at UCLA Health Medicare Advantage Plan.

[Andy Short](#) (EMPH Candidate) co-authored a paper with Dr. Dhruv Khurana, published in *Health Affairs Scholar*, Volume 4, Issue 6, June 2026, "[Protecting safety-net equity monitoring after federal sexual orientation and gender identity data rollbacks](#)."

MHA Alumni Career Updates

[Elaina Barr](#) (MHA Candidate) has started a new position as Analyst II Statewide Trainer with California WIC.

[Shayok Dutta, MHA](#) (MHA 2025) is now the Lead Business Analyst of Strategic Affiliations and Performance at UC San Diego Health.

[Deb Franzon Frederick, MD, MHA](#) (MHA 2024) is now VP System Chief Quality and Safety Officer at Texas Children's Hospital.

[Mina Jasovic O., MHA](#) (MHA 2023), lactation consultant at UCLA Health and Providence Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, will be presenting "Ethical Informatics in the Era of Transparency: Using AI to Advance Privacy, Language Access, and Documentation Equity in Newborn and Maternal Care" at the IABLE Abstract Presentation Day on August 7, 2026.

[Adrianna Lawrence](#) (MHA Candidate) has started a new position as Manager of Graduate Medical Education at Providence.

[Brianna Levenson, MHA](#) (MHA 2023) has started a new position as Customer Outcomes Manager at LeanTaaS.

[Melissa Lopez, LVN](#) (MHA Candidate) has been promoted to Assistant Regional Director for the Conejo & West Valley Region at UCLA Health.

[Diana Petros, RN](#) (MHA Candidate) is now a Nurse Practitioner at Pulse Primary Care.

[Pablo Santos](#) (MHA Candidate) started an internship at Vituity.

[Kimberlee Pinteá, MHA, RN](#) (MHA 2026) is now a Research Nurse and Clinical Trials Supervisor in the Clinical Trials Unit at Health New Zealand's Blood and Cancer Centre.

[Emily Shearon, MHA, RN](#) (MHA 2023) has completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice at San José State University.

[Joyce Tong](#) (MHA Candidate) is now the Manager of Customer Service Operations at Astrana Health.

Please notify us of your professional updates for an opportunity to be featured.

Email us at exechpm@ucla.edu or tag us on [LinkedIn](#).



The University of California is the best public university in the 2026 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings. **UCLA** is in the top 10 for best schools of public health and also ranked in the top 10 for best health policy and management programs.

The world-renowned **UCLA Fielding School of Public Health** harnesses the resources and expertise of a top-ranked U.S. public university to develop proactive leaders who will shape the future of healthcare.

Housed within the Fielding School, the Executive Programs Office in the Health Policy and Management Department offers two executive degree programs designed for working professionals: [**Executive Master of Public Health \(EMPH\)**](#) and [**Online Master of Healthcare Administration \(MHA\)**](#).

[*Follow us on LinkedIn*](#) to stay engaged with UCLA's Executive Programs in Health Policy and Management and our community.



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