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.

Who is it for? Why was it established?

Given the increasing presence of a more organized, business-oriented style of medical practice and management throughout the county, 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 another vein, though, all physicians (regardless of professional pathway) are now faced with a significant number of administrative and financial concerns.

Even as a new member of a small group practice or a junior faculty member in an academic medical center, physicians should at least be aware (and possibly required to know) the fundamentals of business.

The trends in health care that began in California 10 years ago are now accelerating and spreading throughout the rest of the nation, and it can be argued that today's health care 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.

Creating educational opportunities for students to become effective "bilingual" leaders, to speak effectively in both clinical and business environments, is a core goal of the combined MBA/MD Program.
MBA/MD Competencies.

The following competencies encompass the unique health care environment skills necessary for a physician executive, in addition to the core management and medical competencies specific to 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 health care sector (pharmaceuticals, venture capital, etc.)
4. Understand the development and role of public policy in shaping health care delivery.
5. Understand the ethical duties of physician leaders in health care and develop an internal framework for ethical decision-making.
6. Demonstrate a population perspective in medical management and health care planning.

Basic Elements

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.
- 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 and elective classes.
- The fifth year is invested in medical subinternship electives, management electives, an integrated elective, and the Field Study Experience.
Career Paths

The career applications of the MBA/MD program are varied, and cover the spectrum of career opportunities for physicians. While many dual degree students commonly believe their job opportunities will lie primarily in the private insurance health plans, this represents only one (and probably one of the smallest) potential areas for professional opportunity. Many dual-degree graduates will be employed on the provider side of the delivery system as leaders of medical groups or in specific delivery sites such as hospitals. Some graduates may continue academic careers participating in health services research or serving as administrative leaders in academic medical centers. Purchasers of care such as unions, corporations and large purchasing pools often employ medical directors to aid in benefit design and management. Significant opportunities also exist for dual degree graduates to participate in governmental entities as developers of health policy.

Beyond these clinically focused roles for dual degree physicians, employment opportunities will also exist in business oriented environments. Organizations such as pharmaceutical companies, bio-tech firms, brokerage houses and corporate consultants are likely to provide career paths that pay far more in the short term than what these graduates will make during their residencies.

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. Such 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

How do I apply to the MBA/MPP Program?

UCLA medical students may only apply to the MBA Program during the third year of medical school, approximately November to January (priority deadline is by February 2nd.) Applicants must submit a letter of good standing from the Medical School Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs. A personal interview is strongly recommended. The GMAT examination must be taken by December of the academic year preceding the desired admission.

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.

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How can further information be obtained?

Group information sessions 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/x6530.xml or you can call (310) 825-6944.

For further information please visit the joint degree homepage at:

http://www.medsch.ucla.edu/curriculum/year4/mdmba/

Questions regarding the MD/MBA Program:

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