[JUMP](http://www.wku.edu/math/five_year_study_plan.pdf)-MHA PROGRAM

**Overview**

The Joint Undergraduate-Master’s Program (JUMP) is designed to accelerate completion of the Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree by allowing qualified students to count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both an undergraduate and the MHA degrees. JUMP-MHA can lead to significant tuition savings when a student graduates in five (5) years (ideally) with both an undergraduate and MHA degree.

**Eligibility**

Undergraduate students who have an interest obtaining both an undergraduate degree (such as the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration 559) and the JUMP- [Master of Health Administration (MHA) 153](http://www.wku.edu/math/grad_ms.php) concurrently must meet the following criteria:

* Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.5
* A minimum of 60 undergraduate hours completed
* A maximum of 90 undergraduate hours completed
* Thirty (30) undergraduate hours completed at WKU

Upon determination of eligibility, the following steps will be completed:

* Identification of up to 12 hours of graduate courses that will apply toward both the undergraduate and MHA degrees.
* File a Statement of Intent with the Department of Public Health upon the completion of 60 hours of undergraduate credits but before the completion of 90 hours of undergraduate credits.
* Acceptance into the program must be approved by the Department Head of Public Health with his or her signature on the Statement of Intent.
* The student will be notified of the department's and Graduate School’s decision regarding formal acceptance into the program.

\*Note that eligible undergraduate degree programs include all majors from: College of Health and Human Services, Gordon Ford College of Business, Ogden College of Science and Engineering, School of Professional Studies, Gender and Women Studies, College of Education & Behavioral Sciences

**Classification**

Students participating in the JUMP Program will be classified as undergraduate students until they are admitted into the Master of Health Administration (153). Students in the JUMP Program shall retain the same rights and privileges granted to all Western Kentucky University undergraduate students, including classification as an undergraduate student for purposes of receiving financial aid.

Students participating in the JUMP Program will be admitted to Graduate Studies and Research at the beginning of the semester following the completion of the following:

1. The total number of credit hours required for the undergraduate degree in Health Care Administration and
2. The total number of hours required for a four-year undergraduate degree or its equivalent.

The GRE requirement will be waived for students participating in the JUMP Program.  Upon admission to Western Kentucky University's Graduate Studies and Research, students in the JUMP Program will be classified as graduate students and admitted into the Master of Health Administration (MHA) program. Such students will be given all rights and privileges granted to Western Kentucky University graduate students.   The students will not qualify for classification as an undergraduate for any purpose after regular admission to Western Kentucky University's Graduate Studies and Research.

All graduate coursework taken prior to Admission to Graduate Studies and Research and intended to be used toward the MHA degree must be at the 400G-level or 500-level or above.

**Good Standing Maintenance**

After acceptance into the JUMP Program by the Department of Public Health, students may concurrently take undergraduate and graduate coursework during the same semester to be applied to their respective undergraduate and graduate degrees.  At this time students must maintain good standing in the JUMP program which includes the following:

* Maintain a 3.5 GPA overall.
* Students whose cumulative GPA drops below 3.5 will be counseled by the advisor and expected to maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher for the upcoming semester.
* Students who fail to bring their cumulative GPA to 3.5 in a reasonable time-frame may be denied graduate standing.

In the event of documented circumstances beyond the control of the student resulting in the student's inability to reasonably complete the JUMP Program, the Department of Public Health may recommend to the College of Health and Human Services that coursework taken in the JUMP Program for graduate credit be counted as being taken in satisfaction of the undergraduate major requirements, thereby allowing a BS degree to be awarded. Graduate credit used toward completion of the baccalaureate degree must adhere to WKU's policy for Undergraduate Enrollment in Graduate Courses.

**Awarding of Degrees**

The undergraduate degree must be awarded at least one semester prior to the MHA degree. The MHA degree will be awarded on completion of all requirements for that degree.

**Benefits**

1. Student can earn a MHA along with an undergraduate degree in five years.
2. Potential graduate assistantship in the last year of undergraduate and during the graduate study.